HOW TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN THE AI ERA THROUGH MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Side event of the Community of Democracies (CoD) Working Group on Democracy and Technology on the margins of the 53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC)

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 28 June 2023
Time: 12:00-13:00 CEST
Format: Hybrid (link)
Venue: Geneva, Palais des Nations, Building E, Room XXV
Hosts: CoD Working Group on Democracy and Technology (WGD&T)
Community of Democracies (CoD) Secretary General
CoD Governing Council Member, Chair of the WGD&T - Georgia

Co-sponsors:
CoD Governing Council and the WGD&T members: Lithuania, Poland, the United States of America.

BACKGROUND:
Digital transformation affects all aspects of public life. Artificial intelligence (AI)-driven technology in particular is increasingly being utilised by companies and public authorities to assist in providing services and making decisions. The results can be significant for the functioning of democracy: along with far-reaching benefits for human development and organizational efficiency, the use of AI systems can impact individuals' enjoyment of their human rights, including rights such as freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly that underpin democracy; algorithmic decision-making can insulate policymakers from responsibility for actions and decisions they oversee; and AI tools can even lead to systemic changes in the information environment that affect democratic participation and citizens' access to accurate information. While discussions are ongoing in multiple fora about managing AI's impacts on human rights, the conversation on how AI will and should impact democratic

institutions is less well-developed. Ensuring that human rights and democracy are strengthened and not undermined by AI is one of the key factors that will define the world we live in.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Analyse the impact of AI on the functioning of democracy, including via impact on enjoyment of human rights.
- Explore how the conditions necessary for thriving democracies, including human rights protection, can be maintained while facilitating beneficial innovations from AI.
- Focus international attention on the need for coordinated and multi-stakeholder cooperation, rooted in democratic values, between governments and the private sector that ensures secure AI development benefiting everyone.
- Identify key ways AI affects the creation and spread of democracy-undermining propaganda, through the lens of propaganda related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
- Gather expert insight into recent key developments, existing policies and governance models, research, principles and strategies on artificial intelligence and democracy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

- The event aims to create space for frank discussions amongst members and experts on various intersections between artificial intelligence and democracy, including via human rights, at international, national and local levels.
- The event will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss the human rights implications and other challenges facing democracies in the AI ecosystem, and how to prevent, mitigate and respond to them in a rights-respecting manner amidst varying regional contexts.
- It will explore recent key developments, existing policies and governance models, research and principles on how to define 'rules of the road' for our digital age, grounded in inclusion, human rights, and the rule of law, in order to counter the special risks to the functioning of democracy stemming from AI.

- The event will bring together policymakers, practitioners and civil society members for a multistakeholder view of the impacts of AI on democracy and the norms they suggest, to be drawn largely from the UN HRC and the CoD perspectives.
- A report summarizing and analyzing the discussions held during the workshop will be made public by the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies following the event.

Agenda

12:00	**Welcome and Opening remarks**
	Mr. Thomas E. Garrett, Secretary General of the **Community of Democracies (CoD)** **Ms. Nino Shekriladze,** Deputy Director, Department of International Organizations, MFA, Chair of the WGD&T on behalf of **Georgia** **Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas**, Deputy Secretary-General, **International Telecommunications Union** (ITU)
12:10-12:20	**Remarks by the Member States**
	- H.E. Mr. **Darius Staniulis**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of **Lithuania** - H.E. Mr. **Zbigniew Czech**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of **Poland** **Ms. Kelly Billingsley**, Deputy Permanent Representative, **U.S.** to the UN HRC
12:20-12:40	**Panel discussion**
	*Moderated by **Mr. Marc Limon,** Executive Director of the Universal Rights Group* **Mr. Maxime Stauffer**, CEO, Simon Institute for Long-term Governance **Mr. David Moore**, Vice President of Legal Affairs, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) **Mr. Michael Depp,** Research Associate, AI Safety and Stability Project, Center for a New American Security

• **Mr. Rufo Guerreschi**, Executive Director, Trustless Computing Association, CEO, TRUSTLESS.AI (online)	
12:40-12:55	**Q&A**
12:55-13:00	**Closing remarks**