

IRPC 2023 Annual Report

The [Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition \(IRPC\)](#) based at the [UN Internet Governance Forum \(UN-IGF\)](#) is a network of organizations and individuals working to uphold human rights in the online environment and to root internet governance processes and systems in human rights standards.

The dynamic coalition sets out to promote and provide a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration and aims to be an umbrella platform for facilitating collaboration on human rights issues in the Internet Governance Forum process.

The IRPC's main output document is the [Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet](#). Launched in 2011, it has been fully translated into 12 languages and its 10 broad principles are available in 29 languages. The Charter's 21 articles and 10 principles articulate existing international human rights law and norms while applying them to the online context. The Coalition's outreach work also draws on the Charter, which acts as its foundational document.

Through the Charter, the IRPC has supported rights-inspired initiatives and has engaged in collaborative work with other dynamic coalitions, civil society networks, universities, political representatives and civil servants, and the technical community, to raise awareness on the need to implement rights-based frameworks for the online environment.

IRPC in 2023: Our Activities

In 2023, unlike in previous years, the IRPC Steering Committee focused not on individual articles of the Charter to highlight their meaning and significance vis-à-vis current developments in Internet governance. Instead, in 2023, we focused on meter regulations and international agreements that would affect human rights on the Internet, specifically new regulation of artificial intelligence and the drafting of the UN Global Digital Compact. Our proposals for workshops at the global IGF in Kyoto, Japan, reflected these annual priorities. The coalition fostered collaborations with other initiatives and organizations on issues arising from these national and international processes and their human rights implications.

The IRPC took part in Internet Governance discussions by participating in the Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group and joining the IGF MAG meetings and other IGF inter-sessional

events. The coalition comprises members globally - Western Europe, Africa, Asia Pacific and North America. The regional diversity amplified our engagement in multi stakeholder dialogues at global, regional and local IGFs and digital human rights conferences, including APriGF, EuroDIG, SwissIGF, IGF Ghana, RightsCon, and the Council of Europe.

1. Internet Governance Forum - IGF 2023

[IGF 2023 #24 IRPC Annual Meeting: Human Rights Law and the Global Digital Compact](#)

In this session, participants discussed how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights law could guide the further development of the Global Digital Compact (GDC). The IRPC, with its Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet, had long worked to raise awareness and educate about how we could “apply human rights online” (Our Common Agenda, UNSG). To that end, the session engaged about 40 participants in an interactive discussion with a set of panelists: Helani Galpaya, LIRNEasia, Civil Society, Sri Lanka (on-site), Wolfgang Benedek, University of Graz, Academic, Austria (online), and Dennis Redeker, IRPC Steering Committee and University of Bremen, Academic, Germany (on-site). The format of the session was based on the creation of (multistakeholder) break-out groups to tackle specific rights and principles in international human rights law and how these could be better pursued through a renewed global effort, which the GDC represents. The session invited members of the Internet Governance Community to discuss a variety of principles, which are included in the Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet and relevant in the GDC consultations, such as poverty reduction and human development and environmental sustainability (entailed in Principle 4 “Right to Development Through the Internet”) or the “right to access to the Internet” (Principle 1). Aiming to develop a set of recommendations from the participants’ breakout group discussion, the moderator supported the process of channeling insights into a final plenary discussion. In addition, the session was used to showcase the most recent translation efforts of the Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet, including a translation project of the Charter into the Japanese language. A designated online moderator coordinated the interaction with online speakers and attendees (by monitoring and interacting with chat interactions and questions) and liaised with the moderator onsite so that there was a possibility of a dialogue between the onsite and online groups. A Question and Answer slot was also provided. All participants were able to use this space to interact with the speakers both online and offline. A detailed report of this session can be found in the [The GIP Digital Watch observatory](#) of the IGF in 2023.

[IGF 2023 Day 0 Event #79 A Global Compact for Digital Justice: Southern perspectives](#)

This session was organized with IT for Change and the Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility

(From the session report) The inequality of the digital economy presents an urgent challenge to development and democracy. If Agenda 2030 is to be realized, bold and committed action is needed to a) share the benefits of digitalization with all countries and peoples, b) govern digital resources democratically, and c) make digital policies and laws fit for catalyzing innovation that counts. The ultimate test for a well-guided digital transition is in the public and social value it can create, and the human freedoms it can expand. The political declaration adopted at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in September 2023, rightly alludes to the participation of all countries in the digital economy. Its focus on infrastructure, connectivity, and the affirmation of digital rights of people is noteworthy. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) will need to carry this consensus forward, with nuances of the particularities required for our common digital future. The 2023 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) pre-event in Kyoto on 'A Global Compact for Digital Justice: Southern Perspectives' was proposed by the Global Digital Justice Forum, the Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility, and the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles to explore the central question: how can we build a GDC that furthers digital justice, especially in the majority world? The event brought together speakers from governments and civil society in a multistakeholder dialogue structured in an innovative 'BUILD IT, BREAK IT, FIX IT' format.

2. Other national and regional IGF Initiatives

- The IRPC participated in the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG). As part of the EuroDIG's Subject Matter Experts the coalition contributed to sessions focused on Artificial Intelligence, Green digital transformation and digital inclusion. The IRPC also attended the SwissIGF, APriGF and the Ghana IGF.

3. Other Events and Collaborative work

- The coalition held a session entitled "Human rights in the digital age: The Human Rights Charter" at the third annual Ghana School on Internet Governance (GhanaSIG). This inspired us to engage in conversations around including the IRPC charter in SIG (school of internet governance) curriculums globally.

- The IRPC website partnered with the [Accessibility Lab](#) with the generous support of the Open Technology Fund to make digital accessibility related fixes that make the website more accessible for people with different disabilities. The audit and implementation was done in accordance with the latest guidelines of the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
- The IRPC submitted a submission in the public consultation process for the Global Digital Compact (GDC). We advocated for a future internet grounded in human rights and environmental responsibility, offering a valuable roadmap for shaping a more just and equitable digital future. Our collective vision serves as a critical contribution to the ongoing discussions surrounding the Global Digital Compact framework. The IRPC's proposal emphasizes eight key areas for consideration, each designed to foster a more just and ecologically responsible digital environment, achieved through a multi-stakeholder approach. The full submission can be found [here](#).

4. Translation of the Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet

The translation of the Charter is a critical part of the work of this Coalition, and translation teams all around the world have made this document more widely accessible to local communities. The [IRPC Charter Booklet](#), which contains the full Charter, 10 Principles, and background information about the project is currently available in 12 languages and its 10 Principles have been translated into 29 languages.

In 2023 the IRPC finalized the Japanese translation of the 10 Principles, the translation of the Charter into Japanese is underway (planned duration: October 2023 - June 2024).

5. Council of Europe: Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) Observership

Since 2014 the IRPC has been an observer to the [Steering Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#) at the Council of Europe. As part of its observer status, the Coalition attended the Plenary meetings in June and December.

6. Membership and Social Media Engagement

The IRPC membership continues to grow. The IRPC mailing list has close to 500 individuals and organizations across all stakeholder groups have now joined the IRPC mailing list and the

Coalition's presence on social media networks has also been growing steadily with more than 2,300 followers on Facebook and more than 1,700 on X (formerly Twitter).

IRPC Governance

In 2023, the IRPC elected its new Steering Committee following the annual election. The role of the IRPC Steering Committee (IRPC SC) is to coordinate the Coalition's outreach work. The IRPC SC meets regularly throughout the year to update on ongoing and future activities.

The Structure of the IRPC Steering Committee in 2023

- Raashi Saxena, Co-Chair
- Santosh Sigdel, Co-Chair
- Dennis Redeker, SC member
- Minda Moreira, SC member (also Council of Europe CDMSI Observership Coordinator and social media and web manager)
- Christiana Longe, SC member
- Richard Kafui Amanfu, SC member
- Jacob Odame-Baiden, SC member

Regional Experts

- Africa: Jacob Odame-Baiden, Richard Kafui Amanfu, Christiana Longe
- Asia-Pacific: Santosh Sigdel, Raashi Saxena
- Europe – Minda Moreira, Dennis Redeker

Ongoing Projects

- IRPC Charter Booklet - Project Coordinator: Marianne Franklin

IRPC Meetings

In 2023 the IRPC Steering Committee met throughout the year to discuss and coordinate the IRPC participation in internet governance activities at the national, regional, and international level, collaboration with other partners, and other local and regional initiatives. The Coalition also held one general meeting at the IGF.

Prospects for 2024

In 2023 the IRPC continued to address the challenges to uphold human rights online and the crucial importance of promoting, protecting and providing redress for human rights violations in the online environment. This is particularly true in 2024 - an election year for many around the globe, with renewed attention to those rights and principles that underpin fair and democratic elections. AI enabled digital disinformation and election interference are just some of the challenges that the Coalition will particularly focus on in 2024. Global debates on digital cooperation such as the consultations for the Global Digital Compact (GDC) demonstrated the importance to engage across stakeholder groups in order to position human rights high on the agenda, particularly in state-centered discussions. In 2024 the IRPC will continue to work and to support initiatives that promote digital cooperation.

- The coalition will provide further input on digital cooperation (Global Digital Compact) and how to contribute to the future of the IGF. The IRPC is currently working on its contribution to the Global Digital Compact, with input for the collaborative effort of the Dynamic Coalition Coordination group and its own individual submission. The Coalition will continue to engage in further discussions on the role of the dynamic coalitions in the future of the IGF and how their major outputs can be officially recognised by the IGF and incorporated in the IGF work.
- We are in the process of drafting an accessibility statement to detail our ongoing efforts to improve the usability of our website to identify and address accessibility barriers. This statement will address our ongoing digital remediation efforts to make our website and offline documents (Charter) accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The IRPC will continue to work on further development of the Charter work: the development of some of its Articles, such as Article 4 (in form of observations, comments or protocols), more translations, publication of the Charter in accessible formats, etc
- The coalition will seek further collaborations with other initiatives and organizations such as Access Now, Localisation Lab, Wiki Tongues to help us localize the charter into more regional languages. The IRPC “task force” for the translation of the Charter into Japanese plans to finish the work in the summer of 2024. The Charter translation followed upon the translation of the 10 Principles into Japanese and the subsequent use for distribution at the 2023 IGF in Kyoto, Japan. A translation of the Charter into Hindi is currently in the planning process.
- The IRPC will continue to foster deeper engagement with IRPC members and the wider IG community. Since the IGF is hosted in Riyadh this year, we are actively on the lookout for partners from the region that can assist in the localisation and distribution of the Charter in Arabic (at the IGF).