Session Outcome Document

AI and disinformation: technical and political solutions

Wallonie-Bruxelles in Geneva, Mission permanente de Belgique

28 May 2024, 11:00-11:45

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/312

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Technical solutions to disinformation generated by AI: collaborative platforms (e.g. Dinfinfopedia), plug-ins, smartphone apps, AI/VR interface; see: AI4Debunk projet https://ai4debunk.eu/

- Regulatory solutions to disinformation: EU Digital Services Act and EU AI Act; see research done by CRIDS: https://www.crids.eu/

- Disinformation in times of crises: "information is war's first victim": impact of disinformation on people's physical and psychological conditions; impact of disinformation on the chances to end conflicts; impact of disinformation on people's trust. See the work done by the ICRC: https://digital-dilemmas.com/info/

- UN Human Rights Council resolution on disinformation (55th session of the HRC): State's role in mitigating it. See resolution on "Role of States in countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights"(3 April 2024): https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/059/18/pdf/g2405918.pdf?token=YWqyGftzZjT8gh6gY4&fe=true

- A "Fairness doctrine" for our times: being able to talk interact, online and offline, and have the right to dispute respectfully; therefore to not imprison people in algorithmic filter bubbles.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- On WSIS action line 9 Media: in our workshop, it was clear that the media still hasn't recovered from the digital shift. Information (led by social media algorithmic systems) is not about access to knowledge anymore but about finding information that will excite people.

- WSIS action line 8 on cultural diversity is getting more and more challenging to fulfil as well because of the algorithmic systems used by big platforms of information and cultural content. One trend identified in our workshop is that people are being imprisoned/trapped in filter bubbles by these algorithms.

- Nevertheless on WSIS action line 6 Enabling environment: we see a positive trend of regulation, namely coming from the European Union. Even though regulation is seen in the digital sector as putting barriers to innovation, it does serve WSIS action lines and purpose of inclusivity and progress of humanity through digital technology.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, commitments, figures, and success stories (3-5 bullet points))

- Collaborative platforms to fight disinformation like ODIL: https://odil.org/ ; The French-speaking platform for initiatives to combat misinformation.

Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Promote Internet as a common space with rules like there are on the streets of our towns. To not let Internet become just a collection of private spaces (platforms), that trap users in filter bubbles. One example of regulation to tackle this issue: EU Digital Services Act.

- To pay specific attention to ICT uses in times of crises (war or other crises): harmful information can jeopardize people's physical and psychological health, but also the capacity to find a peaceful resolution to conflicts and trust in institutions.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2025 (one paragraph)

The discussion held in our workshop (strong of more than 70 people in the room and with about 30 questions online – numbers of participants online still to be checked), clearly indicates that the impact of ICTs on democracy is not to be underestimated. Therefore the links between democracy and development in the digital age seems to be an important thematic aspect to be included in the WSIS Forum 2025.