

Developing principles for a public interest communications environment

*Mapping existing agreements and principles relevant to the Freedom of
Expression Project*

<http://www.freedomofexpression.org.uk>

<http://www.global-partners.co.uk>

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A number of initiatives have defined principles that can guide policy relating to digital communications. Some are framed in terms of individual rights, some in terms of technical outcomes, some in terms of ethics and values.

While most existing initiatives consider specific policy issues or technologies, the Project is seeking to consider all communications platforms and the issues that arise from convergence between them; the communications environment in its entirety. Our discussions and work during the first phase indicated that there is real value in this approach and its potential to bring different experts and arenas together to work for change. Our aim in this second phase of work is to develop principles that are value-based, technology-neutral, are supported by all stakeholders, and can be translated into practical, technology-specific policies. In doing this we also aim to:

- enhance ongoing initiatives and collaborations rather than reinvent unnecessarily
- define principles that can reasonably be applied and put into practice, considering the mechanisms that exist and potential levers for change.

We have therefore undertaken an outline mapping of agreements and principles that currently exist, aiming to set these within the context of global governance arrangements. The character of global governance itself raises two major challenges: how do we make sense of the vast number of initiatives that are out there and how do we achieve change?

This paper contains:

1. An outline of **global governance** arrangements since 1945

2. An overview map of current agreements and principles according to their **scope**. This aims to show the interaction and intersections between initiatives focused on, for example, human rights, economic development, internet governance.
3. Mapping of agreements and principles by their mechanism of operating, that is, how they can offer leverage for change. We have grouped them as follows:
 - **international agreements**, including treaties backed by legal processes and other agreements
 - **business-led and corporate responsibility** mechanisms, some of which include reporting requirements
 - **donor-led** initiatives
 - **'moral force'** agreements. Developed by international organisations, civil society and multi-stakeholder groups; and 'good practice' toolkits.

This note is intended as 'work in progress', to give a framework rather than a comprehensive analysis; we welcome partners' input into this map. With this in mind we have included discussion points and questions, in green, *like this*.

1 Global governance since WWII

Global governance structures have changed significantly since 1945. While many international organisations are technical in scope and therefore uncontroversial (for example, the International Civil Aviation authority or World Meteorological Organisations) others such as the United Nations, its agencies or the World Bank are highly political and controversial. There are obvious tensions between the universalist aspirations of most international organisations and the high blown rhetoric, with the often grubby demands of sovereign states. Many instruments of international governance entrench the rights of sovereign states, even if the rhetoric is universal in aspiration. Furthermore, formal representation in international institutions may obscure real disparities in negotiating strengths and capacities. And international standards or aspirations are rarely backed with the resources or institutions necessary to realise them. A further complication is the fact that many issues span domestic and international sovereignty – communications are a good example – and domestic legal systems have to cope with problems that are both domestic and global in scope.

There has also been a fragmentation of global governance since 1945 when a few dominant powers could impose a structure. We now have a variety of overlapping or competing approaches:

- Universally open intergovernmental arrangements, subject to signature to basic Charter and Conventions or agreements – for example, the United Nations and its permanent agencies, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR. The International Monetary Fund (actually more like a bank) can be considered in this category as can the World Bank (actually more like a fund). These were the foundation of the international order after 1945.
- Informal groupings of governments which can make and promote policy – G8, G20, etc.

- Government membership organisations that have membership criteria, such as OECD or the WTO, and that offer benefits to their members and set standards
- Multi-lateral links between public agencies, for example central banks
- Transnational regulatory arrangements
- Multi stakeholder arrangements, for example Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Internet Governance Forum
- International mechanisms that encourage social objectives for business – UN Global Compact – or encourage the development of global standards, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, a business sustainability reporting framework
- Governance issues can also be determined by arrangements between different international branches of large multi-national companies (which may account for up to 40% of international capital flows)

Overall we can see a fracturing of a simple framework (the Bretton Woods institutions¹ of the international monetary system plus the UN) into a number of contrasting components. Many of these involve a shift towards self-regulation and reporting on self-defined norms, or are simply informal arrangements, or are based on selective membership criteria. Some represent a privatisation of governance, often to ward off threats of greater regulation (e.g. Global Compact introduced prior to the Johannesburg summit on development). The profusion of these new initiatives is probably also due to paralysis at the level of the 1945 formal arrangements which were based upon historic power relations – note for example the difficulties in reforming the UN Security Council or voting arrangements at the IMF and World Bank.

