IGF 2021 DC main session: Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility DCPR contribution to the IGF 2021 issue areas

1. About the DC

The IGF Coalition on Platform Responsibility (DCPR) was established to foster a multistakeholder endeavour aimed at exploring the responsibility of digital platforms to respect human rights and to grant an effective grievance mechanism, in accordance with the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council with the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights).

Hence, the concept of "platform responsibility", first developed by the Coalition in 2014, aims at studying the digital platforms' practices that may be considered as responsible behaviour, in line with the principles laid out by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. See the IGF DCPR webpage

2. Relevant issue area(s) and policy (questions)

I. Economic and social inclusion and human rights

Digital policy and human rights frameworks

1. What is the relationship between digital policy and development and the established international frameworks for civil and political rights as set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and further interpretation of these in the online context provided by various resolutions of the Human Rights Council?

Promoting equitable development and preventing harm

1. How can we make use of digital technologies to promote more equitable and peaceful societies that are inclusive, resilient and sustainable?

III. Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation

Regulation, competition and innovation

1. How could regulatory and self-regulatory frameworks help foster more competitive Internet-related markets, a larger diversity of business models, and more innovation?

Protecting consumer rights: What regulatory approaches are/could be effective in upholding consumer rights, offering adequate remedies for rights violations, and eliminating unfair and deceptive practices from the part of Internet companies?

Content moderation and human rights compliance

1. How to ensure that government regulation, self-regulation and co-regulation approaches to content moderation are compliant with human rights frameworks, are transparent and accountable, and enable a safe, united and inclusive Internet?

3. DC contribution

Digital policy and human rights frameworks

2. What is the relationship between digital policy and development and the established international frameworks for civil and political rights as set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and further interpretation of these in the online context provided by various resolutions of the Human Rights Council?

DCPR will explores the concept of "Platform Responsibility," which was coined by DCPR in 2014 and promoted ever since. This concept aims at interrogating, on the one hand, the impact that private ordering regimes designed and implemented by digital platforms have on individuals' capability to enjoy their fundamental rights, and on the other hand, the ethical, social and human rights responsibility that platforms bear when setting up such regimes. The concept of "Platform Responsibility," as elaborated by DCPR focuses notably on the platform responsibility to protect and promote right to an effective remedy (art 2 ICCPR), the right to privacy (art 17 ICCPR), and the right to freedom of expression (art 19 ICCPR).

Promoting equitable development and preventing harm

1. How can we make use of digital technologies to promote more equitable and peaceful societies that are inclusive, resilient and sustainable?

DCPR will emphasize the platform responsibility to respect, protect and promote human rights thus making their best effort to bake fundamental human rights values into their technologies and in their organizational structures. In this respect, since the elaboration of the 2015 Recommendations on Terms of Service & Human Rights, DCPR has argued that, as part of this responsibility, corporations should: 1. make a policy commitment to the respect of human rights 2. adopt a human rights due-diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impacts on human rights; and 3. have in place processes to enable the remediation of any adverse human rights impacts they cause or to which they contribute

Regulation, competition and innovation

How could regulatory and self-regulatory frameworks help foster more competitive Internet-related markets, a larger diversity of business models, and more innovation?

Acknowledging the growing trend towards unsustainable market concentration, epitomized by dominant social networking and ecommerce platforms, and the risks such scenario poses to competition and user rights, this year's DCPR session is focused on how frameworks for the design and implementation of platform interoperability could play out in practice. The DCPR aims at stimulating a multistakeholder discussion regarding the possible frameworks and regulatory approaches for fostering competition on the Internet – specifically regarding platform interoperability initiatives. To provide a better understanding of platform-related concepts and the existing nuances and interpretations of such concepts, the DCPR is also releasing a Glossary of Platform Law and Policy Terms.

Content moderation and human rights compliance

1. How to ensure that government regulation, self-regulation and co-regulation approaches to content moderation are compliant with human rights frameworks, are transparent and accountable, and enable a safe, united and inclusive Internet?

Past DCPR works focused on exploring various aspects of platform responsibilities and regulation, including by trying to bridge the gap between policymakers, academia and private sector via the elaboration of multistakeholder Recommendations on Terms of Service and Human Rights and Best Practices on Effective Remedies. The study of content moderation and what practices can be considered as compatible with human rights has been a key concern of past works - including research outcomes such as the 2019 special issue on Platform Values and the 2017 annual report on Platform regulations - and remain an essential topic of discussion.

See the abovementioned documents in the "Reports" section of the IGF DCPR webpage https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-platform-responsibility-dcpr