



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 July 2019

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forty-first session

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Albania,* Argentina, Armenia,* Australia, Austria, Belgium,* Bolivia (Plurinational State of),* Bosnia and Herzegovina,* Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus,* Denmark, Ecuador,* Fiji, Finland,* France,* Georgia,* Germany,* Ghana,* Greece,* Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland,* Israel,* Liechtenstein,* Lithuania,* Luxembourg,* Malta,* Monaco,* Mongolia,* Montenegro,* Morocco,* Netherlands,* North Macedonia,* Norway,* Portugal,* Republic of Korea,* Republic of Moldova,* Romania,* San Marino,* Senegal, Singapore,* Slovenia,* Spain, Sweden,* Switzerland,* Tunisia, Turkey,* Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

41/... New and emerging digital technologies and human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which are Assembly resolution 73/17 of 26 November 2018 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, Assembly resolution 73/179 of 17 December 2018 and Council resolution 37/2 of 22 March 2018 on the right to privacy in the digital age, Assembly resolution 73/218 of 20 December 2018 on the information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and resolution 38/7 of 5 July 2018 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, including the work of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and the report submitted by the Panel to the Secretary-General on 10 June 2019,

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as endorsed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.



Noting with appreciation the work done by the Advisory Committee on the issues of digital transformation, new technologies and human rights,

Recognizing that digital technologies have the potential to facilitate efforts to accelerate human progress, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, to bridge digital divides, to support, inter alia, the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to ensure that no one is left behind in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Mindful that the impacts, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change with regard to the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, including in cases where changes may occur at an exponential pace, are not fully understood, and of the need to further analyse them in a holistic, inclusive and comprehensive manner,

Recognizing the need for Governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, the technical and academic communities and all relevant stakeholders to be cognizant of the impact, opportunities and challenges of the rapid technological change on the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing also that rapid technological change affects States in different ways, and that addressing these impacts, which depend on States' national realities, capacities and levels of development, requires international and multi-stakeholder cooperation in order to benefit from opportunities and to address the challenges arising from this change, as well as to bridge digital divides,

1. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to prepare a report, from within existing resources, on the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, including mapping of relevant existing initiatives by the United Nations and recommendations on how human rights opportunities, challenges and gaps arising from new and emerging digital technologies could be addressed by the Human Rights Council and its special procedures and subsidiary bodies in a holistic, inclusive and pragmatic manner, and to present the report to the Council at its forty-seventh session;

2. *Also requests* the Advisory Committee, when preparing the above-mentioned report, to seek input from and to take into account the relevant work already done by stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, the technical community and academic institutions;

3. *Decides* to convene a panel discussion at its forty-fourth session on the impacts, opportunities and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, also decides that the discussions will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and requests the Advisory Committee to present an oral update on its preparation of the above-mentioned report during the panel discussion;

4. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the above-mentioned panel discussion and to liaise with relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Advisory Committee, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, other relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, national human rights institutions, civil society, the private sector, the technical community and academic institutions, with a view to ensuring multi-stakeholder participation in the panel discussion;

5. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