The result has been a thinning of global governance over the last 60 years at the very time when the demands for stronger governance and the globalisation of problems have increased. The one exception, arguably, is international human rights standards and law: they have ‘thickened’ considerably since 1945 in both the development of standards and the enforcement of those standards.²

The character of global governance raises two major challenges: how do we make sense of the vast number of initiatives that are out there and how do we achieve change?

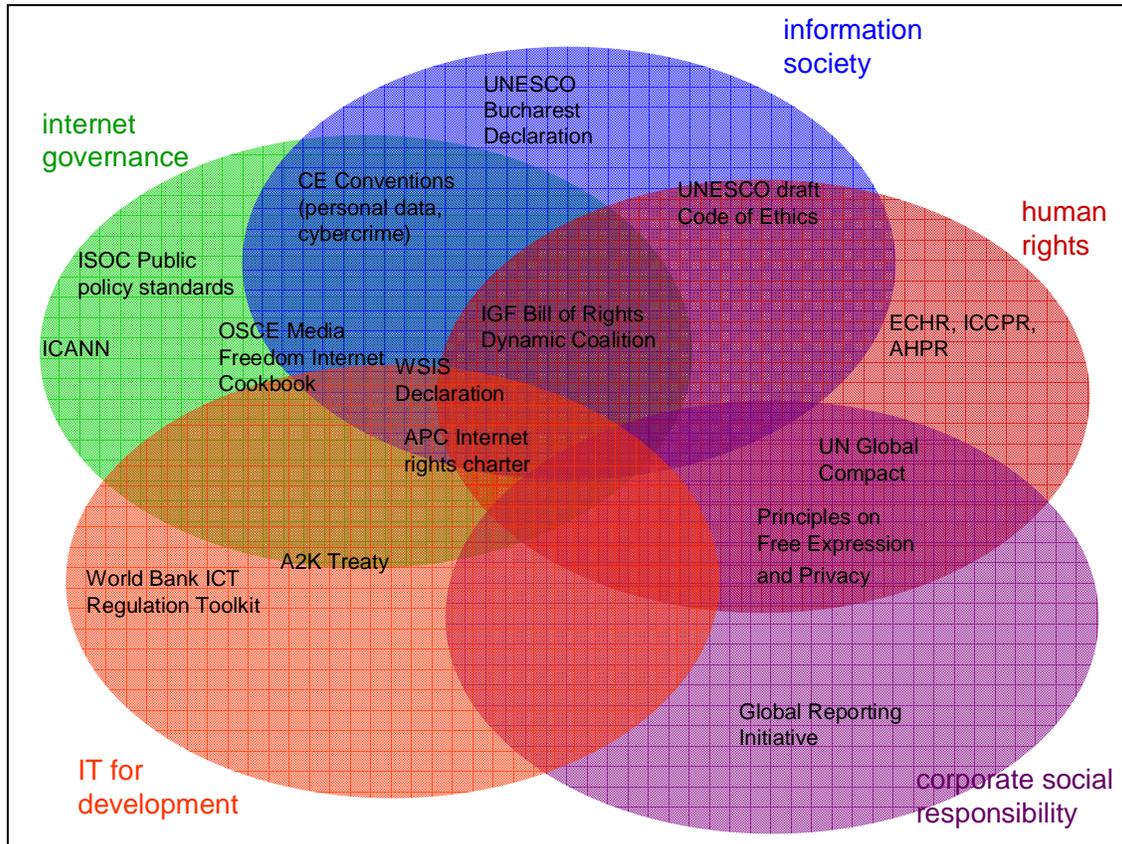
Do we aspire to a single overarching, regulatory, standard-setting body (such as the ITU, the International Telecommunication Union) or do we prefer an ambiguity about arrangements, which allows less formally constituted bodies such as NGO alliances or the private sector to have influence? How can a single policy goal – such as the protection of a public sphere, of the public interest, of the right to freedom of expression – be guaranteed in such a complex, often private and informal environment? How can it be articulated and asked for? These are some of the questions the Project is now tackling.

