

FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Safeguarding Freedom of Opinion and Expression in Digital Spaces

MAIN SUBMITTER: China

CO-SUBMITTERS: Afghanistan, Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan

The Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind the need for a balance between freedom of expression and the protection of cultural, religious, and moral integrity online,

Emphasizing the role of governments in maintaining sovereignty over digital spaces within their territories, ensuring content aligns with the values of their society,

Fully aware of the definition of harmful content as defined by UNICEF as “anything that causes offence, distress or harm”,

Noting with regret the fact that the mental health of people, especially adolescents, around the globe are significantly declining as technology and digital media advances more and more,

Recognizes the term used for disinformation as stated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as “false or misleading content that can cause specific harm, irrespective of motivation, awareness or behaviors”,

1. Condemns censoring information that is not risking national security or causing harm, the extent of which is decided by each individual Member State;
2. Encourages digital platforms and social media companies to uphold international human rights standards through means such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Implementing transparent and accountable content moderation systems, through means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Publicly accessible community guidelines that are aligned with the standards of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
 - ii. Notice-and-action mechanisms for content removal, incorporating clear appeals processes to ensure due process;
 - b. Conducting regular Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs) focusing on means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Algorithmic recommendation systems and their potential to amplify harmful content or bias,

- ii. Automated content moderation tools and their accuracy, fairness, and respect for freedom of expression,
 - c. Collaborating with relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives and frameworks, such as:
 - i. UNESCO's Guidelines for Regulating Digital Platforms,
 - ii. The Freedom Online Coalition's Joint Statements,
 - iii. Regional instruments, including the European Union's Digital Services Act,
 - iv. Ensuring that all moderation practices are free from bias, and actively prohibit hate speech, discrimination, or any form of derogatory content that undermines human dignity, equality, or the rights of marginalized groups;
3. Requests the international community to engage in the exchange of technical expertise and regulatory innovations that effectively address the challenges by digital misinformation, cyber threats, and extremist content;
4. Calls for the cyber-security "Telecommunication Protection Committee" (TPC) as a subsidiary under the United Nations, organized in collaboration with regional government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and medical teams to protect individuals from external, explicit and digital threats, such as foreign ideologies that can disrupt societies, through means such as, but not limited to the establishment of a national security corps to set up preventative measures against foreign interference or propaganda that may disrupt national order;
6. Encourages all member states to uphold their commitments under the universal declaration of human rights by ensuring that any restrictions on digital expression are;
- a. Publicly disclosed,
 - b. Justified under international human rights law for the protection of national security, public order, or the rights of others,
 - c. Non-discriminatory and applied equally to all individuals;
7. Improving transparency and accountability in digital government systems through various methods such as, but not limited to:
- a. Establishing clear legal and procedural safeguards to regulate state surveillance, through means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Compulsory judicial oversight prior to accessing private digital communications,
 - b. Ensuring public access to information on state and corporate digital practices through means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Mandating governments to disclose information on surveillance programs,

- ii. Ensuring governments disclose their censorship policies on their online government websites,
 - iii. Requiring social media companies and digital platforms to publish regular transparency reports,
 - iv. Facilitating independent audits of both government and corporate digital policies to ensure compliance with human rights standards;
- 8. Calls for all major news networks (defined by 8,000 or more monthly visits), to display their external sources, as well as preventing misinformation through:
 - a. Visible banners on the website to indicate opinion pieces from fact,
 - b. A brief overview of the biases held by the journalists working on the piece as well as a full disclose of all potential biases,
 - c. Clearly displaying all donations and sponsorships given to the network,
 - d. A fine of 5% more than earned on each click if a news source is found to be intentionally spreading misinformation;
- 9. Mandates the removal of misleading, hateful, harmful, manipulated, or content from major social networks, collaborative platforms, and search engines within 24 hours of it being flagged by the Telecommunication Protection Committee (TPC), issuing fines for non-compliance determined at the discretion of each respective member nation, with the exceptions of sanctions that violate International humanitarian law or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
- 10. Calls upon Member States and digital platforms to combat the spread of extreme ideological language that manipulates or radicalises youth, particularly through identity-based pressure, through means such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Implementing clear policies and definitions that prohibit coercive rhetoric targeting young people based on identity, including but not limited to:
 - i. Language exploiting minority groups (e.g., LGBTQ+, ethnic, religious) to enforce ideological conformity,
 - ii. Pressure tactics such as guilt, fear, or exclusion to radicalise vulnerable individuals,
 - b. Promoting youth-focused education that builds:
 - i. Media literacy and resistance to ideological manipulation,
 - ii. Safe identity expression and pluralistic dialogue,
 - c. Collaborating with civil society and tech platforms to:
 - i. Review algorithms that amplify harmful ideologies,
 - ii. Ensure content moderation tools are fair, transparent, and protect peaceful expression,
 - d. Ensuring that all measures uphold international human rights standards, including:

