

Internet Rights and Principles Coalition (IRPC) 2022 Annual Report

The [Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition \(IRPC\)](#) based at the [UN Internet Governance Forum \(UN-IGF\)](#) is a network of organisations and individuals working to uphold human rights in the online environment and to root internet governance processes and systems in human rights standards.

The dynamic coalition sets out to promote and provide a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration and aims to be an umbrella platform for facilitating collaboration on human rights issues in the Internet Governance Forum process.

The IRPC's main output document is the [Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet](#). Launched in 2011, it has been fully translated into 12 languages and its 10 broad principles are available in 27 languages. The Charter's 21 articles and 10 principles articulate existing international human rights law and norms while applying them to the online context. The Coalition's outreach work also draws on the Charter, which acts as its foundational document.

Through the Charter, the IRPC has supported rights-inspired initiatives and has engaged in collaborative work with other dynamic coalitions, civil society networks, universities, political representatives and civil servants, and the technical community, to raise awareness on the need to implement rights-based frameworks for the online environment.

IRPC in 2022: Our Activities

In 2022 the IRPC Steering Committee focused particularly on articles 5 (Freedom of Expression & Information on the Internet), 18 (Right to Legal Remedy and Fair Trial for actions involving the Internet) and 19 (Right to Appropriate Social and International Order for the Internet) of the Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet. The coalition fostered collaborations with other initiatives and organisations on issues arising from those articles as well as other issues and their human rights implications, including accessibility, environmental sustainability and Artificial Intelligence.

The IRPC took part in Internet Governance discussions by participating in the Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group and joining the IGF MAG meetings and other IGF intersessional events. The coalition engaged in multistakeholder dialogues at global, regional and local IGFs and digital human rights conferences, including APrIGF, EuroDIG, SwissIGF, IGF Ghana and RightsCon. The IRPC also supported several initiatives such as the launch of the [CODES Action Plan for a Sustainable Planet in the Digital Age at Stockholm +50](#) and joined the DC environment as a founding member.

After recent efforts to make the IRPC website more environmentally sustainable, the IRPC is currently working to improve the accessibility of its website. The IRPC teamed up with [Accessibility Lab](#) for an accessibility review of the coalition's website and after the initial [audit](#) the IRPC SC members attended the accessibility training workshop. Accessibility Lab is currently working on the implementation stage of the project.

1. Internet Governance Forum - IGF 2022

The IRPC Annual meeting [Access & participation as enablers of digital human rights](#)

The session reflected on the importance of meaningful access and participation in the online environment for the full enjoyment of human rights. The panel discussion focused on access and participation to address major challenges to access and participation online and reflect on ways to promote empowerment and inclusion; online content moderation and the most pressing challenges in Africa; redress for human rights violations online

At the end of the session, the panel put forward several recommendations to ensure the full enjoyment of digital human rights including:

- A real commitment from all stakeholders to promote access and participation and to ensure digital inclusion. This includes more infrastructure, concerted policies and effective implementation, ensuring digital literacy and content which is accessible to all.
- More engagement and constructive multistakeholder dialogue to develop regulatory frameworks and effective solutions to promote digital inclusion, and to respect and uphold human rights online.
- Online violence must be tackled effectively. Internet shutdowns are an obstacle to a free and open Internet and hinder the full enjoyment of digital human rights. Content moderation can only be an effective remedy if civil society, the technical community, the private sector and governments work together to ensure that any implemented solutions are transparent, sustainable, localised, human-centered and rights-respecting.

Townhall Session [Safeguarding human rights with a free and open internet.](#)

The session addressed the following questions:

1. How can Internet access be made viable for everyone?
2. What can stakeholders do to make true commitments, such as those in the SDGs, from public and private power holders to ensure the internet is affordable and easy to access?
3. In what ways can governments demonstrate commitment to ensuring an open, free and accessible Internet for all?

It helped identify the major challenges or barriers governments face in ensuring an available, open and accessible Internet for all and how those challenges could be overcome.

[DC Main Session: Our Digital Future: How IGF Dynamic Coalitions support the Global Digital Compact.](#)

This Main Session examined the following questions:

- 1) How can the Dynamic Coalitions of the IGF contribute to the strengthened IGF+ model, particularly through the integration of their activities and main outputs (policy recommendations, guidelines, and consensus-based norms and best practices)?

2) How can Dynamic Coalitions of the IGF support the UN Secretary-General's proposed Global Digital Compact as the digital track for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024, and the WSIS+20 Review in 2025?

2. Other national and regional IGF Initiatives

- The IRPC participated in the **European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)** and was part of the organising team for [Workshop 1 "From commitments to action: Assessing the effectiveness of pan-European policies and regulations for the green digital transformation"](#)
- The coalition also attended the SwissIGF and the Ghana IGF.

