

**Statement of the networks of media and online safety regulators
on the occasion of
the UNESCO Global Conference Internet for Trust**

The chairpersons of the African Communication Regulation Authorities Network (ACRAN), the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA), the Global Online Safety Regulators Network (GOSRN), the Mediterranean Network of Regulatory Authorities (MNRA), the Platform of Ibero-American Audiovisual Regulators (PRAI) and the Francophone Network of Media Regulators (REFRAM),

On the occasion of the UNESCO Global Conference Internet for Trust from 21 to 23 February 2023,

Referring to the global mandate of UNESCO to promote the free flow of ideas by words and images;

Referring to the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029, particularly its objectives 3 and 4, aiming to build inclusive, just and peaceful societies by promoting freedom of expression, cultural diversity and education for global citizenship, as well as to foster a technological environment in the service of humankind through the development and dissemination of knowledge and skills and the development of ethical standards;

Referring to the goals of this Global Conference for the protection of democracy and human rights, particularly freedom of expression;

Referring to the Windhoek +30 Declaration on information as a public good¹;

Referring to the Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²;

Considering the preponderance of digital platforms in our societies, and the resulting issues and challenges to the protection of fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression, the

¹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000378158>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

right to reliable and quality information, and to be protected from hateful content and discrimination in all its forms;

Considering the objectives of regulatory networks as defined in their respective statutes;

Considering the role of media and online safety regulators in protecting the public, and safeguarding and promoting freedom of expression and pluralism of thought and opinion;

Considering the relevance and legitimacy of these institutional stakeholders to contribute to the development of a digital space that respects democracy and human rights;

Subscribe to the objectives pursued by UNESCO in the digital environment, aiming to support freedom of expression and to secure information as a public good, while dealing with content that damages or potentially damages human rights and democracy, particularly content that conveys hatred, incitement to violence, harassment and discrimination against women, minorities and other vulnerable groups, and mis- or disinformation;

Share the will to develop coherent regulation systems across regions in order to better meet these objectives while minimizing Internet fragmentation;

Welcome the commitment to promote independent online content regulatory systems, acting within the framework of the law and subject to the supervision of the judiciary and respecting fundamental rights, including the rights to privacy and freedom of expression;

Support the ambition of imposing obligations of due diligence and transparency on digital platforms, especially in terms of online content management for user safety, under the supervision of a regulation system;

Agree on the importance of a risk assessments process and other measures applying to digital platforms, aiming inter alia to protect election integrity as well as to respond to major crises such as conflicts, wars, natural disasters, health emergencies or sudden world events;

Strongly support the will to develop media and online information literacy through digital platforms, and to open access to the data necessary to undertake research or regulation, while fully guaranteeing the protection of personal data;

Share the will, which meets the fundamental objective of linguistic diversity, to make digital platforms more accessible to all users, particularly through an extension of the languages that can be used to contact them;

Affirm the availability of their respective networks to contribute to the creation and investment in a global, common and multi-stakeholder space for debate and sharing of best practices regarding the regulation of digital platforms;

Solemnly reiterate their own commitments to protect and promote fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression, in their work.

Adopted on 23 February 2023

Ms Latifa Akharbach, president of ACRAN:



Ms Julie Inman Grant, Chair of GOSRN:

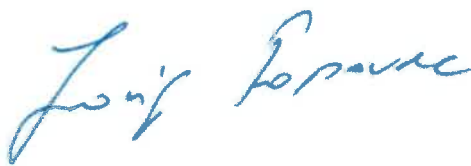


Mr Giacomo Lasorella, president of ERGA:



Mr Roch-Olivier Maistre, president of REFRAM:

Mr Josip Popovac, president of MNRA:



Mr Xevi Xirgo i Teixidor, president of PRAI:

