



Forum on
Information
& Democracy

RSF REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS

Implementing democratic safeguards in the information and communication space

February 21, 2023 - 14:00 to 17:30 CET

UNESCO Headquarters - Room II

As part of UNESCO Global Conference “Internet for trust - Towards Guidelines for Regulating Digital Platforms for Information as a Public Good”, the Forum on Information and Democracy and Reporters without borders (RSF) organize a session to address some of the most pressing challenges that technological mutations pose to democracy.

Eminent experts on digital policy issues and stakeholders from the civil society as well as the private sector will debate on the implementation of democratic safeguards in the information and communication space to tackle the information chaos.

[Register](#)

Agenda

Roundtable 1 – 14:00 to 14:45

Building a global governance to tackle the information chaos

Just as the fight against climate change requires collective action and coordination of stakeholders at the international level, a global governance is needed to protect humankind from information chaos. The Partnership for Information and Democracy, endorsed by 50 states to date, and its implementing entity, the Forum on Information and Democracy, as well as the International Observatory on Information and Democracy, which will be the equivalent for the information crisis of what the IPCC is for the climate crisis, provide the framework for this governance. **This roundtable will highlight the commitment of member states of the Partnership and of civil society to build an international governance for a democratic information space.**

Roundtable 2 - 14:45 to 15:30

Shifting from immunity to accountability regimes online

In September 2022, the Forum on Information and Democracy published a report entitled "Accountability regimes for social networks and their users" that provides recommendations for shifting from an immunity regime to an online accountability regime. In the last months, this topic has made headlines, particularly following the discretionary decisions made by Elon Musk after his takeover of Twitter. This issue is also at the heart of several discussions planned during the two-day UNESCO Global Conference. **The roundtable will nourish the debates aimed at developing liability regimes tailored to the digital mutations of the information space.**

Coffee break - 15:30 to 16:00

Roundtable 3 - 16:00 to 16:45

Securing pluralism of information online

On the occasion of the UNESCO Global Conference, the Forum on Information and Democracy will publish a report dedicated to pluralism of information in curation and indexation algorithms, a fundamental issue for the quality of public debate and democracy. Indeed the fact that a growing part of the global population accesses information through social networks has allowed tech companies to shape choices and norms for communication. **This roundtable will nourish thoughts and discussions about the guarantees to implement in order to ensure diversity of ideas and information and the pluralism of media in the digital space.**

Roundtable 4 - 16:45 to 17:30

Implementing the New Deal for journalism

The disruption of the media ecosystem due to technological mutations threatens the sustainability of quality journalism, which represents a major democratic danger. In June 2021, the Forum published a report proposing a "New Deal for Journalism" which recommended, among other things, to use and promote solutions to provide quality journalism with a competitive advantage on digital platforms, such as the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI). **This roundtable will allow the different stakeholders of the digital information and communication space to commit in favor of the sustainability of quality journalism.**

Confirmed speakers (more to come):

- Nighat Dad, executive director of the Digital Rights Foundation
- Christophe Deloire, chair of the Forum on Information and Democracy and secretary general of Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- Matthias C. Kettermann, department of Theory and Future of Law at University of Innsbruck
- Daoud Kuttab, general manager of Community Network
- Roula Mikhael, executive director of Maharat Foundation
- Pier Luigi Parcu, director of the Centre for a Digital Society and Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom at European University Institute
- Karla Prudencio, Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales
- Anya Schiffrin, director of the Technology, Media, and Communications specialization at Columbia University
- Damian Tambini, distinguished policy fellow and associate professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Practical information

The session will take place from 14:00 to 17:30 CET at UNESCO Headquarters, Room II (ground floor). Registered participants are asked to enter UNESCO premises at 125 avenue de Suffren, 75007 Paris, France.

Registration is mandatory to attend this session and is open until February 15 : click [here](#) to register.

Due to the security rules of UNESCO, you won't be allowed to enter UNESCO's Headquarters if you didn't register. Once registered, if you wish to attend the conference in-person, please bring an official ID with you to enter UNESCO premises.

Please note that this registration process is different from the one required from UNESCO to attend Day 1 and 2 of the Conference (more information on the [conference website](#)).

Attending the session remotely is possible: a link will be sent to registered participants.

Simultaneous interpretation in French and English will be available.