¹ Set up in 1944 by the UN Monetary and Financial Conference held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

² See Held D http://www.policy-network.net/uploadedFiles/Publications/Publications/David_Held.pdf

2 Scope of initiatives

The diagram shows the intersection between the scope of a range of current agreements and initiatives. While it isn't complete, and other spheres can be added (education, cultural diversity, consumer rights, intellectual property) it serves to illustrate the scope of the Project and the complexity of regulating a public interest communications environment.



3 International agreements

3.1 Backed by a legal process

The concept of freedom of expression as a foundation human right has been a core element of the Project's analytical framework. This and other human rights have legal force through international agreements. Discussions during the Project's workshops in 2007 noted, for example, that human rights jurisprudence has interpreted the right to freedom of expression with rulings in support of access to information. However, the challenge is to link this leverage, as well as the expertise of human rights lawyers and NGO activists, to the issues in the communications environment.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and two other treaties form the International Bill of Rights:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). 161 of the 192 UN member states are parties
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), ratified by 155 UN member states.

These and other **UN treaties** are legally binding for States that ratify them. States undertake to have domestic legislation to protect the rights specified and their implementation of each treaty is monitored by a UN committee. For example, the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) carries out Universal Periodic Reviews of States' fulfilment of commitments under the ICCPR, and it publishes findings and recommendations.³

Infrastructure supports these treaties at national and international levels. At a **national** level, around 110 countries have a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in the form of a human rights committee or an ombudsman. They may investigate complaints from individual citizens; rule on the compatibility of domestic law with international obligations; and refer cases to international courts.⁴ At an **international** level 104 states have signed the First Optional Protocol of the ICCPR. This gives individuals a mechanism for international redress of human rights abuses, through a direct appeal to the Committee about violations of the ICCPR.

What experiences of NHRIs can partners share? How many NHRIs have dealt with communications issues or taken complaints from citizens relevant to the concerns of this Project? What kinds of issues do they focus on?

³ Details at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx include a calendar for 2008-2011, and reports (searchable by country) submitted by governments and NGO stakeholders.

⁴ The UN accredits NHRIs according to an internationally agreed set of standards, the Paris Principles. For a list see *Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights*, 14 January 2008, reference A/HRC/7/69. Available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/7session/A-HRC-7-69.doc>

International human rights agreements at a **regional** level also have legal force (see table below).

<i>agreement or convention</i>	<i>ratification status</i>	<i>implementation and enforcement</i>
European Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (known as the ECHR)	Adopted by the Council of Europe; ratified by all 47 member states	European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France
African Charter on Human and People's Rights	The 53 states of the African Union	<p>African Court on Human and People's Rights, Arusha, Tanzania</p> <p>The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, established by the African Union, monitors implementation of the Charter. States must report every two years on measures taken to protect the rights and freedoms it recognises and guarantees.</p> <p>The Commission also considers individual complaints of violations and prepares cases for submission to the Court.</p>
American Convention on Human Rights	<p>24 of the 35 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). Not ratified by the US or Canada</p> <p>14 States have also ratified an additional protocol on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (the Protocol of San Salvador), that covers the right to education</p>	<p>Inter American Court of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica</p> <p>The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), a body of the OAS, monitors the human rights situation in member states, investigates individual complaints of violations, and refers cases to the Inter-American Court.</p>

***What experience of using these mechanisms can partners share?
Are there rulings, particularly relevant to a public interest communications environment, that could be promoted?***

3.2 Human rights special rapporteurs

The UN and other international organisations (OSCE, OAS and ACHPR) have special rapporteurs (also called mandated experts, special representatives) who are mandated to report on human rights themes or particular countries. Their reports, although not legally binding on states, carry weight with governments and provide opportunities to focus on issues of concern.