3. Other Events and Collaborative work

- The IRPC participated in the YOUthDIG Webinar, a youth pre-event of EuroDIG, on "[Internet Rights and Principles: a human rights and technical perspective](#)"
- The coalition participated in the Digital Constitutionalism Network Conference 2022 at the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) in Bochum, Germany. Student participants presented a Wikipedia entry they created about the Charter and other human rights documents. Likewise in the centre of attention were the African Declaration of Internet Rights and Principles, the Feminist Principles of the Internet and the Contract for the Web (among others). A database of more than 200 of these so-called "Internet bills of rights" documents has also been updated for the conference.
- The IRPC participated in the [FRA Research meeting on Human Rights](#), co-organized by the [EU Fundamental Rights Agency \(FRA\)](#) and the German Ministry of Justice;
- The coalition held a session entitled "Human rights in the digital age: The Human Rights Charter" at the third annual Ghana School on Internet Governance (GhanaSIG).
- The IRPC co-organized the Quantum Constitutionalism Workshop: Law and Governance for the Quantum Age, which took place in Bremen, Germany on November 7-8, 2022 (website). The goal of the workshop was to bring together researchers from different disciplines (such as computer science, law, political science, etc.) to develop a research agenda focusing on the future rollout of quantum technologies such as quantum computing and cryptography and the impact these might have on human rights.

4. The Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet – Translation work

The translation of the Charter is a critical part of the work of this Coalition, and translation teams all around the world have made this document more widely accessible to local communities. The IRPC Charter is currently available in 12 languages and its 10 Principles have been translated into 27 languages.

In 2021-22 the IRPC teamed up with [Digital Rights Nepal](#) for the [Nepali translation](#) of the Charter which was launched at the IGF 2022. The coalition also worked on the Japanese translation of the 10 Principles.

5. Council of Europe: Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) Observership

Since 2014 the IRPC has been an observer to the [Steering Committee on Media and Information Society \(CDMSI\)](#) at the Council of Europe. As part of its observer status, the Coalition attended the Plenary meetings in June (21st Plenary Meeting) and December (22nd Plenary Meeting). The IRPC also attended the online event on [Freedom of Expression and Political Speech](#), organised by the Council of Europe.

6. Membership and Social Media Engagement

The IRPC membership continues to grow. More than 400 individuals and organisations across all stakeholder groups have now joined the IRPC mailing list and the Coalition's presence on social media networks has also been growing steadily with more than 2,000 followers on Facebook and more than 1,500 on Twitter.

In 2022 the Steering Committee launched the monthly newsletter which is shared with the coalition members with updates on the SC work and including events and opportunities on digital human rights and other internet governance issues that may be of interest to the IRPC members.

IRPC Governance

In 2022, the IRPC elected its new Steering Committee following the annual election. The role of the IRPC Steering Committee (IRPC SC) is to coordinate the Coalition's outreach work. The IRPC SC meets regularly throughout the year to update on ongoing and future activities.

The Structure of the IRPC Steering Committee in 2022

- Raashi Saxena, Co-Chair
- Minda Moreira, Co-Chair
(also Council of Europe CDMSI Observership Coordinator with Marianne Franklin and social media and web manager)
- Dennis Redeker, SC member
- June Parris, SC member, Secretary
- Marianne Franklin, SC member
(also Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator, Council of Europe CDMSI Observership Coordinator, Charter Booklet language editions Editor)
- Meri Baghdasaryan, SC Member
- Mohamed Farahad, SC Member
- Michael J. Oghia, SC Member
- Jacob Odame-Baiden, SC Member
- Santosh Sigdel, SC Member

Regional Experts

- Africa: Jacob Odame-Baiden
- Asia-Pacific: Marianne Franklin, Santosh Sigdel, Raashi Saxena
- Latin America And Caribbean: June Parris
- Middle East and North Africa: Mohamed Farahad
- Europe – Minda Moreira, Dennis Redeker, and Marianne Franklin

Ongoing Projects

- Charter Booklet - Project Coordinator: Marianne Franklin

IRPC Meetings

In 2022 the IRPC Steering Committee met six times throughout the year to discuss and coordinate the IRPC participation in internet governance activities at the national, regional, and international levels, collaboration with other partners, and other local and regional initiatives. The Coalition also held one general meeting at the IGF.

Prospects for 2023

In 2022 the IRPC continued to address the challenges to upholding human rights online and the crucial importance of promoting, protecting and providing redress to human rights violations in the online environment. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted some of these challenges such as the digital divide and the replication of inequalities from the offline world to the online world. It reminded us of the crucial need to access the Internet to enable crucial human rights and fundamental freedoms that span from the right to education, access to information, the right to health or the right to participate in public affairs. The pandemic and other recent events highlighted other pressing issues related to freedom of speech and freedom of information and the fine balance to protect these fundamental freedoms while at the same time tackling online violence, hate speech and misinformation.

Current challenges call for closer collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders. In 2023 the IRPC will continue to work and to support initiatives that promote digital cooperation.

- The coalition will provide further input on digital cooperation (Global Digital compact) and how to contribute to the future of the IGF. The IRPC is currently working on its contribution to the Global Digital Compact with input from the collaborative effort of the Dynamic Coalition Coordination group and its own individual submission. The Coalition will continue to engage in further discussions on the role of the dynamic coalitions in the future of the IGF and how their major outputs can be officially recognised by the IGF and incorporated into the IGF work.
- The IRPC will continue to work on the further development of the Charter work: the development of some of its Articles, such as Article 4 (in form of observations, comments or protocols), more translations, publication of the Charter in accessible formats, etc.
- The coalition will seek further collaborations with other initiatives and organisations.
- The IRPC will continue to foster deeper engagement with IRPC members and the wider Internet Governance community.