



Sample Resolution

This is a resolution written (in part) by a member of the Middlebury Model United Nations Team for Euro-MUN 2019. The resolution was written for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) with the topic of Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Expression in the Cyberspace. This sample should serve as a guide in how to format a resolution and how a resolution should reflect the beliefs/stances of your assigned country. As MiddMUNC is a high school conference and lasts only one day, your chairs will not expect this level of detail or length.

Human Rights Council Protecting and Promoting Freedom of Expression in the Cyberspace

Sponsors: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, China, Saudi Arabia

Signatories: Cuba, Croatia, Rwanda, Hungary, Qatar, Brazil, Georgia, Ecuador, Philippines, Nigeria, Mexico, Kenya

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Reminding all nations of the outstanding importance of Freedom of Expression as guaranteed by articles 19 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Emphasizing the necessity of acting in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality of all its members;

Stressing the value of national security, Freedom of Expression should be re-discussed human right with regard to the uprising of the internet and social media as the rapid development of technologies rises new obstacles within the law;

Reaffirming Article 19, paragraph 3 of the ICCPR;

Acknowledging that the internet has become a key means by which individuals can exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression,

Bearing in mind that the increasing use of technology and the internet accompanies new threats, such as terrorist and online attacks that require new forms of strategy;



1. *Defines* important terms used to regulate cyber freedom in the following manners:
 - a. Misinformation (colloquially known as fake news) is information that purports itself to be factually based but instead does not find its ground in actuality; this information has the explicit purpose of misleading readers to believe a specific narrative,
 - b. Hate speech is understood as covering all forms of expression, verbal or written, which spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on intolerance or discrimination,
 - c. Dangerous speech as speech that promotes or incites violence, advocates national, racial, religious hatred,
 - d. Terrorism pertaining to the definition given by the Comprehensive Convention on International terrorism defining terrorism as an act which causes Article 1 Any person commits an offence within the meaning of this Convention if that person, by any means, unlawfully and intentionally, causes: (a) Death or serious bodily injury to any person; or (b) damage to property, places, facilities, or systems referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of this article, resulting or likely to result in major economic loss, when the purpose of the conduct, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act,
 - e. In case of a need for interpretation refer to Clause 12;

2. *Welcomes* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to amend their Cybercrime Repository to allow for a sub-repository that allows individual citizens of all countries and government bodies (including agencies within governments) to anonymously report suspected misinformation and dangerous speech on the internet covering two main issues: misinformation and dangerous speech (as defined in Clause 1, subclauses a and b), and will be constructed and used in the following manner:
 - a. A special commission under the authority of the UNODC will be created to manage the new sub-repository,
 - b. Said sub-repository would allow individual citizens and government agencies to anonymously submit suspected misinformation or dangerous speech in the form of website names, individual social media posts, individual videos, and any other online media form,
 - c. Member states of the United Nations would have access to all reports made to said sub-repository and would be able to use this information to make informed policy decisions within their nation, alongside an Advisory Committee of Experts established by the UNODC of every nation, which will only advise governments and not take individual decisions,
 - d. All data must remain in the sub-repository as submitted, with no changes made by any party,
 - e. Recommendation that the sub-repository which is defined above will be adequately protected to assure that every report can be submitted safely and will not be influenced by harmful parties, something that will be established by a firewall and by raising a sub-committee that will be tasked with the protection of the authenticity;



3. *Recommends* individual countries, third-party companies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) undertake projects to establish artificial intelligence (A.I.) programs to be used to identify misinformation and dangerous speech such as:

- a. Undertaking A.I. solutions to misinformation in which artificial intelligence programs are shown proven cases of misinformation which allows the programs to search the web and identify possible cases of misinformation using keywords and phrases,
- b. Further invites A.I. programs established by outside parties (including but not limited to foreign governments, NGOs, and think tanks) be shared with member states so they may use said programs to search the web and identify threats particular to their nation;

4. *Recommends* third-party media companies (particularly social media companies such as Facebook and Twitter) and search engines (such as Google, Yahoo, and more) adjust their algorithms to avoid the blind promotion of misinformation and dangerous speech on their platforms, as the UNHRC will undertake the process of studying the possible negative implications of social media, and further recommends:

- a. Third-party social media companies to change their algorithms to integrate human oversight in regard to the promotion of popular posts on these sites,
- b. Third-party search engines to change their algorithms to integrate human interaction in regard to the promotion of popular posts on these sites oversight before heavily promoting websites due solely to popularity without consideration for content,
- c. Third-party search engines to take the findings of NGO in cooperation with governmental artificial intelligence research (as proposed in Clause 3) into account in formulating algorithms that avoid promoting misinformation
- d. Third-party companies to collaborate with independent fact-checking NGOs in cooperation with governments and websites to further identify sources of misinformation on their sites and search engines (as applicable);

