



Third Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/128/DR-am  
11 March 2013

**THE USE OF MEDIA, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA,  
TO ENHANCE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY**

Amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted within the statutory deadline by the delegations of Belgium, China, Congo, Cuba, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic and by Senator Sonia Escudero of Argentina

**PREAMBLE**

Preambular paragraph 1

Amend to read as follows:

(1) Considering that ~~citizen engagement by parliamentarians~~ **the dialogue between citizens and parliamentarians** has the potential to foster greater respect for democracy and democratic institutions, thus countering declining voter participation and promoting greater accountability,

(Switzerland)

New preambular paragraph 1bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 1 to read as follows:

(1bis) Recognizing that enhancing cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians would substitute confrontation and would encourage the further promotion of dialogue in the media among all cultures and civilizations, to the benefit of building capacities to promote democracy and good governance at the national and international levels,

(Islamic Republic of Iran)

New preambular paragraphs 1bis and 1ter

Add two new paragraphs after preambular paragraph 1 to read as follows:

(1bis) Taking note of the fact that traditional media, in particular those that respect professional standards of editorial independence, plurality and quality of information, continue to be a main source of information on parliament for much of the world's population,

**(1ter) Mindful of the fact that traditional media are facing challenges in responding to rapid technological and financial changes, which may affect their ability to provide information, including information about parliament, and noting that independent, pluralistic and quality media are fundamental for democratic processes,**

(Switzerland)

Preambular paragraph 2

Amend to read as follows:

**(2) Aware that increasing numbers of citizens and parliamentarians are using social media globally and in particular in developed countries,**

(Indonesia)

New preambular paragraph 2bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 2 to read as follows:

**(2bis) Cognizant of the possibilities offered by social media services for promoting the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms while underscoring that these same rights and freedoms, in particular the right to privacy and human dignity, may also be threatened on social networks,**

(France)

New preambular paragraphs 3bis and 3ter

Add two new paragraphs after preambular paragraph 3 to read as follows:

**(3bis) Aware that the democratization of global Internet governance should be at the centre of parliamentary debate given that State security, sovereignty, self-determination, the peaceful co-existence of nations and the universal right to knowledge without discrimination could be affected,**

**(3ter) Also aware that parliaments could use the media to support efforts aimed at underscoring the need for democratization of global Internet governance,**

(Cuba)

New preambular paragraph 4bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 4 to read as follows:

**4bis) Underscoring that parliamentary work should be explained to citizens in a comprehensible and attractive manner,**

(Belgium)

Preambular paragraph 5

Amend to read as follows:

**(5) Affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of women in the democratic process,**

(Indonesia)

Preambular paragraph 7

Amend to read as follows:

(7) Underscoring the potential of social media **and recent information technology** to enhance parliamentarians' engagement with youth and to raise awareness of the problems, needs and aspirations of youth,  
(Indonesia)

New preambular paragraph 7bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 7 to read as follows:

**(7bis) Aware of the need to promote security in a digital society, particularly with regard to traditionally unprotected groups of people, such as the elderly or children, and persons with a physical, mental and/or sensory disability,**  
(Spain)

New preambular paragraph 7bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 7 to read as follows:

**(7bis) Affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of senior citizens in the democratic process, including their knowledge and use of social media,**  
(Sweden)

Preambular paragraph 8

Amend to read as follows:

(8) Aiming to ensure that citizen engagement efforts do not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, socio-economic status, place of residence, disability, **religious belief**, ethnicity or political affiliation,  
(Cuba)

Preambular paragraph 11

Amend to read as follows:

(11) Considering that citizens' ability to engage with parliamentarians depends ~~not only~~ **partially** on access to technology ~~but also~~ **as well as** on their knowledge of parliament and parliamentary procedure,  
(Belgium)

New preambular paragraph 11bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 11 to read as follows:

**11bis) Bearing in mind the irreplaceable nature of personal contact in the field for elected politicians to explain and clarify action taken by the authorities,**  
(Belgium)

New preambular paragraph 11bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 11 to read as follows:

**(11bis) Underscoring the fact that fostering media and Internet literacy with regard to both traditional and new social media is an essential prerequisite for enhancing youth participation and inclusion in the political process,**  
(Switzerland)

Preambular paragraph 12

Delete and replace with a new preambular paragraph 1bis. (Switzerland)

Preambular paragraph 13

Delete and replace with a new preambular paragraph 1ter. (Switzerland)

Preambular paragraph 14

Amend to read as follows:

(14) **Deeply c**Concerned that social media may also be used to send hate messages, sometimes anonymously, and allow people with malicious intentions to organize and mobilize others, which may undermine democracy,  
(China)

