

# NMUN•NY 2021



28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the Human Rights Council  
(HRC) NMUN Simulation\*



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## Conference A

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# Human Rights Council (HRC)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Danielle Curtis
<b>Chair</b>	Tobias Simon

## Agenda

- I. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
- II. Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
- III. Business and Human Rights

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
HRC/1/1	The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age	Adopted by acclamation
HRC/1/2	The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age	Adopted by acclamation
HRC/2/1	Business and Human Rights	Adopted by acclamation

## Summary Report

The Human Rights Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
- II. Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
- III. Business and Human Rights

The session was attended by representatives of 21 Member States. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age".

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including the enhancement of digital literacy through education with a particular focus on young people, as well as the protection of the most vulnerable groups against violence in the digital space, and data protection and the usage of artificial intelligence to further these goals. By cooperating closely, delegates were able to reach a consensus on many of these topics, allowing them to merge the proposals into two working papers by the end of the last session on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, two draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had two friendly amendments. The committee adopted both resolutions by acclamation during its first session of the day. These resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including the establishment of a "Working Group on Promoting Digital Privacy" as well as national education programs with regard to internet safety. During its last session on Wednesday, the committee began discussion on the topic of "Business and Human Rights". By showing great efficiency and tenacity, delegates managed to introduce another working paper which was approved as a draft resolution by the Dais and consequently adopted by acclamation. The range of topics covered by this resolution includes the creation of a Panel of Inquiry for "Covid-19 on Business and Human Rights". Overall, the work of the committee was guided by a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to find adequate compromises.



**Code:** HRC/1/1

**Committee:** The Human Rights Council

**Topic:** The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN),*

*Keeping in mind Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) that recalls the right to privacy,*

*Re-emphasizing Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966),*

*Drawing attention to the Human Rights Council resolution 20/8 on “The promotion, protection and enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet”, Human Rights Council resolution 34/7 as well as 42/15 and General Assembly resolution 73/179 on “The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age” as well as the International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communication Surveillance (2013) which point out that the Right to Privacy must also apply to the digital space and that quality education of citizens in the digital age is vital,*

*Building on the findings of the Human Rights Council 43/52 “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy”,*

*Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on “Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council” which elaborates on general selection criteria for experts working under the mandate of the Human Rights Council,*

*Keeping in mind the importance of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) established by General Assembly resolution 60/251 on “Human Rights Council” for promoting digital privacy,*

*Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with aims to ensure quality of education (SDG 4), to achieve gender equality (SDG 5), to promote innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), to reduce inequalities (SDG 10) and to strengthen global partnerships (SDG 17),*

*Welcoming collaboration with the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) within the Framework of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) primarily committed to advancing global educational opportunities for all students in line with the 2030 Agenda,*

*Taking note of the impact on the promotion of international dialogues in promoting Human Rights through various Forums of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR),*

*Recognizing the duty of parents, teachers, and childcare workers to protect children worldwide from online violence, abuse, and harassment,*

*Stressing that digital literacy needs to be taught to keep children informed and safe when handling Information and Communication Technologies (ICT),*

*Reminding governments that concerning the Right to Privacy databases need to ensure that all data is secure from being hacked as well as getting lost and that it is therefore the Member States’ responsibility to ensure this through effective legislation,*

*Underscoring the inability of developing states to have access to information and guidance for the purpose of ICT infrastructure development,*

*Taking into consideration the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report “State of World’s Children 2017” according to which children are one third of internet users worldwide and particularly vulnerable to the hazards of the digital environment,*

*Noting with appreciation the Paradigm Initiative which builds ICT-enabled support systems, advocates digital rights in order to improve livelihoods for under-served youth working in African countries, and connects under-served youth with improved livelihoods through their digital inclusion and digital rights programs,*

*Highlighting the successful development of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) by the Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), which allows for international comparison with regard to school education in a standardized manner, emphasizing the need to provide children with digital literacy in order to provide them with necessary skills and enable them to operate in the digital space and to make use of the potential that ICT offer and thus comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),*

*Acknowledging in light with the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development the importance of the internet concerning education, media and Human Rights awareness especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic which has compelled societies to adapt to new conditions while also taking into account the importance of continuing safe internet access and use,*

*Further stressing the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) in combatting the Pandemic by creating the “Public Health Surveillance for COVID-19: Interim Guidance Data Collection” while also ensuring the Right to Privacy,*

