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Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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This declaration reflects the collective commitment of parliamentarians to advancing effective, inclusive and democratic digital governance in the face of complex and evolving challenges.

We, parliamentarians taking part in the Parliamentary Track at the 20th UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF), with the overarching theme *Building Digital Governance Together*,

Reaffirming the essential role of an open, free and interoperable Internet and of digital technologies in driving sustainable development, fostering innovation, enabling inclusive digital transformation, and ensuring social, cultural and economic empowerment for all,

Recognizing the urgent and complex challenges of the digital age, including the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and violent material; online harms for children, women, and vulnerable and marginalized groups; cybercrime and other cybersecurity threats; data exploitation; the risks posed by unregulated emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI); and the environmental impact of digital technologies, and in particular the high energy consumption of data infrastructure and AI systems; and *recognizing also* the need to, inter alia, protect the mental health of users, ensure their exposure to diverse viewpoints, and preserve their ability to make autonomous and informed choices, while also mitigating the risks of echo chambers and algorithm-driven social fragmentation,

Reaffirming that digital transformations must reinforce, and not undermine, democratic values, human rights and the integrity of information ecosystems,

Stressing the importance of countering new and evolving digital threats, such as deepfakes, algorithmic bias and information warfare, in a manner that upholds freedom of expression and pluralism, as well as the importance of reinforcing trust in public institutions and widening access to information,

Acknowledging the fundamental role of parliaments in establishing legal frameworks that protect citizens and encourage innovation, and in holding governments and digital actors accountable in the face of rapidly changing technological landscapes, and *noting* that each parliament regulates the digital space in accordance with its own legal, cultural and societal frameworks,

Committed to turning the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and the Global Digital Compact principles into effective and rights-based action, and to promoting democratic resilience,

Desiring to engage in the WSIS+20 review of the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, which is being undertaken by the UN General Assembly in 2025,

Noting with satisfaction the growing engagement of parliaments in global and regional IGFs, and the many initiatives relating to AI and digital technologies currently being undertaken by parliaments around the world,

1. *Call for* enhanced international cooperation to build digital trust and resilience and ensure an open, free and interoperable Internet;
2. *Call upon* parliaments to lead efforts to promote information integrity and to counter digital manipulation and the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech and violent material by:
 - a. preserving human rights in line with international legal instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - b. setting forth a positive vision of the Internet we want through an ongoing process of multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration;
 - c. developing legislation to combat online harms that is compliant with international human rights principles, respects fundamental freedoms including the right to freedom of expression, makes use of lessons learned from other jurisdictions and draws on the best available technical expertise;
 - d. taking action against harmful content targeting children and youth, as well as against hate speech and online gender-based violence;
 - e. working with stakeholders to identify the issues that are best solved through technical standards, good practices or regulatory mechanisms;
 - f. implementing robust accountability mechanisms for digital platforms, including but not limited to legislative mandates, and establishing algorithmic accountability and transparency standards for digital platforms;
 - g. supporting initiatives that promote transparency of content provenance and contextualization, such as watermarking;
 - h. prioritizing the development of media and information literacy and digital skills;
 - i. creating an enabling environment for freedom of expression and the right of access to information, including by addressing specific concerns about the harassment and intimidation of journalists and by strengthening independent media organizations;
3. *Call upon* all IGF stakeholders to protect the integrity of elections, as the core expression of the will of the people in a democracy, in the digital space, including by:
 - a. identifying and mitigating online threats to electoral processes and sharing information about these threats;
 - b. strengthening research into threats in languages other than English;
4. *Call upon* digital platforms to uphold their role and responsibility in ensuring information integrity, including by:
 - a. placing the democratic values of transparency, accountability, inclusion and participation at the core of their technologies;
 - b. closely collaborating with public authorities, including parliament, about threats to information integrity;
 - c. aligning their design, content moderation and curation processes and systems with international human rights principles;
 - d. mapping new and evolving challenges to information integrity and developing appropriate responses;
 - e. using their terms and conditions as a powerful tool to prevent online harms such as child pornography and violent material, and putting in place mechanisms to enforce these terms and conditions;
 - f. building “AI for good” tools to identify and counteract online harms;
 - g. creating diverse development teams;

