

Working Group on Artificial Intelligence and its implications for the information and communication space

A Policy Working Group of the Forum on Information and Democracy

The rapid development and advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), generative artificial intelligence and even artificial general intelligence (AGI), is transforming the global information and communication space at a pace nearly unseen among recent technological innovations. Thus, the Forum on Information and Democracy, the civil-society led implementation body of the Partnership for Information and Democracy, endorsed by 51 states worldwide, is launching its Working Group to elaborate concrete regulatory and policy recommendations addressed to states, civil society, digital platforms and tech companies.

Rationale for the Working Group

Generative AI tools enable anyone to easily become a creator of content. Yet, AI can invent sources, create misinformation and deep fakes, amplifying the dangers of disinformation and information chaos. In addition, AI systems take increasingly crucial decisions that impact the information space, as the mere amount of information available and content created is exceeding human capacities to consume, sort, moderate and verify it. AI recommender systems decide which information we consume, while AI bots can distort the information ecosystem.

State signatories of the Partnership on Information and Democracy have acknowledged the pressing need to develop democratic principles and rules to govern AI in the information space. Democracy and our democratic institutions must decide the ethical use and safeguards of the development, deployment and use of AI. This cannot be left to the private sector who are currently setting the rules of the game. The history of social media illustrates the danger of allowing tech companies to set the rules and ethical uses. Countries must act to safeguard a democratic and trustworthy information space.

“We are deeply grateful for the commitment of this group of distinguished researchers who continue to play a pivotal role in shaping essential policies concerning AI systems”, said Christophe Deloire, Chair of the Forum on Information and Democracy. “Their efforts are crucial in shaping the future of our common information space and avoiding the mistakes of the past where technological developments were both faster than democratic responses and driven largely by private interests for private ends. Their efforts will ensure that citizens, and the impacts on their democracies, are front and center of policy considerations and policy actions.”

Scope of the Working Group

The Working Group will address three interconnected issues to provide a comprehensive framework for managing the implications of AI for the information and communication space:

- **The processes and rules for the design and deployment of AI systems to minimize risks to a plural, free and trustworthy global information space.**
This includes regulations to ensure risk management of AI systems, respect for data privacy of AI subjects and intellectual property, due diligence for human rights, integrity of data sets and transparency requirements to promote transparency, explainability and contestability of AI systems by AI subjects.
- **Accountability and liability regimes for the developers, deployers, users and subjects of AI systems with regards to the information produced, curated and recommended, moderated and verified through AI systems.**
This includes regulations on how to define responsibilities along the AI production chain, terms of use of AI systems, the role of developers, deployers, digital platforms, media and users.
- **The governance and enforcement of rules regarding AI.**
This includes licensing processes, oversight and redress mechanisms, audit mechanisms and democratic processes for oversight and enforcement.

Key Milestones

- 28 September 2023: Launch of the Working Group
- October 2023: Call for public contributions
- Beginning of 2024: Publication of the recommendations

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