



**AMBASSADOR LEWIS A. LUKENS  
REMARKS  
CYBER SECURITY AND CYBER CRIME WORKSHOP OPENING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 9:30AM  
RADISSON HOTEL**

***(As prepared)***

[Protocol introductions (TBD)]

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Senegal, I would like to welcome all of you -- officials and lawmakers from Senegal and nine other countries in Africa -- to the 2012 Cybersecurity and Cybercrime workshop. Welcome also to our trainers, from France, the EU, Japan, and of course, the United States. I would like to especially acknowledge the presence here of Secretary Hillary Clinton's Special Coordinator for Cyber Issues, Christopher Painter. Welcome to the land of Taranga -- I am sure you are all enjoying the famous Senegalese hospitality. And let me also thank the government of Senegal for co-hosting this event. Senegal is our most reliable and important partner in Francophone Africa, and it is a privilege to work with the government of President Macky Sall on important regional security issues.

The key goals of this three-day workshop are to:

- Review international legislation on cybercrime;
- Identify cyber-security and cyber-crime challenges, with a focus on mobile technologies;
- Develop methods of collecting and utilizing digital evidence; and, most importantly:
- Find ways to cooperate internationally, by discussing, sharing experiences, learning from one another, and committing to sustained engagement once these three days are over.

Putting together this workshop was a truly collaborative effort between different agencies of the United States government – the U.S. Departments of State and Justice, both with representation at our Embassy in Dakar, as well as the French Ministry of the Interior and the Japanese National Police Agency. It is an honor to work alongside great allies like Japan and France in combating as serious a threat as cybercrime.

Why focus on cybercrime in West Africa? Some of you may be wondering if it is really a threat. I assure you that it is. And it's a growing threat, so the earlier we tackle this, the better. Since its first official connection to the Internet in 1996, Senegal has shown rapid development in telecommunications -- especially mobile technology. 87% of the Senegalese population has a mobile phone, and 20% have regular access to the Internet. The rise of mobile technology and the Internet and subsequent growth of electronic commerce boost the economic prosperity of all nations. The Internet is creating a truly global economy and allowing for global communications on a scale never seen before.

However, as important as computer data are, they are also extremely fragile -- they can be lost or stolen with little effort. So effective laws for capturing what we call “electronic evidence” are vital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We need strong criminal laws and robust cybersecurity practices to protect the developers and users of the Internet if we are to continue to reap those innovative and economic benefits. You will learn this week about passing appropriate laws and regulations to promote cybersecurity and about developing Computer Emergency Response Teams.

Finally, I would like to mention that while cellular networks and the Internet are not constrained by international borders, law enforcement often is. So it is critical that states cooperate in protecting and sharing digital evidence. The 24/7 High Tech Crime Network, which will also be part of this workshop, addresses such cooperative measures.

I am confident that this three-day workshop will be an excellent opportunity to share experiences and work together. Effective cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention are in all of our national interests, and we must all work together on effective strategies and common approaches to these challenges.

I thank you for being here this week – and have a great workshop.