



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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The role of policymakers and regulators in promoting a rights-based approach to the regulation of digital platforms

Concept note for a hybrid side-event during UNESCO Global Conference *Internet for Trust: Towards Guidelines for Regulating Digital Platforms for Information as Public Good*

**Tuesday, 21 February 2023, 14:00 to 18:00 CET (Paris time)
Room IX, Fontenoy building, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris**

Context and rationale

The IPU and UNESCO share a common interest in protecting and promoting the right to freedom of expression and have decided to bolster their cooperation through the implementation of various activities aimed at protecting and promoting fundamental freedoms, access to information and digital governance with respect to emerging technologies.

The internet and social media have paved the way for more interaction and connectivity, but also facilitated the rise of online intimidation, and mis- and disinformation – a double-edged sword for MPs and policymakers as public figures. Some have been the victims of online abuse for exercising their right to freedom of expression and have been subject to campaigns of misinformation. They therefore need to be supported in enhancing their capacities to address the challenges of digital governance effectively.

Objectives

The purpose of this side-event is to identify the role and responsibility that parliaments and policymakers have in helping ensure that digital platforms are used and regulated in a human rights-compliant manner. Importantly, the session will also explore the capacity building needs of policymakers for digital governance based on UNESCO's Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Competency framework.

The side-event will also aim to share relevant parliamentary experiences and good practices in this area, to offer an opportunity for members of parliament and policymakers to provide their perspective on UNESCO's digital platforms regulatory framework, and to identify the concrete areas for capacity building for policymakers and regulators. The meeting is also open to other stakeholders who wish to engage with parliamentarians and regulators on this topic.

Context

The side-event will take place in the margins of the Global Conference called, [*Internet for Trust: Towards Guidelines Regulating Digital Platforms for Information as Public Good*](#) organized by UNESCO from 21 to 23 February 2023 at its headquarters in Paris. The Global Conference will bring together ministers, regulators, judicial actors, the private sector, the UN family, civil society, academia, intergovernmental organizations and the technical community from around the world to shape digital platform regulation. The leadup to the conference will offer a forum for multistakeholder consultations on regulating digital platforms, with the aim to support freedom of expression, and ensure the availability of accurate and reliable information in the public sphere.

Date, virtual venue and time

This hybrid event will take place in person and online in English and French via the zoom link available on the UNESCO website (<https://www.unesco.org/en/internet-conference>) on Tuesday, 21 February 2023 in Room IX, Fontenoy building, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 14:00 to 18:00 (CET).



Registration

All participants are invited to register online at <https://www.unesco.org/en/internet-conference> and to fill out the attached registration form and send it to hrteam@ipu.org. Participants wishing to attend the side event in person are invited to fill in the online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/jJtmLfDDSP>. For those travelling to Paris, information on accommodation and transport is attached.

Registrations must be completed no later than 13 February 2023.

Key documents

- [Global Conference programme](#)
- [Guidance for regulating digital platforms: a multistakeholder approach](#)
- [Artificial intelligence and digital transformation: competencies for civil servants](#)
- [IPU](#)
- [UNESCO](#)

Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided in English and French during the side-event.

Contact

For more information, please contact hrteam@ipu.org.