Amend to read as follows:

(14) Concerned that social media may also be used to send hate messages, sometimes anonymously, and allow people with malicious intentions to organize and mobilize others, which may undermine democracy **and peace**,  
(Indonesia)

New preambular paragraph 14bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 14 to read as follows:

**(14bis) \_\_\_ Noting that there are difficulties in using social media to build a consensus by gathering various opinions in a balanced manner although they function well in disseminating a certain political opinion,**  
(Japan)

Preambular paragraph 15

Amend to read as follows:

(15) **Underlining the importance of** ~~Highlighting the need to respecting~~ laws regarding defamation and libel,  
(China)

Amend to read as follows:

(15) Highlighting the need to respect laws regarding defamation and libel, **with particular legislative efforts aimed at avoiding incitement to hatred,**  
(Indonesia)

Amend to read as follows:

(15) Highlighting the need to respect laws regarding defamation and libel, **and stressing that defamation is a serious affront to human dignity leading to violations of human rights, as well as discriminatory practices against the members of different societies,**  
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

New preambular paragraphs 15bis and 15ter

Add two new paragraphs after preambular paragraph 15 to read as follows:

| **(15bis) Convinced of the very important role that media and press regulatory bodies can play in protecting human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the right to privacy,**

| **(15ter) Also convinced of the role that media and parliamentary press bodies can play in scaling up communication between parliament and the public,**  
(Congo)

New preambular paragraph 15bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 15 to read as follows:

**(15bis) Aware of the need to use social media responsibly, not only fully respecting prevailing legislation, but also the confidentiality, privacy and integrity aspects of the information dealt with,**  
(Spain)

New preambular paragraph 15bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 15 to read as follows:

**(15bis) Affirming that traditional media depend largely on undisciplined social media in order to evade the rules of traditional media that guarantee human rights,**  
(Syrian Arab Republic)

Preambular paragraph 16

| Delete the existing paragraph and add a new paragraph to read as follows:

| ~~**(16) Aware of the significant challenges that would be encountered in developing a universally enforceable code of conduct for social media users,**~~

(16) **Aware of the importance of engaging citizens, users and providers of social media platforms in developing commonly shared codes of ethics on respecting the rights and dignity of others when using such platforms,**

(Switzerland)

Preambular paragraph 19

Delete the paragraph. (China)

Preambular paragraph 19

Amend to read as follows:

(19) Mindful of the watchdog role of journalists in the political system and the need for journalists to be accountable to the public **while following the canons of journalism,**

(India)

New preambular paragraphs 19bis and 19ter

Add two new paragraphs after preambular paragraph 19 to read as follows:

**19bis) Aware that journalists no longer have the monopoly on information dissemination, as users of social media generate content and information themselves,**

**19ter) Bearing in mind that systematic adaptation to the developments and requirements of social media may result in the displacement of parliamentary debates to the media,**

(Belgium)

Preambular paragraph 19

Delete the paragraph. (China)

Preambular paragraph 19

Amend to read as follows:

(19) Mindful of the watchdog role of journalists in the political system and the need for journalists to be accountable to the public **while following the canons of journalism,**

(India)

Preambular paragraph 20

Delete the paragraph. (China)

Preambular paragraph 21

Amend to read as follows:

**(21) Affirming that the right to freedom of expression should also be protected online, and bearing in mind that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with** ~~Underscoring the right to freedom of expression as enshrined in~~ Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

(China)

New preambular paragraph 21bis

Add a new paragraph after preambular paragraph 21 to read as follows:

**(21bis) Also underscoring Article 20 paragraph 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, according to which “Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law”,**

(France)

**OPERATIVE PART**

Operative paragraph 1

Amend to read as follows:

1. Recommends that parliaments develop **recommended** strategies and guidelines for enhancing citizen engagement in the democratic process through the use of media, including social media;

(India)

~~Operative paragraph 2 and operative paragraph 4~~

~~Invert the position of the two paragraphs.~~

~~(Belgium)~~

Operative paragraph 2

Delete operative paragraph 2 and replace with a new paragraph to read as follows:

~~2. Calls on parliaments to actively provide information to the public on parliamentary business, debates and procedures;~~

2. **Calls on parliaments to disseminate through the media, including social media, information on parliamentary business, debates and procedures with the aim of familiarizing citizens with them and making them more comprehensible, attractive and dynamic;**

(Belgium)

~~Operative paragraph 2 and operative paragraph 4~~

~~Invert the position of the two paragraphs.~~

~~(Belgium)~~

Amend to read as follows:

