

IGF 2024 SECOND OPEN CONSULTATIONS AND MAG MEETING

Discussion about the international digital governance processes and initiatives

26 June 2024, 16:30 to 17:45

The Council of Europe remains unwavering in its commitment to **protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in the digital environment**. This dedication was recently reaffirmed by the Council of Europe Secretary General during the European Dialogue on Internet Governance in Vilnius. The Secretary General emphasized that "**The Digital Dimension of Freedom is a priority for the Council of Europe**. Our organization has always recognized the importance of balancing innovation and regulation in the realm of new technologies. In reality, these elements should not be viewed as opposing forces but as complementary partners, ensuring that **technological advancements genuinely benefit our societies**."

Our delegation actively participated in EuroDIG's vibrant discussions, advocating for a **people-centric approach** to internet development and supporting the **multi-stakeholder model** of governance. We conveyed several key messages:

- Digitalization must **ensure safety and inclusion online**.
- **Online misinformation and disinformation** need to be addressed urgently.
- The Council of Europe's Cybercrime and Data Protection Conventions provide **global standards** and are accessible to countries worldwide that share our values.

In this context, a new **Committee of Ministers declaration on the WSIS + 20 review** is being prepared, building on a similar declaration from 2015, but with updated priorities and achievements.

Moreover, we are proud to announce the **adoption of the pioneering [Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence](#)** by the Committee of Ministers on 17 May. This landmark convention, which will be open for signature at the Conference of Ministers of Justice in Vilnius on 5 September this year, is the **first legally binding international instrument in this field**. It aims to ensure that activities within the lifecycle of artificial intelligence systems are fully consistent with human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, while being conducive to technological progress and innovation. Again, this is an instrument that will be available globally.

Looking ahead to the upcoming **IGF meeting in December**, the Council of Europe has proposed several sessions on **privacy, online safety, and artificial intelligence** and we eagerly await the decisions of the MAG committee in July.

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