5. *Supports* the UNHRC to establish a global media campaign in the form of advertisements on social media, popular websites, and national government websites to inform and empower average citizens in identifying and reporting misinformation and dangerous speech which would include the following:

- a. Tips for identifying misinformation and dangerous news on websites,
- b. Educating the public on how social media and search engine algorithms promote content based on interaction and that there should be mindfulness in engaging with suspected misinformation or dangerous speech;

6. *Encourages* the UNODC to promote a global media campaign that encourages citizens to report suspected misinformation and dangerous speech on the platform (as applicable) and/or to the aforementioned international database for misinformation and dangerous speech and on how to get informed multilaterally and from various trustworthy sources



7. *Calls upon* member states with advanced technological capacities in regard to cyber security measures to share their expertise with less developed ones in, for example, developing a firewall that could be used by willing countries if they desire, which will include:

- a. Countries that wish to trade/share their expertise may propose expert aid to countries who wish to protect their citizens from outside threats,
- b. Said firewall would only aim for the protection of citizens and of national security,
- c. Acknowledging the diversity of cultures and of tolerances, all measures should be adapted and tailored to each country according to its evaluation of immediate threats to its citizens and national security;

8. *Calls upon* member states and also international institutions to increase access to the internet for citizens, due to its growing importance in the exercising freedom of expression, with several provisions as follows:

- a. Encourages public-private partnerships to build an enabling environment to promote affordable internet access,
- b. Stresses the need to regulate monopolies in order to promote price competition and affordability of internet access to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to exercise freedom of speech in cyberspace,
- c. Help the member states with the funding of the projects related to the increasing internet access,
- d. The internet infrastructure projects fundings are open for participation by the international institutions and other international actors, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Developments or IBRD,
 - i. The Fund will help with the development of the Internet Infrastructure in member states with the help of willing international actors,
 - ii. The fund will be allocated in accordance with what each country need and will focus upon the country with a low percentage of people that have access to the internet,
- e. Funding of projects shall be decided through case by case basis through a mechanism that already exists in the IBRD and other international institutions internal mechanism and the approved one will be given funding to help with the development,
- f. The member states will be able to submit proposals to the international institutions to which they request the fund from, such as the IBRD, regarding project proposals that will be processed with the internal mechanism of each institution,
- g. If the proposals rejected, the institutions or other international actors shall explain the reasons to the member states and recommendations on what needs to be improved,
- h. The member states shall be given chance to fix any shortcomings to the proposal bases upon the recommendations and reasons and resubmitted the proposals,
- i. Also shall provide the member states with technical and various other assistance related to the internet access,



- j. The institutions providing the funds will be made aware of where the funding are allocated and also be informed on any developments on the projects,
- k. The projects aim to increase participation of population on Internet access;

9. *Recommends* the cooperation of NGOs and also International Institutions to provide “digital literacy” education to society, especially to the young people to increase awareness and responsibility on the internet with several provisions as follows:

- a. The cooperation of NGOs shall be given consent by the government of member states, NGOs shall aim to provide education about digital literacy to Primary Education for children below the age of 18,
- b. The education shall be given near the community centre to ensure availability to the community,
- c. The education shall be aimed to educate children upon the correct use of the Internet and the responsibility that comes with it,
- d. Educate children upon their rights that exist on the Digital Space in accordance to each country’s national laws and applicable international laws,
- e. Building upon programs maintained by the UNODC, education programs will also include information on how terrorists, traffickers, and other criminals recruit and disseminate their ideologies online and how citizens can protect themselves,
- f. The education programs shall be conducted with the help of local and national governments in providing the facilities for the places,
- g. The Digital Literacy shall also include in the National Education Plan adapted by each national governments needs and condition in each country to reduce the Global Digital Divide;

10. *Recommends* the Member States to establish regulations, according to each country’s national laws, concerning deterrent measures imposed to users who deliberately post material that falls under the definitions mentioned in Clause 1, according to the severity of each harmful post, so as to set an example for future perpetrators;

11. *Recommends* that any NGOs that are involved in any actions described in these clauses represent a diverse array of opinions;

12. *Recommends* that the member states’ national courts at the highest level maintain oversight over national actions on these issues to prevent conflicts of interest as pertains to human rights.