The UN has 10 country and 28 thematic rapporteurs.⁵ Several of the thematic mandates are relevant to the Project's aims, including:

- promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people
- human rights and transnational corporations (reporting in June 2008).

Article 19, the international campaign group for freedom of expression, brings together the four special mandates on freedom of expression⁶ who issue annual joint declarations elaborating on the meaning of free expression. These have covered:

- regulation of the media, restrictions on journalists, investigating corruption (2003)
- access to information and secrecy legislation (2004)
- internet and anti-terrorism measures (2005)
- openness of public bodies, journalist liability, culture and religious tensions (2006)
- public broadcasting and diversity (2007)

What are partners' experiences of the special rapporteurs' role in exerting leverage for change?

3.3 Conventions and agreements

International agreements exist that cover a range of issues relevant to the development of policy for the networked communications environment. These include the following.

WSIS Declaration of Principles, Plan of Action and Action Lines

<http://www.itu.int/wsisis/docs/geneva/official/dop.html>

- Published 2003, developed by World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) conference in Geneva 2003 & Tunis 2005, organised by ITU/UN

⁵ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/> (link dated 2006).

⁶ The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression; the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression; and the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

- Widely accepted and endorsed; 175 countries at Geneva
- Focuses on making the information society accessible to all, reducing the digital divide and harnessing the potential of the information society for development. The declaration includes: A. Our Common Vision of the Information Society; B. An Information Society for all: Key Principles; and C. Towards an Information Society for All Based on Shared Knowledge
- WSIS agreed a Plan of Action with Action Lines based on the declaration. Implementation of the Action Lines is overseen by UN agencies, including UNESCO. Action Lines relevant to this Project include:
 - C10 – Ethical dimensions of the information society
 - C3 – Access to information and knowledge
 - C8 – Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
 - C7 – E-learning and science
 - C9 – Media
- Some critics have argued that in practice little has been done to uphold the declarations of principle, carry the agenda forward and translate the principles into policy.

Do partners have experience and involvement in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, and the impact of these?

UNESCO ‘Bucharest Declaration’

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/25771/12003251513bucharest_declaration.pdf/bucharest_declaration.pdf

- Principles and priorities for action for the information society, adopted in 2002 by 55 countries at a pan-European conference in preparation for WSIS.
- They cover: access to information and knowledge; universal access at affordable cost; linguistic diversity and cultural identity; education and training; legal, regulatory and policy frameworks; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs; addressing global issues.

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/diversity.htm>

- Adopted by 185 Member States in 2001.
- Focuses on preserving and promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; links cultural diversity and human rights; recognises cultural heritage as a mainspring of human creativity.
- Seven Conventions cover different aspects of the Declaration; these include the **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions** (2005; 80 States Parties) and **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** (2003; 93 States Parties).

Council of Europe Conventions

‘European Conventions and Agreements ... are not statutory acts of the Organisation; they owe their legal existence simply to the expression of the will of

those States that may become Parties thereto.⁷ (Some can also be signed by non-member States.) Relevant Conventions include:

- **Convention on Cybercrime.** Aims to harmonise national laws on crimes committed via the internet and other computer networks, covering issues including copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography, network security and interception. Has 43 signatories and 16 states have ratified it including the US. However, many civil society groups have criticised its restrictions as over-zealous.
- **Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data**
- **Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism**
- **Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**
- **Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.** Includes criminalising the use of new technologies, in particular the internet, to abuse children e.g. by 'grooming'.

