UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

Submitted by:

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Gender: Female

Category of Stakeholder: F. Governments

Country: Kenya

Region: Africa

1. What can be done to reinforce the right to seek and receive information in the online environment?

Offer information and protection. Give more information on the pros and cons of using the online environment to give information. What are the benefits to all stakeholders? If the information is academic or individual inputs, how am I protected from copyright, academic theft. How can I track who has accessed and used my information.

2. What mechanisms can develop policies and common standards for open-licensed educational resources and scientific repositories, and for the long-term preservation of digital heritage?

Perhaps each country can develop their policies which would be spearheaded by the ICT Authorities (in the case of Kenya), the government, and experts in library systems. Standardization has to take into consideration the various ICT development status in terms of hardware and internet connectivity/speeds.

3. How can greater progress be made as regards inclusive strategies for women and girls as well as marginalized and disabled people?

The social media would form as a source of giving updates, twitter, whatsapp, facebook. They can be used to give pop-ups with links to actual sites. Women issues can be the core of information in this case, FGM, Constitutional rights, jobs, protection, funding, entrepreneurial skills and so on.

4. How can accessibility be facilitated through increases in locally produced and relevant content in different languages?

Use of a common language - Swahili in the case of East Africa. The government, through its literature experts, can - with time - have the content translated. The Bible is a case in point. It has been translated right down to my native language here in Kenya, and yet it is a Universal book.
5. What can be done to institutionalize Media and Information Literacy (MIL) effectively in national educational systems?

6. What are the current and emerging challenges relevant to freedom of expression online?

The ripple effect - accusations, insults, DE-humanisation, misunderstanding of content. Case in point is the US teenage student who killed herself because of the on-line bullying.

there is also loss of privacy which is also brought about by poor ethical education on internet use.

7. How can legislation in a diverse range of fields which impacts on the Internet respect freedom of expression in line with international standards?

8. Is there a need for specific protections for freedom of expression for the Internet?

Yes

9. To what extent do laws protect digitally interfaced journalism and journalistic sources?

To a small extent. How can you protect information that is passed real time? Are there Firewalls that can protect against content that may be harmful. Human intervention may be necessary causing delays to an information hungry clientele.

10. What are the optimum ways to deal with online hate speech? How can Media and Information Literacy empower users to understand and exercise freedom of expression on the Internet?

Education on ethical, professional and social issues. These can actually be standardized in such a way that all users are aware of what is expected of them once they are online.

11. What are the optimum systems for independent self-regulation by journalistic actors and intermediaries in cyberspace?

12. What principles should ensure respect for the right to privacy?

All governments must have rights of privacy already in existence. The public however, may not have access to the information. They should be educated. These rights I believe, are largely similar internationally and they too can be standardized. The standardization should lead to a set of principles that can be used to govern internet use and individual, corporate and government rights to privacy.

13. What is the relationship between privacy, anonymity and encryption?

They are all an attempt to protect access to various forms of information. Privacy protects the source and use of information, anonymity protects the identity of the source of information while encryption limits access to only those with the key to unlock the encrypted data.

14. What is the importance of transparency around limitations of privacy?
Users would know where they are at. To what extent should they expose or use the information they have access to?

15. What kinds of arrangements can help to safeguard the exercise of privacy in relation to other rights?

16. How can openness and transparency of data be reconciled with privacy?

17. What may be the impact of issues relating to big data on respect for privacy?

18. How can security of personal data be enhanced?

19. How can Media and Information Literacy be developed to assist individuals to protect their privacy?

20. How can ethical principles based on international human rights advance accessibility, openness, and multi-stakeholder participation on the Internet?

21. What conceptual frameworks or processes of inquiry could serve to analyse, assess, and thereby inform the choices that confront stakeholders in the new social uses and applications of information and knowledge?

22. How does ethical consideration relate to gender dimensions of the Internet?

23. How can ethics, - i.e. the simultaneous affirmation of human rights, peace, equity, and justice - inform law and regulation about the Internet?

24. What international, regional and national frameworks, normative guidelines and accountability mechanisms exist of relevance to one or more fields of the study?

25. How do cross-jurisdictional issues operate with regard to freedom of expression and privacy?

26. What are the intersections between the fields of study: for example, between access and freedom of expression; ethics and privacy; privacy and freedom of expression; and between all four elements?

27. What pertinent information materials exist that cut across or which are relevant to the four fields of the study?

28. What might be the options for role of UNESCO within the wider UN system in regard to the distinct issues of online Access to information and knowledge, Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Ethical dimensions of the information society?

29. What might be options for the role of UNESCO in relation to stakeholders outside the UN system?

30. For each study field, what specific options might UNESCO Member States consider?