2. Calls on parliaments to **use all available media platforms to** actively provide information to the public on parliamentary business, debates and procedures **in order to increase transparency and public awareness of democratic processes;**  
(Philippines)

Operative paragraph 4

Amend to read as follows:

4. Calls on the IPU to collect and make publicly available the guidelines developed by its Member Parliaments, ~~and to develop best practices in~~ **on** the use of social media to enhance citizen engagement;  
(China)

Operative paragraph 5

Amend to read as follows:

5. Encourages parliaments to use media, including social media, as part of a platform to interact with citizens, while ensuring that any social media engagement would not ~~completely~~ replace off-line engagement, including through traditional media;  
(Switzerland)

New operative paragraph 5bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 5 to read as follows:

- 5bis. Encourages parliaments to learn to use social media in order to communicate directly with the public in ways suited to the characteristics of those media and aware of their strengths and weaknesses;**  
(Japan)

Operative paragraph 6

Amend to read as follows:

6. Urges parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure that their citizen engagement efforts are accessible to all regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, place of residence, disability, **religious belief**, ethnicity or political affiliation;  
(Cuba)

Operative paragraph 8

Amend to read as follows:

8. Urges parliaments to take effective measures aimed at narrowing the digital divide, ~~which prevents a large portion of the population from gaining access to social media platforms~~ **especially for developing countries where the majority of the population still does not have access to information technology resources;**

(Philippines)

New operative paragraph 8bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 8 to read as follows:

**8bis. Calls on all stakeholders to foster Internet and media literacy for all citizens, in particular children and young people, for example by developing and offering special educational and training programmes;**

(Switzerland)

Operative paragraph 9

Merge operative paragraphs 7 and 9 and amend to read as follows:

9. **Encourages** ~~Urges~~ parliaments to provide parliamentarians with the **necessary information technology** resources, assistance, training, equipment, technical support and , access **and any other forms of assistance that may be necessary to effectively use media, including social media, as a way** of engaging **with** citizens ~~both online and offline;~~

(Philippines)

New operative paragraph 9bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 9 to read as follows:

**9bis. Requests parliaments and governments to allocate significant funds to media and press agencies, particularly public ones, so as to allow them, through their work, to achieve high-quality journalism that meets the information needs of populations;**

(Congo)

New operative paragraph 9bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 9 to read as follows:

**9bis. Recommends that parliaments and governments develop and promote, in collaboration with civil society stakeholders, coherent strategies aimed at protecting and promoting respect for human rights in the context of social network services, in particular by undertaking with social media providers to protect users from any harm or violation of their rights, to enhance transparency regarding the use of information and to refrain from any unlawful use of personal information;**

(France)

Operative paragraph 10

Amend to read as follows:

10. Also urges parliaments and parliamentarians to respect the right to freedom of expression, **information and assembly**, both online and offline;  
(Switzerland)

New operative paragraph 10bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 10 to read as follows:

- 10bis. Encourages parliaments to examine questions related to verification of the reliability of information generated by social media;**  
(Belgium)

New operative paragraph 10bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 10 to read as follows:

- 10bis. Underscores that a free, open and accessible Internet is both a fundamental human right and a tool for citizens to enhance engagement and democracy, also underscores that parliamentarians must assume responsibility for ensuring that citizens have access to free and secure communications online;**  
(Sweden)

Operative paragraph 11

Amend to read as follows:

11. Underscores that any regulation of the media must be consistent with **agreed** international human rights obligations in relation to the right to freedom of expression;  
(India)

Amend to read as follows:

11. Underscores that any regulation of the media must be consistent with international human rights obligations in relation to the right to freedom of expression **in particular, paragraph 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as Article 19 paragraph 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;**  
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Operative paragraph 12

Amend to read as follows:

12. ~~Calls on~~ **Invites parliaments to adopt, where necessary, legislative measures to ensure that all social media providers and users to** respect their country's laws

regarding defamation and libel in accordance with international human rights law;  
(France)

Amend to read as follows:

- 12. Calls on all social media users to respect their country's laws regarding defamation and libel in accordance with **national and agreed** international human rights law;

(India)

New operative paragraph 12bis

Delete operative paragraph 12 and add a new paragraph to read as follows:

~~12. Calls on all social media users to respect their country's laws regarding defamation and libel in accordance with international human rights law;~~

- 12. **Calls upon press associations globally to develop ways and means of ensuring the enforcement of journalism ethics and standards;**

(Indonesia)

New operative paragraphs 12bis and 12ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 12 to read as follows:

- 12bis. **Calls on parliaments to actively support and protect journalists and social media users, including bloggers, and defenders of the freedom of speech around the world;**