- h. ensuring that the same levels of protection are provided to all users of their products, wherever they may be;
 - i. providing researchers with preferential access to data and processes from generative AI systems, in order to enhance the transparency of, and increase knowledge of, these systems;
5. *Call upon* parliaments to continue shaping the digital policy landscape and to exercise robust oversight of the implementation of policy and legislation, with a focus on freedom of expression, the right of access to information, democratic governance and civic engagement, by:
- a. adopting data governance frameworks that respect the principles of privacy, consent and non-discrimination, particularly through access to, and responsible use of, data;
 - b. ensuring that digital identity systems are rights-based, inclusive and privacy-respecting, and do not lead to discrimination or digital exclusion;
 - c. promoting green digital policies, including energy-efficient infrastructure, sustainable e-waste management and climate-resilient digital development strategies, and ensuring that digital transformation and AI development align with national and global climate commitments, including the goals of the Paris Agreement;
 - d. exploring agile and anticipatory approaches to the governance of emerging technologies and preparing for evolving risks to democracy and information ecosystems;
 - e. embedding inclusive and multi-stakeholder engagement in digital policymaking, in collaboration with civil society, academia, the media, technical community experts, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector, including technology companies;
 - f. championing inclusion in digital governance and decision-making, including for women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous populations and other historically underrepresented groups;
 - g. committing to meaningful youth participation in national and international digital policy forums, and supporting youth-led innovation and capacity development;
 - h. combating harassment and intimidation of candidates for political office and elected representatives;
 - i. building institutional capacity, media and information literacy, and digital skills among parliamentarians, staff and oversight bodies, including by equipping them to effectively scrutinize the implementation of digital policies;
6. *Encourage* parliaments to collaborate, at the regional and subregional levels, by:
- a. engaging not only with international communities, but also with local and regional stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia, the media, the technical community and the private sector;
 - b. fostering cross-border learning and knowledge-sharing, and developing harmonized legal frameworks that uphold the rule of law and human rights;
 - c. sharing good and bad practices on balancing digital security measures with the protection of freedom of expression and the right of access to information, especially for women and for vulnerable and marginalized groups;
 - d. developing shared strategies to address cybercrime while safeguarding online freedoms, and coordinating on tailored interventions across diverse issues such as child protection, violent material, hate speech, gender-based violence, election integrity, and disinformation and misinformation;
 - e. engaging proactively in regional and global dialogues on digital governance, including the WSIS+20 review process, national and regional IGF initiatives, the AI for Good Global Summit, and the AI Impact Summit, through the contribution of practical experiences and policy outcomes;

7. *Call upon* the IGF, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UN system organizations and other stakeholders, within their respective mandates, to:
 - a. increase investment in strengthening the capacity of parliaments to respond to emerging digital threats while safeguarding democratic values and human rights, including by providing enhanced support and capacity-building for parliaments in the Global South;
 - b. map and share existing capacity-building resources, and collaborate with the IGF and other stakeholders in order to further develop and promote training and tools to support parliaments in upholding democracy in the digital era;
 - c. provide structured access to IGF community expertise on digital policy issues;
 - d. report transparently on progress towards digital inclusion, integrity and respect for human rights, and support parliaments in monitoring these efforts;
 - e. further institutionalize the Parliamentary Track across IGF events;
 - f. encourage the participation of parliaments in key digital governance processes;
 - g. publish regular progress reports on parliamentary implementation of the IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, adopted in October 2024, and of the *Guidelines for AI in parliaments*, published in December 2024;
 - h. convey the outcomes of the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2025 to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2025.