*Being mindful of the fact that it is necessary to develop effective legal frameworks that guarantee the protection of the Right to Privacy especially in crises such as the COVID-19 Pandemic and, thereby, following the Human Rights Council 44/24 “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Impact of new technologies on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the context of assemblies, including peaceful protests,”*

*Deeply appreciating the positive effects that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) system has on promoting digital privacy by certifying companies that demonstrate compliance with internationally recognized data privacy rules,*

*Expressing its satisfaction for the efforts of International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in maintaining and protecting its users’ personal data and ensuring cyber security therefore defending Human Rights within the global digital space,*

*Believing that the UN Department for Global Communications (UNDGC) is the best global platform for distributing valuable information on the promotion of Human Rights,*

1. *Invites the establishment of a Thematic Subsidiary Expert Mechanism and Open-ended “Working Group on Promoting Digital Privacy” (WGPDP), comprising of fifteen independent legal and technical experts, based on the general selection criteria laid out in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on “Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council”, that will be chaired by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy;*
2. *Directs the WGPDP to convene twice a year and gives it the mandate to organize and host a forum on a yearly basis to:*
  - a. *Discuss recent developments in the areas of ICTs and AI that impose threats to digital privacy of people, among them:*

- i. Evolving challenges regarding the Digital Right to Privacy and best practices for data protection against private and public entities;
    - ii. Possibilities of educational programs to enable cultural exchanges and a common progress;
    - iii. To collect that acquired knowledge in a multilingual recommendation-paper for individuals published by the UNDGC and distributed in worldwide cooperation with regional media stakeholders;
  - b. Debate possible effective methods of:
    - i. Promoting the awareness of the far-reaching problem of protecting the right to privacy in the digital age;
    - ii. Fostering responses aiming to support possible future legislation on the matter;
    - iii. Developing and implementing policies that incentivize the commitment to put an end to the abuse of rights such as the one to privacy, but also communication and free speech in the digital environment;
    - iv. Creating incentives for businesses to comply with privacy regulation in the digital space;
    - v. Engaging in effective and enduring international partnerships to promote the development of strategies to address the arising threats that the digital age poses;
    - vi. Implementing data security guidelines by which companies must abide if they are to receive good standing;
  - c. Invite leading private actors in cyber security, international organizations with special expertise in the respective matter as well as UN Member States to the annual Forum;
  - d. Create a summary paper on the outcomes of the discussions including the shared best practices, acknowledging role models and to distribute it to all relevant stakeholders and make it available through the UN Department of Global Communications and to additionally offer its expert guidance within the Human Rights Council mandate on ICT infrastructure development, grievance reparation mechanisms and policy regulations;
- 3. *Requests* the OHCHR to provide the newly established WGPDP with financial and logistical support to facilitate their work and to invite Member States gently to make voluntary contributions the WGPDP;
- 4. *Encourages* the use of the UPRs, in order to gather Member States' national best practices on promotion and protection of citizens on the internet, concerning:
  - a. National programs that Member States already put in place that could also be implemented in other Member States as well as at the international level;

- b. Educational programs dedicated to children focusing on raising awareness on internet's pitfalls and promoting best behaviors on the cyberspace;
  - c. Promotion programs, through the collaboration with Access Now in order to:
    - i. Raise the general public's awareness on their privacy rights;
    - ii. Inform them about ways to protect them individually and measures to improve transparency;
    - iii. Encourage measures to improve transparency as well as accountability of their governments;
    - iv. Improve and update the promotion of ICTs for adults in companies;
  - d. National initiatives taken by Member States so far to counter COVID-19 consequences on the Right to Privacy on the internet in order to better prepare responses to future pandemics and avoid Human Rights violations in upcoming pandemics;
5. *Endorses* cooperation with the OECD on broadening the scope of the OECD's PISA for the promotion of the Human Right to Privacy in the Digital Age, by:
- a. Introducing a fourth category to the existing categories (reading, mathematics and science) called 'digital literacy', based specifically on Article 13 (sharing thoughts freely) and 17 (access to information) of the CRC;
  - b. Extending the mandate of the PISA Governing Board (PGB) accordingly, in order to set the comprehensive requirements in form and content and welcoming the close cooperation of PGB with the OHCHR and specifically with the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
  - c. Developing a capacity-building forum for national PISA project managers held every three years, encouraging those of current participants to share best practices with new potential participants, facilitating their successful national implementation of PISA;
  - d. Following the current contribution mechanism of financing by adding to the existing participation fee;
  - e. Applying this complement to the PISA for the first time in the 2024 enquiry;
6. *Calls attention* to the "Safer Internet Day" (SID) to promote awareness, and adequately inform people on how their data can be used in this digital age, therefore:
- a. Expanding upon domestic awareness measures already taken by Member States upon their discretion;
  - b. Promoting in cooperation with the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) an app that provides educational modules and necessary avenues for both youth and adults to learn about how their information can be used,

thereby properly informing them of how data can be gathered and used to their detriments, as well as the dangers that they are exposed to;

