



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Subject: Human Rights Council Resolution 47/16 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to Permanent Missions to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and refers to Human Rights Council [resolution 47/16](#) on “The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet”. The resolution is attached for ease of reference.

The resolution requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights “to study the trend in Internet shutdowns, analysing their causes, their legal implications and their impact on a range of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, through robust consultations with stakeholders and building on previous reports, and to present a report thereon to the Human Rights Council at its fiftieth session.” It further “Encourages States and all stakeholders to share best practices on issues pertaining to bridging digital divides and enabling digital inclusion, including by collecting and providing public access to disaggregated data on access and use by disadvantaged persons or groups”.

The Office of the High Commissioner invites all Member States to provide relevant inputs, based on the below list of issues:

1. The occurrence of disruptions of communications resulting from official requests

- a) Please indicate if mandated communications disruptions of mobile or telephone communications networks were enforced over the past 5 years and, if these occurred, provide the legal bases and official orders on which these interventions were based, the specific locations affected and any other available data on their impact.
- b) Please indicate if mandated communications disruptions of access to social media and messaging platforms were enforced over the past 5 years and, if these occurred, provide the legal bases and official orders on which these interventions were based, the specific locations affected and any other available data on their impact.

2. Research conducted on the impact of communications disruptions

Data or research conducted on the impact of communications disruptions on economic, social, cultural and political activities and rights. Please indicate if there is any specific disaggregated data on the impact of shutdowns on women, children, specific communities or locations.

3. Initiatives promoting internet connectivity and bridging the digital divides

Please describe existing national connectivity initiatives, including those promoting affordable and no-cost internet connections. If possible, also provide information concerning:

- a) Methods used for measuring progress and impact of the initiatives. Please include information on how the occurrence of internet shutdowns is being taken into account in this context;
- b) Groups particularly targeted by the initiatives and the methods used to assess the resulting connectivity and digital inclusion;
- c) Procedures in place to ensure transparency in the implementation of initiatives and to enable the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular members of affected communities.

4. Initiatives undertaken as part of international aid and development assistance promoting internet connectivity and bridging the digital divides

Please describe existing international aid and development assistance work promoting connectivity, including promoting affordable and no-cost internet connections. If possible, also provide information concerning:

- a) Methods used for measuring progress and impact of the initiatives. Please include information on how the occurrence of internet shutdowns is being taken into account in this context;
- b) Groups particularly targeted by the initiatives and the methods used to assess the resulting connectivity and digital inclusion;
- c) Procedures in place to ensure transparency in the implementation of initiatives and to enable the participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular members of affected communities;
- d) Support for the development of legal instruments regulating online space and the types of regulatory instruments sponsored, if any.

Consultations with experts and Member States are planned for February 2022.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if submissions (not exceeding 2,500 words) could be sent to the email: OHCHR-ShutdownsReport@un.org **by 31 January 2022**. Please note that, unless requested otherwise, the information provided will be made available on the OHCHR website.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

14 December 2021