- i. Freedom of belief and identity,
- ii. Clear appeals processes and protections against unjust censorship;

11. Supporting digital inclusion and access to online freedoms in LEDCs through means such as, but not limited to:

- a. Expanding access to digital infrastructure and resources through means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Using a portion of the UN Democracy fund to develop affordable and reliable internet access in underserved areas,
 - ii. Encouraging technology companies to provide reduced-cost or free digital services for marginalized communities,
- b. Ensuring marginalized and vulnerable populations can fully participate in digital spaces through means such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Implementing policies that promote gender-inclusive access to digital resources,
 - ii. Supporting programs funded by the UN Democracy fund that provide digital literacy training for individuals in rural and underserved areas,
 - iii. Encouraging the development of local content and services in multiple languages to promote accessibility for diverse communities,
 - iv. Establish or enhance existing multi-language translator applications throughout various digital spaces;

12. Urges that UNESCO leads a global effort to help countries fight misinformation while still respecting freedom of speech by creating international rules on how countries can stop fake news without limiting free speech:

- a. Training journalists and media workers on fact-checking so they can identify false information online,
- b. Encouraging social media platforms to improve fact-checking with help of AI features while making sure they do not block valid opinions or critical voices;

13. Encourages all member states to implement digital literacy programs within the next coming of years through means such as but not limited to:

- a. Integrating digital literacy courses into school curricula for primary education and older by the year 2028, to ensure students develop critical thinking skills for navigating online information responsibly,
- b. Collaborating with educational institutions and NGOs starting within the next 12 months to create accessible materials that teach citizens about digital rights, online safety, and responsible media consumption,

- c. Providing free workshops and training programs in public spaces such as libraries, community centers, and workplaces to help individuals of all ages develop the skills needed to engage safely and effectively in digital spaces,
 - d. Encourage open-mindedness and digital responsibility;
15. Deeply concerned of all member states who have violated the human rights, determined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of reporters and journalists to a “1v1” in the video game Fortnite Battle Royal developed by Epic Games, with specifications as follows:
- a. The “1v1” will be held between the journalists who has had their rights violated, and the head of state of the state that has violated the journalists rights
 - b. The “1v1” will take place on the Fortnite Creative Island named as “BHE 1V1 BUILD FIGHTS” with the island code 8064-7152-2934
 - c. The “1v1” will be hosted at the United Nations Headquarters and will be live streamed
 - d. The members taking place in the “1v1” will have to be using all default cosmetic settings to ensure a fair and equal fight
 - e. The members taking place in the “1v1” will have the following equipped:
 - i. the Assault Rifle, of Legendary rating
 - ii. the Pump Shotgun, of Legendary rating
 - iii. the Submachine Gun, of Legendary rating
 - f. Providing Fortnite lessons to reporters for free to be led by Fortnite users who have been rated highly in the 2023 Fortnite Power Rankings
 - g. If the member of the “1v1” who defeats the other is the journalist, then they will be freed from the human right violations from the member state that has committed them, and the member state must pay one million VBUCKS as a reward to the journalist
 - h. If the member of the “1v1” who defeats the other is the head of state of the member state, then the journalist will not be freed from the human right violations;