- c. Encouraging the distribution of universal understanding on digital privacy through social media platforms;
7. *Recommends* that the UN expand the SID initiative to include a website sponsored by UNICEF as information campaigns via the web pose an efficient way to reach families with children, and developed in cooperation with OICT, with a year-round educational program that includes:
  - a. A series of downloadable video and slide-show presentations relating to the risks of child internet use, strategies for children to avoid harmful content online, and resources for counseling if they have been victims of online attacks or exposure to offensive and traumatizing content either through UN-sponsored groups or local NGOs;
  - b. A link to the application proposed under Operative Clause 6, subsection b;
  - c. Short modules for health care, childcare, social service, education workers and other adult employees working with children to inform them regarding the risks to children of internet use and the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on child well-being;
8. *Invites* Member States to review legislation that requires data collectors from all sectors to obtain consent from individuals to lawfully and safely collect data, especially in times of crisis such as the current COVID-19 Pandemic, by:
  - a. Integrating guidelines about COVID-19 prevention created by the World Health Organization (WHO) into health and educational institutions within three months to increase public awareness of the issue;
  - b. Educating people on the risks that the increased use of the digital platforms due to the Pandemic has caused;
  - c. Tracing rather than tracking personal data and furthermore implementing the right to have such personal data deleted after two weeks, as stipulated in the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA);
  - d. Releasing anonymous 'travel logs' based on the data collected by the comprehensive strategy of contact tracing which safeguards the Right to Privacy and whose main purpose is to expose the movement of the virus and not its host;
9. *Advises* all Member States to set guidelines to encourage public and private entities to abide by the fundamental principles set out in the Human Rights Council resolution 8/5 on "Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order" and to adhere to more rigorous transparency when implementing new measures;
10. *Appeals* to all Member States to work towards creating an internationally recognized and government-backed data privacy certification system using the CBPR as a role model or if possible, to join the APEC CBPR;



11. *Calls upon* Member States to model a program after the Paradigm Initiative to advocate digital rights by implementing such programs as LIFE including life skills, ICTs, Financial Readiness and Entrepreneurship by integrating courses into educational institutions and organizing trainings with non-governmental organizations, and integrating online safety curriculum into a national curriculum;
12. *Urges* all Member States to cooperate with UNICEF, in order:
  - a. To empower children through education that is appropriate to their age and does not violate their Human Rights;
  - b. To educate children both inside and outside the educational system to include children who do not have access to schools, about the dangers of presenting individual data, data collection and about their rights in the digital world;
  - c. To enable online and if possible, in person exchange programs for children, so they have interaction with other cultures.



**Code:** HRC/1/2

**Committee:** The Human Rights Council

**Topic:** The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*In recognition* of the General Assembly (GA) resolution 68/167 “Right to Privacy in the Digital Age,” The *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna on 25 June 1993, as well as HRC resolution 43/52 “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy”,

*Aware* of General Assembly resolution 73/179 on “The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age,” which highlights that Member States should prevent any violations on the rights of privacy of marginalized groups, and would also underline that the right to privacy should not be exclusive to individuals of specific citizenship status, races, religions, gender, age, or ethnicities,

*Deeply conscious* of the right to privacy established by Article 12 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), as well as Article 17 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966),

*Adhering to* General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” with particular emphasis on SDGs 4, 5, 9, 10 and 17,

*Noting with appreciation* the European Union *General Data Protection Regulation* as a model for data privacy legislation and more precisely its articles 7 and 17, as well as all its expectation of all Member States to enforce data protection, privacy, regulation and transparency obligations on security firms and data brokers,

*Welcoming* the 2020 Internet Democracy Project, which serves to promote free speech, democracy, and social justice online while working to prevent unwelcomed use of information that fuels online hate speech or unlawful data collection,

*Emphasizing* the imperative role of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), as a universal mechanism to provide reports of actions protecting human rights and how Member States have satisfied their obligations to the protection of human rights,

*Reiterating* the internet rights set forth in HRC resolution 20/8 on “The Promotion, Protection and Enjoyment of Human Rights on the Internet”,

