

UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

Submitted by :

Name:

Gender: Female

Category of Stakeholder: F. Governments

Country: Lebanon

Region: Arab States

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

Apply universal coverage policy when issuing telecom licenses

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?

Government has a role and a responsibility here - not sure that all governments are aware of this requirements (Ministry of Culture for digital heritage, Ministry of Education for educational resources)

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

I worked a lot in the field of women access to IT during 2004-2007; you can only train and raise awareness, the rest is to provide access which is not in the realm of responsibilities of NGOs.

IT can be used to provide jobs for women in rural locations by providing data entry centers, or electronics recycling centers. (they do not have access to their own car or transportation so they have limited movement access). I was not able to start those in Lebanon.

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

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?

Islamic extremism (ISIS) using social media to promote itself...

Child pornography must be stopped...

neo-nazism, racial hate, etc..

The question is how to draw the line (culture wise and government wise) between what to block and what not to block... What is considered bad in one culture can be considered OK in another?

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

Develop model laws (such as the UNICTRAL law for digital signature). Countries can be free to develop their own based on the model.

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

no if question 7 is implemented.

Today, governments have their own laws which can contradict with freedom of expression in a global sense. For example in Lebanon, vituperation (blaming or insulting someone in public) has penal repercussions... So using social media to insult politicians or friends or private citizens can result in jail for a number of days...

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

Today in Lebanon, media law does not protect bloggers and digital journalism (while it protects regular journalists). A new comprehensive law is being developed.

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?

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?

- 13. What is the relationship between privacy, anonymity and encryption?**
- 14. What is the importance of transparency around limitations of privacy?**
- 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?

Make recommendations and develop model laws

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