AU-GFCE Collaboration
"Enabling African countries to identify and address their cyber capacity needs"

Background

The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) has evolved into a broad and diverse multi-stakeholder community of more than 130 members and partners. For six years, this community works to achieve its mission of strengthening international collaboration on Cyber Capacity Building (CCB) and expertise on a global scale.

Objectives & Aims

The GFCE, in partnership with the African Union (AU) and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to develop CCB knowledge modules that will enable African countries to better understand cyber capacities and identify and address their national cyber capacity needs. This project will also support the strengthening of cyber resilience within African countries and their collaboration with the GFCE community.

To achieve the primary outcome and ensure that these efforts are sustained during and after the project, the project aims to enhance the following:

- Cooperation and knowledge sharing among existing CCB projects and programs in Africa;
- Identification of cyber capacity needs on a national and sub-regional level in African countries; and the
- Growth of a trusted community of cyber leaders from African countries.

Added value of the AU-GFCE Collaboration project

The project will utilize and build on existing cyber structures, plans, expertise and capacities within the AU, and within the multi-stakeholder and international GFCE Community. The AU-GFCE Collaboration project is beneficial for both the African countries and the GFCE Community:

African countries	GFCE Community
• Increases countries' understanding of the importance of CCB which will aid in the setting of national priorities regarding cyber needs	• Enhances cooperation and knowledge sharing on CCB activities between donors, recipients and implementers
• Allows countries to connect with the global multi-stakeholder community to learn from and connect to existing cyber capacity programs	• Provides the opportunity for the Community to demonstrate knowledge and expertise through involvement in knowledge modules and meetings
• Enables countries to join the Africa Cyber Expert group with fellow colleagues from the region to exchange experiences and knowledge	• Allows the Community to better understand African countries' needs on cyber capacities

GFCE Contacts

For further information, please contact Dr. Martin Koyabe, Senior Manager of the AU-GFCE Collaboration project: martin.koyabe@thegfce.org / contact@thegfce.org

Approach and Delivery

Phase 1: Nov 20 – Apr 21	Phase 2: May – Oct 21	Phase 3: Nov 21 – Apr 22	Phase 4: May - Oct 22
Preparation	**Development**	**Learning**	**Sustainment**
The GFCE Community, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) from African countries, and relevant stakeholders in Africa will collaborate on identifying CCB needs for African countries, CCB initiatives in the region, and participants for the training program. In the end, the project proposal will be presented to the GFCE Community and AU leadership/Organs.	Online training modules on key CCB topics with an African regional focus will be developed in collaboration with GFCE Working Groups and disseminated in English with French subtitles. Participants will also be offered courses on (1) communicating the impact of CCB, and (2) reducing the gender gap in Cybersecurity leadership. This will enable participants to better secure local, political, and economic buy-in for prioritizing CCB projects and resources in their countries.	In-person meetings will be conducted with selected participants from African countries. The value of the program and introduction of interactive sessions on key topics will be discussed. This will help forge deeper relationships amongst participants and – in turn – strengthen the anticipated network founded on peer support and learning. After the in-person meeting, the online training modules will be rolled out throughout this phase. In addition, the GFCE and the AU will liaise and connect participants with other relevant ongoing CCB programs in Africa.	A second in-person meeting will be organized for selected experts. A follow-up on the topics covered by the training program will be made and participants will be encouraged to share their lessons learnt from the training and challenges faced. This will allow them to connect with other participants and actors in their own countries. The GFCE will run its Clearing House Function which will match participants that request assistance on cyber capacity building topics with actors that can provide key capacity building services.
Expected deliverables			
• Online database of current projects and programs on CCB in Africa. • Report of current cyber capacities and capacity gaps in the African region based on desk research and engagement with the African countries, AU and the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG). • Formation of a regional GFCE Africa Cyber Expert (ACE) group with the participants and relevant stakeholders from the Africa cyber community.	• Develop knowledge modules on key CCB topics; and courses focusing on "Communicating the Impact of CCB" and "Reducing the Gender Gap in Cybersecurity Leadership".	• Engagement in formal and informal knowledge sharing opportunities during in-person and/or online meetings.	• Generate concrete requests for national cyber capacity support as input for the tailor-made spin-off projects.