



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
National University of Singapore

Roundtable Discussion
The Application of International Law in Cyber
Thurs, 28 Nov 24 @ 4pm SGT (90 min)
Format : Webinar
Closed Door - By invitation only

Summary Note

The Centre for International Law, NUS, hosted a by invitation only roundtable discussion on “The Application of International Law in Cyber” on 28 Nov 24. Convened under Chatham House rules, the dialogue featured CIL Distinguished Visitor, Mr. Huw Llewellyn, recently retired Director of the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, who presented a working paper on the application of certain areas of public international law in cyberspace, in particular, those relating to international peace and security as laid down in the UN Charter and the rules of international humanitarian law. His comments addressed key elements of the paper which focuses on the prohibition of the use of force and the right of self-defence in response to an armed attack (*jus ad bellum*), the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law (*jus in bello*), the prohibition of intervention in the internal affairs of other States, the principle of sovereignty of States, the law of international responsibility of States and the ‘due diligence’ principle.

Huw’s presentation was followed by an engaging roundtable discussion among the invited participants, comprising a mix of cyber officials, legal advisors and members of academia and think tanks. Moderated by Danielle Yeow (Lead, Cyber Law and Governance, CIL), the issues canvassed included:-

- a. the extent of the existing body of international law in cyberspace bearing in mind State practice to date;
- b. trends in and status of national positions on the application of international law to cyberspace issued by states and groups of states;
- c. the challenges involved in the application of international law in the unique environment of cyberspace and in the context of ever-advancing emerging technologies;
- d. how unregulated matters beyond existing rules of international law, if any, should be addressed;
- e. role of the International Law Commission, if any.