In 2005 the Committee of Ministers adopted a **Declaration on human rights and the rule of law in the information society**⁸, to 'update the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights for the cyber-age' and has subsequently promoted several Recommendations to member states on relevant issues. These include recommendations on:

- **measures to promote the respect for freedom of expression and information with regard to internet filters** (CM/Rec(2008)6E /26 March 2008)
- **measures to promote the public service value of the internet** (CM/Rec(2007)16/ November 2007). Refers to states' commitments under the European Convention on Human Rights and other Conventions, and considers that 'governance of the internet should be people-centred and pursue public policy goals which protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law'. Recommendations discuss roles and responsibilities of private sector and civil society as well as governments, and cover: human rights and democracy; access; openness; diversity; security. The Council of Europe's policy approach, to promote the public service value of the internet, also includes plans to develop an 'Aarhus convention'⁹ for the internet, partnering with APC and the UN Economic Commission for Europe.
- **promoting freedom of expression in the new information and communications environment** (CM/Rec(2007)11E / 26 September 2007). Addresses: empowering individual users; common standards and strategies for reliable information, flexible content creation and transparency in processing information; affordable access to ICT infrastructure.

⁷ About Conventions and Agreements in the Council of Europe Treaty Series (CETS), CoE website <http://conventions.coe.int/general/v3IntroConvENG.asp>

⁸ (CM(2005)56. The Declaration and all COE documents are at <https://wcd.coe.int/>

⁹ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters Known as the Aarhus Convention, it is seen as a model for public involvement in decision-making. <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>

4 Business-led and corporate responsibility agreements

Evidence suggests that companies increasingly view corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity as important to their business, though debate continues about how best to measure its real value and contribution to the bottom line.¹⁰ There are a range of group codes and standards that businesses can adopt on socially responsible practices.

Some commentators note that gaps in regulatory frameworks as businesses 'go global' in effect create a void that companies seek to fill by setting their own standards.¹¹ Other civil society commentators take the view that companies engage in self-regulation only to stave off more direct intervention from governments, or in response to a public backlash about their practices.

Companies' motivations and incentives for involvement depend on their market, business and location, and are strongest when they align with a business need. For example, social responsibility activity is often seen as important to recruitment and retention; people want to work for a responsible and 'right-thinking' employer. Specific environmental initiatives, such as reducing energy use, can directly reduce operating costs. Companies may be interested in collaborations with NGOs to help reach untapped markets in developing countries. The role of CSR in helping to generate positive PR, protect brands and manage risk (for example of adverse publicity, litigation, consumer boycotts) is also recognised. This can be particularly relevant for companies with complex global operations, whose activities have direct environmental or social impacts or whose sector of business has seen falling levels of public trust.

4.1 Requiring reporting

UN Global Compact Principles

www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html

- Established in 2000, developed by the UN Global Compact, an international network, and has gained in popularity.
- Voluntary 'soft' code addressed principally to businesses. 10 principles based on international human rights instruments focus on human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption. Aims to encourage transnational corporations to promote and protect human rights in their business operations and other areas of influence.
- Over 5,500 members/ partners: businesses, labour organisations, civil society groups, public sector. Members include Microsoft, Cisco, Ebay, some regional and national telecommunications companies.

¹⁰ 'The next question', *Economist*, 17 January 2008. www.economist.com

¹¹ For more detailed discussion, see *Economist*, Special Report on CSR, 17 January 2008

- Has attracted criticism from NGOs as membership relies on self-reporting¹². Businesses that do not report are flagged on the Compact website and eventually de-listed.
- A number of human rights impact assessment tools are available, but the Human Rights Working Group has agreed that these need sectoral and regional contextualisation.

Principles on free expression and Privacy

<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/principles>

- A private sector/civil society partnership to develop principles on free expression and privacy to inform a voluntary code of conduct for business.
- The focus is on ensuring that companies do not violate individual rights to privacy and free expression, offering guidance to companies on how to act, for example, when legislation in the country they are operating in conflicts with international rights standards.
- Stakeholders include Amnesty; Berkman Center; Business for Social Responsibility; Center for Democracy and Technology; Google; Human Rights Watch; Microsoft; Vodafone; Yahoo; Human Rights Watch; UN special representative on business and human rights; International Business Leaders Forum.

