**Executive Summary of the Technology for Democracy Cohort meeting at the Tallinn Digital Summit on 11 October 2022**

Participants:

In presence:

Aidan Harris, Open Government Partnership
Léah Fiddler, DFRLab
Jenny Wilcox, UK FCDO
Hamed Behravan, DT Intitute
Isik Mater, NetBlocks
Alp Toker, NetBlocks
Karin Voodla, MFA Estonia
Tanel Sepp, MFA Estonia
Robert Derevski, MFA Estonia
Maarja Kask, MFA Estonia
Minna-Liina Lind, MFA Estonia
Gavin Vessey, UK FCDO
Jennifer Brody, Access Now
Alberto Fernandez, IDEA International
Jukka Vahti, SITRA
Rosa-Maria Mäkelä, SITRA
Silja Leinonen, MFA Finland
Max Schumann, GIZ
Chrissy Martin Meier, Charter for Digital Public Goods
Hannes Astok, E-Governance Academy
Christine Andreassen, Amazon Web Services
Carlos Santiso, OECD
Alyson Finley, U.S. Department of State
Jonas Parello-Plesner, Alliance of Democracies

Online: 35 participants, of whom 20 let themselves known:

Richard Walakira, Alliance of Democracies Foundation
Helena Schwertheim, ISD Germany
Sekoetlane Phamodi (they/them), Accountability Lab
Lauren-Nicole Laurenceau, The German Marshall Fund of the U.S.
Antoine Bernard, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
Mauritius Dorn, ISD Germany
Adrienne Goldstein, The German Marshall Fund of the U.S.
Zach Lampell, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)
Sarah Moulton, National Democratic Institute
Shabnam Mojtahedi, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
Emilia Errenst, GIZ (on behalf of BMZ)
Ravy Uong, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)
Mia Møhring Larsen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Rosalee Keech, CSTIP and ECPAT-USA
Lauren Burke, CSIS Human Rights Initiative
Moira Whelan, National Democratic Institute
Maria Paz Canales, Derechos Digitales
Mette Finnemann, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Juan Pablo Vial, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile
Lisa Poggiali, USAID

Introduction

Introductory remarks by co-leads of the Cohort. The Cohort officially launched at the Tallinn Digital Summit (MFA of Estonia press release [here](https://www.vm.ee/en/news/reinsalu-and-collins-launch-technology-democracy-cohort), Access Now PR [here](https://www.accessnow.org/technology-cohort-summit-for-democracy/)). It was noted that other Cohorts are working on Tech for Democracy-adjacent initiatives, such as the Information Integrity Cohort, the Global Media Cohort, and the new Elections Cohort. Coordination across these Cohorts will be critical to ensure there is no duplication of work.

After remarks, discussion followed according to the strands.

Strand 1: Technology to support open and secure access to the internet

The key idea of the work of the Strand is to harness mechanisms that already exist instead of creating new ones. It will be important to emphasize the economic impact of shutdowns.

There are three possible streams of action:

1. Portal or a dashboard for tracking internet shutdowns, which harnesses real-time reporting from the ground and would include economic impact assessments. It was noted that standards around transparency and methodology will be implemented, and that ensuring participation and inclusion of existing monitoring initiatives is critical.
2. Shutdown impact stories project: Collection of written/audio/video inputs of internet shutdowns, in coordination with the #KeepItOn coalition
3. Election watch for shutdowns

Strand 2: Harnessing the potential of technology and data for the benefit of open, democratic societies

Three possible streams of action:

1. Algorithmic transparency
2. Data privacy
3. Civic participation

One specific proposal concerns guidelines for civil society on providing election information for people in an inclusive manner – involving people who cannot read or write, in other languages etc.

Strand 3: Technology for good governance

Three possible streams of action:

1. Transparency and digital public infrastructure
2. Trusted connectivity
3. Inclusivity and minimising of inequalities in technology

Ways of working, next steps and closing remarks

Each Working Group should have flexibility on ways of working and frequency of Working Group meetings. A time-line for a delivery phase should be developed, ideally with final outcomes being selected by start of November.

The Cohort could be plugged into or ongoing discussions with other existing initiatives around mutual objectives e.g. Danish Tech for Democracy, OECD Global Forum on Building Trust and Reforming Democracy, Alliance for Democracies etc.

We invite suggestions on existing set-piece events where in-person hybrid meetings for the overall Cohort could be organised. The wider Cohort would meet in some format every 6-8 weeks, these meetings would be used to publicise updates on the work of the Cohort.

For the whole Cohort, there should be a small number of concrete deliverables.

The Cohort co-leads have decided to implement a Code of Conduct for participants that will be circulated soon.