

Message from the Meeting of Parliamentarians participating in the 14th UN Internet Governance Forum

“Jimmy Schulz Call”

Berlin, November 29, 2019

Mankind is moving into the age of digital interdependence. The ability to digitize, store, analyse and transport data around the globe has profound effects in every sector of society, and has changed the way we conduct personal business, and political affairs. People - whether they are connected or not - are increasingly dependent on digital technologies but are concerned about its continued availability and integrity. Around half the world's population is online and by moving forward in connecting the other half we have to find ways, to foster the noble aims that stimulate economic growth, sustainable development and the respect for human rights but at the same time have to fight against child abuse, hate speech or misuses by terrorists and criminals. Advancing national security interests in protecting the cyberspace and our critical infrastructures must be wisely balanced with freedom of expression, innovation and economic growth.

Against this background parliamentarians in particular have a responsibility in creating regulatory frameworks for the next generation of Internet Governance which will help to keep cyberspace free, open, stable, unfragmented and innovative.

We, parliamentarians from 56 countries,

coming together at the 14th UN Internet Governance Forum in Berlin (November 2019) and discussing issues like cybersecurity, digital economy, human rights in the digital age as well as latest development in the field of Internet technology

referring to the Tunis Agenda of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, 2005) and its follow up

remembering the Declaration of Principles for Internet Governance, adopted by the Multistakeholder Conference, known as NetMundial (2014);

recognizing that the UN General Assembly has adopted various resolutions where the UN member states have confirmed that international law, as enshrined in the UN Charter (1945), as well as human rights, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) are relevant both offline and online;

taking note of the Report of the UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, established by the UN Secretary General (2019);

taking further note of the reports of the Global Commission on Internet Governance (2016), the Global Commission on the Future of Work (2019) and the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (2019);

referring to the work of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and in particular to the 5th edition of the „World e-Parliament Report“ which discussed the role of parliaments in the digital age (2018).

taking note of the Sustainable Development goal (SDG) no. 9 to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

recommend to national parliaments:

1. to enhance international cooperation and the exchange of best practices among national parliaments how to deal with Internet related public policy issues;
2. to guarantee, that in case new legislation is needed to enhance national security in cyberspace and promote the national digital economy, that individual human rights and fundamental freedoms, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), are fully respected and remain protected;
3. to reconsider existing national legislation in a spirit how it can be adjusted to the challenges of the digital age;
4. to involve non-state actors from the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community adequately in the development of new legislation, inter alia via public hearings and open consultation processes, to promote the multistakeholder approach to the governance of the Internet, as agreed upon in the Tunis Agenda (2005);
5. to work towards an informal parliamentary IGF Group and therefore to strengthen and expand the parliamentary dialogue at the IGF by bringing together parliamentarians in future discussions of the development of regulatory frameworks for Internet related public policy issues. We therefore encourage parliamentarians to meet again at the next IGF in Poland and beyond.

This message will be submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, to the Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the existing national chapters of the IGF.

In memory of Jimmy Schulz, Member of the German Bundestag, who initiated the participation of parliamentarians at the IGF 2019, and who passed away on 25th November 2019, we call this document "Jimmy Schulz Call".