*Expressing concern* regarding the education systems surrounding the internet utilization of new users as lack of knowledge encompassing this platform leads to misinformation prone to cybercrimes, and may infringe on the enjoyment of human rights, reported by the Special Barometer 390 from the European Commission Cyber Security Report,

*Noting with satisfaction* the enactment of *The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, in tandem with HRC resolution 44/4 on “Trafficking in persons, especially women and children”,

*Mindful* of an increased number of females suffering from ICT-facilitated violence during the COVID-19 pandemic as internet use increases over 50% as noted by the brief entitled “Online and ICT facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19,” General Assembly resolution 75/178

“Trafficking in Women and Girls” and GA resolution 75/157, “Women and Girls and the Response to the Coronavirus”,

*Underlining* the prominence of the *Revised Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data* launched by the OECD in 2013 as well as the *General Data Protection Regulation and innovative cookie policy* of the EU as a means to increase cooperation on privacy laws in the digital environment,

*Considers* the improvement of digital privacy education as a vital step toward greater transparency regarding privacy in other areas of technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence (AI),

*Recalling* HRC resolution 34/7 on “The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age” which emphasizes that human rights can be infringed by unlawful or arbitrary surveillance and/or interception communications, unlawful or arbitrary collection of personal highly intrusive acts, and the lack of best practices sharing regarding the use of new technologies such as AI,

*Distressed* that the speed of vector-borne disease contact tracing technology has led to the bypassing of traditional checks and balances resulting in a lack of scrutiny and oversight from communities affected by said technologies as highlighted by the *Digital Contact Tracing and Surveillance during COVID-19: General and Child Specific Ethical Issues Working Paper* from UNICEF’s Innocenti Office of Research,

*Noting* the priorities highlighted in the Compendium of United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Critical Justice, including the incorporation of crime prevention and criminal justice components in post-conflict reconstruction, and the use of poverty alleviation and socio-economic development programs to ensure economic progress and good governance,

*Acknowledging also* the work of the United Nations in stopping the spread of misinformation and disinformation through the Pause Campaign which encourages the public to stop before sharing sensitive media and ensures that facts from the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization are being widely spread to combat any false information,

1. *Invites* Member States which have not already done so to establish a national educational program that enhances internet safety by:
  - a. Including an educational youth program modeled after the United Nations Global Education Coalition program that is monitored and reported on by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy, established through HRC resolution 28/16 on “The right to privacy in the digital age”;
  - b. Expanding the Global Education Coalition Program to include and protect parents and families;
  - c. Implementing recommendations provided by UNICEF and the Child Rights International Network;
  - d. Providing students with remote-learning access;
  - e. Utilizing remote learning to disseminate knowledge relating to their right to privacy in the Digital Age and to provide school curriculum for teaching the safe use of the internet;
  - f. Beginning education regarding digital privacy from a young age;

- g. Continuing to educate all users of the possibility of web fraud;
2. *Encourages* Member States to protect the right to the internet for all vulnerable populations, including but not limited to women, children, minorities and new users, by means of:
    - a. Suggesting the Universal Periodic Review focus on human rights violations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women within each Member State through a formal complaint mechanism;
    - b. Urging Member States to permanently establish the position of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, with a focus on digital privacy issues as they pertain to women and children;
    - c. Recommending the development of digital education partnerships with UNESCO and Regional Cyber Security awareness civil society organizations, such as the African Society for Cyber Security Awareness, to advocate for women's digital data safety education programs that work extensively with stakeholders that include the research community, industry, and academia;
    - d. Inviting new users to be aware of basic behaviors to endorse during online communications under General Assembly resolution 75/32 on "Advancing responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security";
  3. *Calls upon* the Special Rapporteur on The Right to Privacy established in HRC resolution 28/16 to publish a report on privacy protection and governance best practices biannually regarding newly developed technologies including but not limited to:
    - a. Artificial Intelligence;
    - b. Covid-19 Digital Contact Tracing Technologies;
    - c. Facial Recognition Technologies;
    - d. Biometric Data Collection Methods;
    - e. Any and all personal and private data collecting technology developed within the timeframe of the Special Rapporteur's mandate;
  4. *Asks* the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Program network (PNI), to mediate an expansion of software-enabled enhanced preventative measures to predict and counter infiltration acts that coincide with the invasion of privacy and:
    - a. Further recommends a review of International Humanitarian Law to adjust to the (PNI) to promote accountability for such violations and counter impunity;
    - b. Encourages all Member States to acknowledge this threat of privacy;
    - c. Advocates for systemic change to directives to abide by the same laws of privacy offline as a general body consensus;
  5. *Suggests* international cooperation to prioritize rules of consent when addressing data usage and marketization of user data, align with the rules of general consent in the General Data

