



Martingrove Model United Nations

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SC/RES/001
24 March 2021

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Regarding Fake News and Censorship

The Security Council,

Recognizing that new digital platforms have a greater global impact today than ever before, and that many people are turning to the Internet for the majority of their news,

Concerned that social and digital platforms have been taken advantage of in order to deceive, mislead, or harm others through creating or disseminating disinformation and hoaxes collectively referred to as ‘fake news’,

Fully aware that misinformation stemming from fake news campaigns have the ability to distort election campaigns, affect public perceptions, shape human emotions, and contribute to decreasing public trust in traditional journalism,

Alarmed by the ever-increasing severity of misleading information on the Internet due to global dependence on the Internet for information, with an estimated current global cost of \$78 billion USD and a potential increase to \$100 billion USD if no assuaging measures are established,

Cognizant of the fact that with increasing access to and popularity of social media in developing countries as a primary news source, the issue of disinformation has vastly increased in scope and severity, negatively impacting sustainable development,

Taking into account that overly restrictive regulation and government censorship of internet platforms in open societies sets a dangerous precedent and can encourage authoritarian regimes to continue and/or expand censorship,

Observing that automated bots contribute greatly to the dissemination of disinformation worldwide through the exploitation and manipulation of social media discourse,

Noting with concern the role of Russian bots in swaying foreign politics and contributing to national polarization and instability, notably in the United States and Ukraine,

Fully believing that fake news can best be combated with a wide approach, thus elevating the education of digital literacy throughout the general public as one of the most effective reactions to widespread disinformation,

1. *Recommends* that nations accept a common definition of disinformation as “the intentional and malicious creation and dissemination of false information” to prevent the misidentification of legitimate criticism;
2. *Calls upon* member states to establish or further develop digital literacy educational resources, particularly related to the recognition of misinformation and encouragement of cautious practices online through:
 - (a) The allocation of 0.6% of the GDP towards a fund for digital literacy education;
 - (b) The further allocation of 0.3% of the GDP of developed countries towards assisting developing countries in increasing availability to these resources throughout the general public;
3. *Urges* nations to refrain from excessive censorship of online content and requests nations already partaking in restriction to reduce repressive measures;
4. *Calls for* the creation of a long-term UN task force to assist countries in identifying and suppressing large-scale disinformation campaigns before they may become widespread.

Submitter: New Zealand

Secunder: Germany

Negator: Turkey