

IGF 2021 DC main session: DC briefing paper
DC Children's Rights in the Digital Environment: Contribution to the IGF 2021 issue areas

1. About the DC Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

Organizations working with and for children and youths, government and industry representatives have joined together to establish a dialogue and address fundamental and practical issues impacting on child safety in the online environment.

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

Please indicate which of the IGF 2021 issue area(s) and related policy question(s) the paper is focusing on.

- **Digital policy and human rights frameworks**
- **Inclusion, rights and stakeholder roles and responsibilities**
- **Content moderation and human rights compliance**
- **Data governance and trust, globally and locally**
- **Ensuring a safe digital space**

For policy questions to these issue areas addressed by the work of DC Children's Rights in the Digital Environment please refer to the next section.

3. DC contribution

Digital policy and human rights frameworks

Policy Question: 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?

DC-Children's rights in the digital environment: The challenge we address with the DC's work is balancing fundamental human rights for all with the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly children to protection measures within digital policy frameworks. The rights of children and adolescents as laid down in the UN-CRC are newly interpreted in regards of the digital environment by the recently adopted General Comment No. 25. This document provided by the UN Child Rights Committee sets out a global standard on how to understand children's rights to protection, provision and participation in the digital environment and how to guarantee the best interest of the child as a primary consideration in digital policy and Internet Governance.

Inclusion, rights and stakeholder roles and responsibilities

Policy Question: What are/should be the responsibilities of governments, businesses, the technical community, civil society, the academic and research sector and community-based actors with regard to digital inclusion and respect for human rights, and what is needed for them to fulfil these in an efficient and effective manner?

DC-Children's rights in the digital environment: Balancing the right to freedom of speech and access to information and privacy (among others) with the right to protection and privacy for vulnerable groups is a main desiderate. In line with the DC session at IGF 2021 it is necessary to discuss the interrelatedness of prevention and regulation and the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholder groups towards safeguarding users and responding to online harm.

Content moderation and human rights compliance

Policy Question: 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?

DC-Children's rights in the digital environment addresses the challenges of ensuring children's rights compliance with relevant legislation, and building mechanisms that are transparent and accountable in a way that protection and safety can be guaranteed, and that proportionality can be demonstrated.

Data governance and trust, globally and locally

Policy Question: What is needed to ensure that existing and future national and international data governance frameworks are effective in mandating the responsible and trustworthy use of data, with respect for privacy and other human rights?

DC-Children's rights in the digital environment: Our work addresses considerations for data governance that ensure children are protected and their rights ensured.

Ensuring a safe digital space

Policy Question: How should governments, Internet businesses and other stakeholders protect citizens, including vulnerable citizens, against online exploitation and abuse?

DC-Children's rights in the digital environment : Our work addresses children's right to protection; we deal with the challenges and opportunities for ensuring safety in the digital world for all users esp. for those under the age of eighteen.