Protection Regulation (GDPR) while highlighting the significance of transparency through the use of bandwidth exposure;

6. *Urges* the implementation of a System of Authentication for Ensuring Data Privacy (SAFE-DP) that will work as an international voluntary label visible to all users of a digital platform to show compliance to UN Data Privacy regulations, modeled after the *Centre for Information Policy Leadership GDPR Implementation Project* and will help at:
  - a. Utilize the aid from the Universal Periodic Review (*UPR*) to allow for accountability on different companies or Non-governmental organizations who fail to ensure correct handling of data, the digital privacy of their citizens, and any of the following recommendations;
  - b. Calls upon the collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, in accordance with HRC resolution 28/16 “The Right to Privacy in a Digital Age,” to utilize them for further reviewing countries actions on the right to privacy and allowing for consultation with various Member States which will contribute to SDG 17; partnerships for the goals;
  - c. Ensuring that an individual’s data collection and evaluation procedures have been approved by the UN’s legal framework regarding digital data usage;
  - d. Proposes that the SAFE-DP be elaborated by The International Cyber Security Protection Alliance (ICSPA) and financed through the collection of funds from corporate companies that would benefit from an international safety insurance, this being done around international workshops hosted by the SAFE-DP membership program for companies to subscribe to;
  - e. Suggests that all data collected from a given website promote transparency and grant free access to the user through the SAFE-DP information platform aimed at including the following:
    - i. Required conditions to acquire the SAFE-DP international label;
    - ii. List of all the personal data and its owner collected by the website;
    - iii. Statistics containing data trends regarding the ethnicity and social groups to avoid any form of discriminatory recollection of data of marginalized groups;
  - f. Recommends that Member States adapt the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech to define hate speech, promote general guidelines to tackling and preventing hate speech, and supporting victims of hate speech on online platforms;
7. *Encourages* technology companies, especially those recognized to have a large user platform in the U.S House of Representative 2020 investigations of Competition in Digital Market, to ensure that the virtual platforms or social media under their jurisdiction, taking into consideration Article 12 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are supervised by the *UPR* in maintaining the following:
  - a. Ensuring the space is open for all individuals without exclusivity;

- b. The space is without discrimination from other individuals, organizations, etc;
  - c. The platform does not violate anyone's privacy, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, or religion;
8. *Emphasizes* the dangers of content tracing in relation to spoof domains, and unverified advertisements:
- a. As searches and online activity are being tracked, advertisements on spoof domains work to ensure that dangerous ads are presented to a susceptible audience, posing a real threat to the public;
  - b. Urge Member States and civil society organizations to verify all virtual domains before publishing, promoting, or endorsing advertisements, to ensure that they meet the standards of human rights defined by this council, do not target specific groups, and protect the privacy of individuals on all virtual platforms, as will be reviewed yearly by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), to ensure that the following is encouraged:
    - i. Raising awareness about the dangers of published ad coming from spoof domains that are known to spread ads for misinformation, disinformation, pornography, sex trafficking, as well as other dangerous content;
    - ii. Reminding governments as well as online ad companies, and independent fact checkers to flag ads that could be considered dangerous, targeted, or come from an unverified domain;
    - iii. Requests NGOs and IGOs like FactCheckNI, Maldita.es, GhanaFact, Politico, etc. to assist in the process of stopping spoof domains, as well as misinformation and disinformation;
9. *Encourages* Member States to join the United Nations COVID-19 response to misinformation, as misinformation campaigns were deemed a risk by the “The Age of Digital Interdependence” in 2018, by:
- a. Promoting the “Pause Before Sharing” campaign, which encourages social media users to not share information that they have not confirmed to be true, the campaign also encourages users to think through their emotions before sharing content;
  - b. Allowing journalists the resources needed to report factual information to combat misinformation created on social media, and especially through spoof domains;
  - c. Encouraging social media platforms to further support the UN organizations, such as EPI-WIN, to fight against ‘info medics’ and prevent any false information creating a distrust in the health organizations, health representatives, or health programs;
10. *Draws Attention to* the need for a universal document to be drafted by the Third Committee of the General Assembly and endorsed by all Member States addressing the linkage of digital trust and security, particularly in regard to its impact on COVID-19, and its inherent connection to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be guided by The Secretariat and promoted in a way that ensures the engagement of all Member States, particularly developing Member States.