4.2 With optional reporting

Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR) – human rights matrix

www.blihr.org

- Registered UK company, aims to help lead and develop corporate response to human rights. Business-led programme with 13 member companies, including Ericsson and HP.
- Encourages own members' reporting and is making its 'toolkit' available.
- Time limited, now in second phase 2006-9. Has produced tools including a 'Human Rights Matrix' and a Guide for Integrating Human Rights into Business Management (jointly with UN Global Compact)

Realizing Rights – the Ethical Globalisation Initiative

www.realizingrights.org

- Works on 5 key policy themes, including 'encouraging corporate responsibility', aiming to put human rights on corporate responsibility agenda.

Instituto Ethos

<http://www.ethos.org.br>

- Brazilian network of businesses committed to social responsibility.
- 1,300 members.

¹² For example www.globalcompactcritics.net/

*What corporate responsibility initiatives have potential to engage businesses in a public interest communications environment?
Do partners have experience of initiatives specific to regions or industries?*

5 Donor-led initiatives

A great number of donor-led programmes work to foster the development of the networked communications environment, or particular aspects of the environment, in accordance with human rights standards and public interest principles. These include initiatives:

- at **local level**. For example, the Project's regional workshops during 2007 highlighted many donor-funded initiatives improving specific communities' access to technology and to relevant information¹³
- at **national and regional levels**. For example, the African Media Development Initiative (AMDI), a research programme that provided insights into how to strengthen the media sector, was led by the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) World Service Trust, with funders including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Government's Department for International Development (DfID), the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group) and Irish Aid¹⁴. The STREAM (Strengthening African Media) consultative process, now merged with AMDI, was also supported by DfID.

What experiences can partners share of donor-led initiatives to develop specific principles relevant to the communications environment? What impact have these had, at national or regional level?

6 'Moral force' agreements

6.1 Multi-stakeholder agreements

Multi-stakeholder forums bring together individuals and organisations from government, business and civil society. Their focus is on building consensus about an approach and means of addressing issues of international concern; creating a forum for discussion and problem-solving to take place. As this Project's research has noted, civil society groups have successfully advocated for multi-stakeholder processes to be set up. These processes offer civil society groups new opportunities to influence and participate in policy development. However, they also have limitations as levers for change. The range of perspectives involved can mean that

¹³ Workshop reports at www.freedomofexpression.org.uk

¹⁴ Reports available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/specials/1552_trust_amdi/page9.shtml

consensus is difficult to achieve in practice, and some sections of civil society are better resourced than others to participate, which means that 'civil society participation' is not necessarily the same thing as 'representation of all relevant interests'.¹⁵

The **Dynamic Coalitions of the Internet Governance Forum** are open multi-stakeholder groups that have come together to work on issues of governance and to contribute to the IGF. The Dynamic Coalitions operate independently of each other as spaces for discussion, working to agree objectives and take forward activity to meet them. Several of the Coalitions are working on developing principles or agreements:

Privacy Dynamic Coalition

<http://wiki.igf-online.net/wiki/Privacy>

- Works on issues of internet privacy protection such as digital identities, the link between privacy and development, and the importance of privacy and anonymity for freedom of expression.
- Aims to develop recommendations for the IGF to consider.
- Over 60 members from national governments, data protection authorities, international organisations, civil society, private companies and the academic community.

Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards (IGF DCOS)

<http://igf-dcos.org/>

- Works to frame and define the most urgent problems related to open standards and interoperability and suggest workable solutions.
- Has focus on best practices in government policy and procurement practices for public documents and services.

Dynamic Coalition on the Internet Bill of Rights

http://internet-bill-of-rights.org/en/stmt_20080226.php

- 12 organisational 'promoters' from US, Italy, Germany, Austria, Brazil, Peru; c30 organisation and c600 individual supporters (largely Italy)
- Aim is to promote consideration and enforcement of human rights on the internet. Based on UDHR.
- Envisages a Bill of Rights and toolkit including: definitions to promote common understanding of rights; a database of precedents for lawyers and policy makers; mechanisms for implementing rights (eg, 'Human rights approved' badges for websites).
- At an early stage of development and has not set a time frame or implementation strategy. Aims to be an 'umbrella' coalition at the IGF, bringing together the concerns of other coalitions under the banner of human rights.

