



Carmen Elena CÎRNU
Editor in Chief

International Journal of
Cyber Diplomacy

EDITORIAL

Greetings and welcome to a new edition of the International Journal of Cyber Diplomacy, a premier resource for researchers and policymakers looking to stay engaged in this exciting and fast evolving field. With the help of our community of contributors and readers, we are happy to announce the integration of IJCD in new academic databases, improving visibility and validating both our concept and approach, as well as the rigor of the research published herein. ICI Bucharest has a long and storied career in academic publishing, and we hope that IJCD will reach the same level of indexing and exposure of other flagship publications.

When we created our Center for Cyber Diplomacy and this journal, we had a vision of a world facing incredible challenges from the pace and breadth of digitalization, and which would have to work together to address challenges from cyber warfare, cybercrime, new technologies, the protection of vulnerable people and the requirements of equitable and sustainable growth and development in the context of the twin digital and green transitions. We have had a busy year advancing ICI Bucharest as both a researcher and practitioner of cyber diplomacy. With the opening of a twinning center on cyber diplomacy in Baku, Azerbaijan, to be followed by others in regions such as the Middle East and SE Asia, and with the organization of our first Cyber Diplomacy Course for High Level Representatives of State Authorities and Companies in Baku in March 2025, we can say that cyber diplomacy is truly on everyone's agenda and is an opportunity for countries such as Romania to have an impact also beyond EU borders.

As part of the Digital Innovation Summit Bucharest 2025 (www.disb.ro) organized by ICI Bucharest with the support of the Chamber of Deputies and the Romanian Government, we organized a new edition of the International Conference on Cyber Diplomacy and addressed topics such as cyber sanctions mechanisms, the coordination effort on preventing the proliferation of commercial cyber intrusion capabilities, building response capacities to disinformation and propaganda, and efforts at achieving ethical and trustworthy AI development internationally. We can wholeheartedly say that the Conference was a great

success, bringing together diplomats, policymakers, experts and representatives of companies for frank discussions. This is because we believe in a holistic approach to cyber diplomacy, which is not the preserve of MFAs and diplomatic corps, but is practiced by any legitimate entity trying to engage in crossborder cooperation on cyber. The experts in international standards organizations are also engaged in cyber diplomacy, and so are companies, who act with governments to finance and regulate new technologies, secure export markets and prevent misuse, sometimes acting of their own accord to self-regulate for fear of greater government response in the absence of such efforts.

This issue of the International Journal of Cyber Diplomacy covers a wide range of issues from a diverse group of contributors. In addition to an appraisal of digital diplomacy as a tool for the study of international relations, this issue features numerous analysis articles, including one piece on the comparative analysis in the Euro-Atlantic space on approaches to combating disinformation. We continue our series of analysis on the non-Western space with a very detailed analysis of the cyber diplomacy of the Global South with an emphasis on India's technological sovereignty in artificial intelligence which you will find very interesting. Given our other flagship publications, we have always had an interest in cybersecurity and in critical infrastructure protection, so we are very glad to feature a contribution on the European framework for the cybersecurity of critical space infrastructures (another of our longtime topics of interest). Last, but not least, given our stance on the diversity of cyber diplomacy practitioners and stakeholders, we have a very interesting piece on the cooperation between government and industry in international relations as part of a tech diplomacy paradigm.

Once again, thank you for being with us on our journey to develop the International Journal of Cyber Diplomacy into a valuable resource for both researchers and practitioners. More and more countries are figuring out that, regardless of disparities in technology and resources, diplomacy can be a useful tool to make their voices heard and their interests taken into account on the regional and global stages. Digitalization has come for everybody and the mainstreaming of advanced technologies is changing the face of cybersecurity and international economics.