**Code:** HRC/2/1

**Committee:** The Human Rights Council

**Topic:** Business and Human Rights

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*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states in Article 23 that everyone has the right to work, without any discrimination, with equal pay for equal work and a just and favorable remuneration,*

*Reconfirming the Human Rights Council resolution 17/31 on “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework”,*

*Mindful of the Convention on the Eradication of all Forms of Discrimination against Women with particular emphasis on Article 15,*

*Considering General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” with particular emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) 5, 8, 10 and 17,*

*Strongly adhering to the eight “fundamental conventions” of the International Labour Organization (ILO): Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention (1948), Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention (1949), Forced Labour Convention (1930), Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957), Age Convention (1973), Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999), Equal Remuneration Convention (1951), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958),*

*Stressing its desire for continued and increased transparency in the realm of trans-corporation business to reduce general violations as encouraged by Article 9 of the UN Convention Against Corruption,*

*Emphasizing that women are underrepresented in leadership and managerial roles throughout transnational corporations, in part due to lack of flexibility in working arrangements to accommodate familial, health, and other concerns and obligations,*

*Deeply concerned that the total wage has declined significantly more for female workers in comparison to male workers as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic as noted by the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Global Wage Report 2020-2021,*

*Deeply appreciating the continued work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the topic of business and human rights, notwithstanding the pressures and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,*

*Emphasizing the lack of access to an adequate remedy for victims who suffer human rights violations in business,*

*Noting with concern the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 for vulnerable individuals, particularly women, whose maltreatment has been exacerbated and who lack access to an adequate remedy in light of the pandemic,*

1. *Recommends that the Human Rights Council support the Human Rights and Labor Rights organization’s advocacy for transnational corporations to:*

- a. Adopt pledges similar to the “Apparel and Footwear Supply Chain Transparency Pledge” to solidify transnational corporation commitment to the protection of human rights;
  - b. Encourage the publishing of Tier 1 Factory information educational campaigns in compliance with the UN Global Compact to ensure that their citizens are aware of basic human rights principles in business;
2. *Requests* the OHCHR to create a multi-stakeholder Panel of Inquiry for “Covid-19 on Business and Human Rights” (PI-COVID) which will:
  - a. Invite experts, government officials, workers, representatives of different business sectors, civil societies’ members, and intergovernmental organizations such as the ILO;
  - b. Establish UNPI-COVID’s mandate of investigating how, why and in which areas the Pandemic affects the current state of Human Rights in businesses in order to produce guidelines for future pandemics;
  - c. Mediate especially in times of crisis between the public and private sector in order to facilitate cooperation;
  - d. Approach WHO to invite it to take part in the UNIP-COVID and to requests OHCHR to organize it;
3. *Encourages* Member States to recommend policies through National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights to combat gender discrimination in the workplace by:
  - a. Enhancing work-life flexibility through means of flexible hours, remote work, compressed work schedules, scheduled breaks, part-time work, special leave in cases of death and emergency, breastfeeding breaks, and adequate family, maternal, and paternal leave;
  - b. Developing regulations for the betterment of workplace environments that:
    - i. Provide clothing as well as equipment that accommodates all types of body shapes, especially for security professions such as police officers, firefighters and military and all professions that demand special protection;
    - ii. Meet the needs of women during their menstrual cycle in practical ways, such as providing trash cans and free menstrual hygiene products in the workplace;
  - c. Publicly endorsing voluntary quotas in cooperation with UN Women, to persuade private sector companies to close workplace gender gaps and to enhance accountability of companies;
4. *Encourages* businesses and companies to utilize the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (*UN-GIFT*) and the Venezuelan Education-Action Program on Human Rights (*PROVEA*) to implement educational training for employees regarding Human Trafficking and encourage pro labor union legislation to:
  - a. Train employees to be able to identify victims of Human Trafficking who may be service users of their business;



- b. Endorse that such businesses have protocols, designed specifically for that respective business, when interacting with victims or individuals in human trafficking;
- c. Encourage that both public and private businesses advocate for gender equality and encourage their employees to participate in advocacy efforts;
- d. Promote access to resources for individuals who have suffered business related human rights abuses;
- e. Allow individuals access to a safe space to voice complaints and adapt clear protocols and procedures to follow when a human rights violation occurs in the workplace;
- f. Record data of human rights breaches, where possible, to report to the *ILO* for statistical analysis of labor right violations;
- g. Encourage collaboration with NGO bodies concerning labor protection to allow individuals without the use of the internet to access the online platform.