A2K@IGF Dynamic Coalition

<http://www.a2k-igf.org/>

- Members include NGOs and businesses.

¹⁵ See Horner, 2007, *Activism in the Networked World*. www.freedomofexpression.org.uk

- Working to develop best practice norms on a range of issues including: limitations to copyright; access to research; support for alternative business models for knowledge goods; protecting cultural diversity.

Framework of Principles for the Internet

www.intgovforum.org/dynamic_coalitions.php?listy=10

- Working on developing principles for governments and businesses to guide technical policy making.
- Coalition's objective is 'to understand, influence and contribute to the processes of making international laws, conventions, treaties etc in the area of Internet Governance... [and] will explore the possibility of civil society taking the lead in collaboratively developing some overall normative principles for the Internet which can underpin such international processes, and/or themselves be adopted through a framework convention kind of a process.'

The other Dynamic Coalitions are:

- Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media on the Internet (FOEonline) <http://foeonline.wordpress.com/>
Aims to provide a platform to 'exchange information, advance initiatives in the field of internet governance and freedom of expression and serve as an informal community to organise meetings and other initiatives'
- The StopSpamAlliance
- Coalition Dynamique pour la Diversité Linguistique
- The Dynamic Coalition on Access and Connectivity for Remote, Rural and Dispersed Communities
- Online Collaboration Dynamic Coalition
- Gender and Internet Governance (GIG)
- Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety
- Dynamic Coalition on 'Accessibility and Disability'

What experiences can partners share about the successes of the IGF multi-stakeholder mechanisms in establishing principles? and of other multi-stakeholder processes?

6.2 Principles to inform policy and practice

A range of international organisations and civil society groups have published principles, whose intention and scope include: aiming to inform policy; setting out good practice guidelines on aspects of communications; giving context or guidance for interested parties. Commentators have also noted the value of collaborative development processes here in building momentum for change (for example, the development of the A2K treaty). The following examples include both completed documents and principles in development.

The Media Freedom Internet Cookbook

www.osce.org/publications/rfm/2004/12/12239_91_en.pdf

- Developed in 2004 by OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe).
- OSCE works on security, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. 56 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia.
- Principles and recommendations addressed to OSCE states on: Legislation and jurisdiction; Regulation; Hate speech on the internet; Education and developing internet literacy; Access to networks and to information; Future challenges to the information society. Drawn from the 2004 Amsterdam Internet Conference of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (a special mandate, see footnote 6 above).

APC Internet Rights Charter

<http://rights.apc.org/charter.shtml>

- Developed by the Association for Progressive Communications, a global network of civil society groups focusing on the use of ICTs for social justice and development.
- The principles 'express our community's views and goals concerning the rights of people and organisations to use the internet freely, particularly in their work for social, economic and environmental justice.' Refer specifically to the internet, and APC states the principles are relevant to all other ICTs.
- Links people's communication rights to the UDHR, specifically Articles 12 (privacy), 18 (freedom of conscience and religion), 19 (freedom of expression), 20 (peaceful assembly), 26 (education on human rights), 27 (cultural life). Expresses people's rights to: internet access; freedom of expression and association; access to knowledge; shared learning and creation, in particular free and open source software and technology development; and privacy
- Also sets out rights regarding governance of the internet and awareness, protection and realisation of rights, though these are not linked to the UDHR.

ISOC Public policy standards.

www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/principles.shtml

- Published by the Internet Society, a nonprofit organisation.
- ISOC is a technical standards, education and policy organisation that works for an open, universally accessible internet, with a focus on maintaining the internet's open and decentralised architecture.
- 80 organisational and 28,000 individual members in 90 chapters around the world. Also works with civil society and other partners.
- Principles reflect ISOC's core values and guide its own public policy work. They set out the 'abilities' that each individual user of the internet should have – the ability to: connect, speak, innovate, share, choose, trust. Outcome-based, focused on technical solutions
- Aims to promote the principles and technical means of achieving them, working through its members, chapters and partners, and global public policy discussions.

