

# UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

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## **Submitted by :**

**Name:** Hanane Boujemi

**Gender:** Female

**Category of Stakeholder:** E. international organizations

**Country:** Netherlands

**Region:** Europe and North America

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

Have strong mechanisms/ access to information laws to guarantee the right to seek and receive information online and offline.

### **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?**

A clear link between open standards and economic prosperity should be established so emerging economies and developing countries see the value in this philosophy.

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

This is a perception issue. One of the solutions could be imposing a specific quota of these segments to make sure they are included and represented so they can lobby for better policies which concern them. Special programs should be developed to outreach these categories.

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

I think educational institutions should be encouraged to take the lead on this. A national strategy would definitely help to localise and produce content.

### **5. What can be done to institutionalize Media and Information Literacy (MIL) effectively in national educational systems?**

Including it in school curriculum .

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

Offline legislation applied on the online environment, ambiguous and vaguely worded legislation, penal code is applied when free speech is exercised by activists and journalists under the defamation excuse. Online users are not well informed on their rights and legal procedures when they are arrested. The c

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

The local legislations should be adapted and synchronized with international mechanisms .

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

No.

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

in the Arab region context, there are more challenges and obstacles/ bureaucratic procedures to be accredited as digital journalists than rights.

**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?**

raising awareness on the impact of hate speech is the only resort but also understanding the concept of freedom is also important as it does not mean disorder as perceived in certain contexts.

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

A code of ethics

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

The option not to share personal data or disclose it if available with consent of the user.

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

guaranteeing a minimum level of secrecy.

**14. What is the importance of transparency around limitations of privacy?**

users should be aware that there is no guarantee that privacy applications, laws, encryption technology can guarantee their information will be private.

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

Tech companies should be at the heart of the HR discussions on privacy.

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

by explaining the purpose of open data.

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

Issues relating to big data defies the purpose of having an argument about privacy but if used it in the context of "governance" of government services, it links to gov transparency and accountability.

**18. How can security of personal data be enhanced?**

No solution :)

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

I think developing programmes to help raise awareness could be key to inject privacy culture.

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

They will increase the space for more freedom on the internet which will impact other domains namely government accountability and good governance

**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?**

Question is unclear

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

I dont think it does, it's mainly a cultural perception ( not even religious)

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

It's very difficult to make the association but for the sake of naming and shaming it could help put some gov in the lime light. International pressure helps but the concept of sovereignty wins here.

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

There is nothing new. The same international frameworks.

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

I am not aware of any cases specific to FOE but it will all depend on the jurisdiction of the party in dispute. For example to case of Bytes for all and GCHQ is been dealt with in the UK.

**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?**

all of them are linked but in a nutshell. The base of a prosperous society is the one which respects freedom and the right to privacy.

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

Not aware of any research papers on this.

**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?**

set up regional strategies based on the very specific needs of each region where you are operating.

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

It could be feasible to prepare action plans based on the research you make which can be helpful and practical.

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

I think all options are relevant.