

"We cannot leave it to private companies to resolve this existential issue themselves, as their business models will continue to favour engagement and clicks, sometimes at any cost, prioritizing sensational content over verified information."

Audrey Azoulay
UNESCO Director-General



"The business models of social media companies profit from algorithms that prioritize addiction, outrage and anxiety at the cost of public safety. We need strong regulatory frameworks to change this business model."



António Guterres
United Nations
Secretary-General

We need your support

The conference looks for the participation of the following stakeholders :

- ✓ Ministries of Information / ICT / Communications / Digital Transformation / Education
- ✓ Communications / Media / Data / Privacy and Electoral Regulators
- ✓ Parliamentarians
- ✓ Judicial Operators
- ✓ Private sector, namely social media companies
- ✓ UN family, including Office of the Tech Envoy
- ✓ Regional international organizations
- ✓ Civil society
- ✓ Academia
- ✓ Technical community (engineers and other technical professionals responsible for building the architecture of Internet)

How you can contribute

UNESCO is encouraging all actors involved to:

- ✓ Act as a champion for the initiative, involving others.
- ✓ Contribute to the conference outputs.
- ✓ Mobilize funds to organize the conference and to ensure the conditions to implement the framework developed.
- ✓ Use national and international networks to contribute to the drafting process of the framework.
- ✓ Promote the envisioned outputs, including the outcome document.

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Internet for Democracy

Regulating Digital Platforms
for Information as a Public Good

UNESCO GLOBAL CONFERENCE
21-23 February 2023

Digital platforms and the future of democracy

In just two decades, the Internet and social media have completely upended the ways in which we communicate, express ourselves, and access and share information.

This has brought about vast new opportunities, but also enormous new challenges that current regulatory systems have yet to catch up with.

In the face of widespread disinformation, hate speech and conspiracy theories, people are increasingly speaking about a reality where objective truth no longer exists, and groups live in self-reinforcing informational echo chambers with entirely different sets of facts.

These dynamics undermine processes critical for vibrant democracies – such as free, periodical and plural elections – and the protection and promotion of all human rights.

Significant areas of global communications are now under the strong influence of a handful of digital giants whose business models are one of the most important variables in the equation to maximize opportunities, mitigate risks and regulate processes that might lead to concrete off-line harms.

Our goal

The overarching objective of the conference and its lead and follow-up processes:

To develop, through multistakeholder consultations, a model regulatory framework for the digital platforms to secure information as a public good, while protecting freedom of expression and other human rights.



An advanced draft of the framework is expected to be produced, which will spell out guidance regarding:

- **The issues**
(e.g., content moderation and curation, transparency, accountability, etc.)
- **The actors and the ways**
(regulators, co-regulation mechanisms, company self-regulation, multistakeholder regulation)
- **The purpose**
(e.g., to ensure human rights' accountability, advance multilingualism online, build digital empowerment)