World Bank ICT Regulation Toolkit

<http://ictregulationtoolkit.org/>

- Developed (completed 2008) by World Bank's infoDev (Information for Development) Program and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a UN agency that works to standardise and regulate telecoms.
- Aims to help countries design regulatory frameworks to harness technological and market advances; to better enable developing countries to use ICTs as a development tool.
- Toolkit modules include: competition and price regulation; authorisation; universal access; radio spectrum management; legal and institutional framework; new technologies and impacts on regulation. Accompanying practice notes/ cases from across the world.

Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) Resolutions

www.tacd.org

- A forum of US and EU consumer organisations that develops and agrees joint policy recommendations to the US government and European Union to promote the consumer interest in policy making.
- Policy statements include resolutions on information society issues.

Declaration on Consumers Digital Rights

http://www.consumersdigitalrights.org/cms/declaration_en.php

- Published by BEUC, European consumer rights organisation
- Focuses on six 'rights', to: choice, knowledge and cultural diversity; technical neutrality; benefit from innovations; interoperability; protection of privacy; not to be criminalised.

Save the Internet Statement of Principles

<http://savetheinternet.com/=principles>

- Principles of a coalition campaign for net neutrality.
- US based. Corporate supporters include Amazon.com, Earthlink, EBay, Google, Intel, Microsoft, Facebook, Skype and Yahoo.

Further principles currently in development or draft form include:

UNESCO Code of Ethics for the Information Society

www.unesco.org

- At draft stage; not yet published.

- Ethical, legal and societal implications are one of four priority areas of UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), created in 2000. IFAP aims to be an 'advocate for all people on the wrong side of the information divide' in developed or developing countries, with a focus on the needs of women, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities. Over 50 IFAP National Committees exist.
- Work on ethics in the information society to inform the development of the Code has so far included four regional consultations (including Strasbourg in September 2007 and Hanoi in March 2008).

**Public voice civil society coalition contribution document
for the OECD Ministerial Conference on the Information Economy (June 2008)**

www.thepublicvoice.org

- US- based international coalition established to promote public participation in decisions concerning the future of the internet. Brings civil society leaders together with government officials for 'constructive engagement about current policy issues'.
- The contribution is based on a collaborative effort by members to define issues within the information economy that are relevant to civil society as a whole.
- The document sets out four 'fundamental policy principles': human rights and the rule of law; transparency and accountability; enabling ICTs in less developed regions; equitable participation and non-discrimination. Reaffirms the group's commitment to international human rights, the WSIS Declaration of Principles and to the internet as a public service medium as defined by the European Council. Following policy recommendations to the OECD are in three broad areas: fuelling creativity; ensuring consumer protection and building confidence; and benefiting from convergence.

Access to Knowledge Treaty

<http://www.cptech.org/a2k/>

- A treaty developed collaboratively by civil society organisations and academics in 2005; in draft form.
- Aims to 'protect and enhance access to knowledge, and to facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries'.
- Civil society groups advocate that the treaty should be adopted as part of the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) Development Agenda.

Paris Accord

<http://www.cptech.org/a2k/pa/>

- An initiative lead by the US Consumer Project on Technology (CPTech).
- Aims to outline a new set of relations between creative individuals and communities, consumers and citizens, to recognise the knowledge goods

- produced by creative communities, improve access to them and income from them.
- Current early draft is based on discussions at a workshop at the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue meeting in 2006.

Bloggers' code of conduct

http://blogging.wikia.com/wiki/Blogger's_Code_of_Conduct

- Drafted collaboratively by bloggers from March 2007, in response to growing recognition of the damage that hateful and personal online expression can cause. Covers issues including: responsibility for content; civility; managing attacks; privacy of sources; anonymity.
- Provoked heated online debate about the advantages and pitfalls of a voluntary code for bloggers.
- Similar initiatives include the Center for Citizen Media's Principles of Citizen Journalism (<http://citmedia.org/principles>) and Wikipedia's 'Wikiquote' guidelines for contributions to Wikipedia.