

UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

Submitted by :

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Gender: Male

Category of Stakeholder: A. civil society and NGOs including individual users

Country: Switzerland

Region: Europe and North America

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

States should recognize that online freedom of speech should be less restricted than offline freedom of speech. A specific proposal is attached.

http://unesco-ci.org/cmscore/sites/default/files/webform/internet-issues/cwg-freedom_speech.pdf

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?

NO COMMENT

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

Continue to implement the recommendations of WSIS and UN Women.

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

Developed countries should provide financial assistance to developing countries. And a scheme should be put into place to financially compensate users for the valuable information that they provide to companies such as Google and Facebook: that information enables those companies to make huge profits. For specific proposals, see:

http://www.hldataprotection.com/files/2013/06/Taxation_Digital_Economy.pdf

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

NO COMMENT

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

See response to question 1, and recognize that, in the absence of privacy, there can be no true freedom of expression. So putting an end to mass surveillance is a precondition for freedom of expression online.

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

See response to question 1.

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

Yes, see response to question 1.

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

Offline law applies equally online.

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?

See response to question 1.

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

Self-regulation is an oxymoron. The concept does not work in practice except in very limited situations where there are no externalities so that it is a win-win environment. The response to question 1 indicates the only acceptable limitation on content.

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

Implementation of the recommendations of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights. That report is attached.

http://unesco-ci.org/cmscore/sites/default/files/webform/internet-issues/a.hrc_.27.37_en.pdf

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

Anonymity and encryption are tools that can be used to achieve privacy.

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

As pointed out by the High Commissioner on Human Rights, transparency is an integral element of due process, which is a fundamental right. See the report attached in the response to question 12.

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

See the response to question 12.

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

See the response to question 12.

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

All data, whether big or small, and whether meta or substantive, has the same impact on privacy. The recommendations of the High Commissioner on Human Rights apply to all data. See the response to question 12.

18. How can security of personal data be enhanced?

By implementing on a global scale the European concept of data privacy; by not making strong encryption illegal; by agreeing explicit treaty language, including to the effect that mandatory third-party retention must not be allowed. See the attached specific proposal.

http://unesco-ci.org/cmscore/sites/default/files/webform/internet-issues/cwg-privacy_rev.pdf

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

By widely disseminating the findings of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. See the response to question 12.

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

All countries must agree to respect all human rights, meaning that mass surveillance must end. See also the responses to questions 1 and 12.

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?

See the attached best practices document.

http://unesco-ci.org/cmscore/sites/default/files/webform/internet-issues/best_practices.pdf

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

Gender discrimination is unethical.

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

Law and regulation must be ethical.

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

Many, but many are unsatisfactory because they are not based on democratic multi-stakeholder models. See the file attached in the response to question 21 for an explanation.

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

The United States of America takes the view that its laws (or lack of laws) apply around the world. This view is not acceptable. All states must conform to international law.

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 four elements are intimately related: none can exist on its own, all must be present.

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

See:

<http://justnetcoalition.org/delhi-declaration>

http://justnetcoalition.org/sites/default/files/Roadmap_for_Democratising_Global_Governance_of_the_Internet.pdf

http://www.senat.fr/rap/r13-696-1/r13-696-1_mono.html

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?

UNESCO should endeavor to ensure that states respect international law and implement the recommendations given in response to the previous questions.

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

See the response to question 28.

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

See the responses to the previous questions.