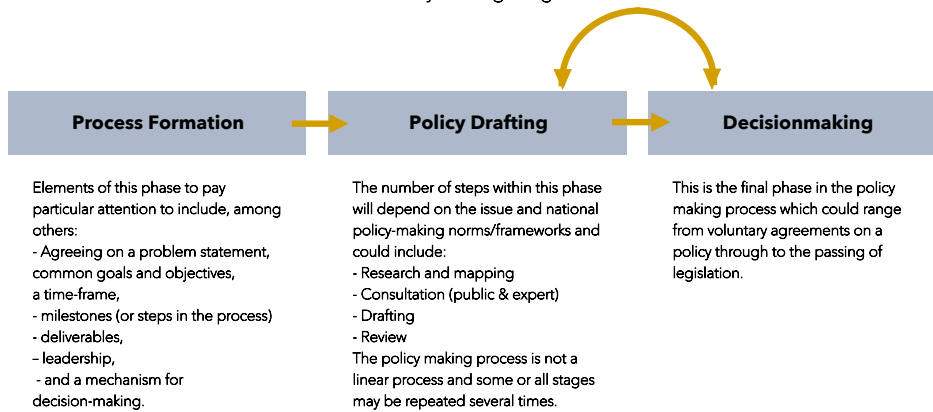


FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE CYBER POLICYMAKING

Policymaking Stages



Inclusive Characteristics

These are the characteristics that make a policymaking process inclusive. They apply to all three policymaking stages.

1 Open & accessible

- Open to all stakeholders
- Accessible to people of all backgrounds and abilities

All relevant/interested stakeholders are allowed to participate in the policy process. The process is advertised widely and stakeholders are given enough notice to prepare and attend. No stakeholder is excluded on the basis of their disability, language, race, religion, gender, sexuality or culture, or as a result of high financial costs, bureaucracy or location. Where there are barriers to participation, active steps are taken to overcome these. All discussions, documents and resources are in an accessible format.

2 Diverse

- Includes wide of views and interests
- Consideration given to all inputs/contributions

All relevant stakeholder groups are actively represented in the policy process. The different views and interests within each stakeholder group are also represented. Stakeholders have equal opportunities to contribute and their contributions are given equal visibility and consideration.

3 Collaborative

- Existence of common purpose
- High level of trust

Stakeholders are willing to work together and to agree on a common purpose. This common purpose is used to determine and guide the direction of the policy process and stakeholders remain committed to it throughout. Collaboration is also built through strong and trusting relationships, with ample opportunities for stakeholders to build these relationships with one another. Stakeholders work well together and there are no factions or alliances between stakeholders that undermine trust or collaboration.

4 Consensus driven

- Strives for decision making by consensus
- Strives for equality in decision making

All decision-making processes and mechanisms, are based on the notion of consensus. And in practice, the group acts, as far as is possible, by general agreement. Stakeholders hold equal weight in decision making. And all are involved or at least represented in the different levels of decision making - from decisions around procedures, to inclusions in a draft, to agreeing the final document or legislation.

5 Evidence based

- Draws on balanced expertise and research
- Agreement on interpretation and use of facts

Decisions are based on the evidence and fact available. Where these are contradictory, there is due time for discussion and general agreement about which facts to consider and which to exclude. The group as a whole has expertise on all of the issues relevant to the process. Where expertise is lacking, the group has access to balanced and independent expert opinion and resources. Research is carried out to ensure that all stakeholders have a baseline level of knowledge.

6 Transparent & accountable

- Clarity of stakeholder interests and representation
- Existence of procedures and mechanisms
- Rigorous systems for records and disclosure
- Clear lines of accountability

From the outset, there is a set of clearly defined procedures and mechanisms for the different aspects of the policy making process, covering issues such as stakeholder representation, stakeholder contributions, inclusion and exclusion of inputs, decision making, leadership of the process, accountability and redress. The interests of all involved stakeholders are declared. And the details of discussions and decisions are documented and published. There are clear and functioning lines of accountability internally between the leadership and group, as well as externally between stakeholders and their wider communities.