- 12ter. **Urges parliaments and parliamentarians to protect the right to freedom of expression and speech so as to facilitate journalists' watchdog role through traditional media and social media while respecting ethical codes, thereby enhancing democracy;**

(Sweden)

Operative paragraph 13

Amend to read as follows:

- 13. ~~Also calls on all~~ **Also invites parliaments to adopt, where necessary, legislative measures to ensure that social media providers and users to refrain from any incitement to hatred, violence and discrimination against a person or group of persons based on nationality, ethnicity or religion, gender, sexual orientation or identity or disability** ~~hate speech or incitement to violence~~ in accordance with international human rights law;

(France)

Amend to read as follows:

- 13. Also calls on all social media users to refrain from hate speech or incitement to violence in accordance with **national and agreed** international human rights law;

(India)

Amend to read as follows:

13. Also calls on all social media **providers to set up a real time system to prevent users to refrain from** hate speech or incitement to violence **from being circulated in their system** ~~in accordance with international human rights law;~~

(Indonesia)

Amend to read as follows:

13. Also calls on all social media **providers and** users to refrain from hate speech or incitement to violence in accordance with international human rights law, **and expresses the need to develop codes of ethics and social norms denouncing acts of defamation perpetrated on the pretext and justification of freedom of expression;**

(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Amend to read as follows:

13. Also calls on all social media users to refrain from hate speech or incitement to violence, **and to devise mechanisms that would prevent the use of technology to harass or threaten parliamentarians in the efficient performance of their duties** in accordance with international human rights law;

(Philippines)

New operative paragraph 13bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 13 to read as follows:

**13bis. Calls on parliaments to engage in a dialogue with users and providers of social media platforms on developing codes of ethics regarding what content and behaviour is acceptable in a free and democratic society;**

(Switzerland)

Operative paragraph 15

Amend to read as follows:

15. Invites parliaments to ~~examine and~~ put in place where necessary a ~~regulatory framework~~ **regulations and procedures guaranteeing the rights of all persons using new information and communication technologies** ~~to ensure that mobile and online platforms protect the rights of all persons in~~ a representative and participatory democracy;

(France)

New operative paragraphs 15bis and 15ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 15 to read as follows:

**15bis. Calls on parliamentarians to not only use new technologies safely, but also to promote such use by third parties and instil a culture of security in the use of social media;**

**15ter. Urges parliamentarians to work towards achieving a safer digital society, particularly with regard to the use of social networks;**

(Spain)

Operative paragraph 16

Amend to read as follows:

16. ~~Encourages~~~~Proposes that~~ **the incorporation of** social media and technologies be ~~incorporated~~ into laws and regulations governing access to public information;

(China)

New operative paragraph 16bis

Add a new paragraph after operative paragraph 16 to read as follows:

**16bis. Encourages parliaments and governments to adopt measures aimed at protecting press freedom, enhancing its transparency, strengthening its capacities and making it more democratic;**

(Congo)

Operative paragraph 17

Amend to read as follows:

17. **Welcomes** ~~urges~~ the use by parliamentarians, especially women parliamentarians, of social media to support each other and interact with communities to enhance women's participation and inclusion in democratic processes;
- (China)

Operative paragraph 18

Amend to read as follows:

18. **Also welcomes** ~~urges~~ the use of social media by parliamentarians to increase their engagement with youth and raise awareness of youth problems, needs and aspirations;
- (China)

New operative paragraph 18bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 18 to read as follows:

- 18bis. Taking into account the fact that universal, timely, complete and accurate access to public information is a right guaranteed in international human rights instruments as a prerequisite for citizen participation;**
- (Senator Sonia Escudero of Argentina)

New operative paragraphs 18bis and 18ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 18 to read as follows:

- 18bis. Invites parliaments to conduct a study of media coverage of parliament in their countries so as to gauge the importance of each type of media and each medium;**
- 18ter. Calls on each parliament to adapt to the developments and requirements of the media only if these lead to greater citizen participation;**
- (Belgium)

New operative paragraphs 18bis and 18ter

Add two new paragraphs after operative paragraph 18 to read as follows:

- 18bis. Requests the governments of countries that do not already have one to put in place an independent watchdog body to monitor the proper functioning of the freedom of expression and communication of the media and press and to prevent abuses and human rights violations that might result from the activity of communications professionals;**
- 18ter. Encourages parliaments to diversify their means of communication by creating their own media and press bodies and by facilitating public access thereto;**
- (Congo)

New operative paragraph 18bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 18 to read as follows:

- 18bis. Encourages parliaments and parliamentarians to establish and respect codes of ethics for communications and to recognize the need for discussions and mutual agreements on how political or other debates should be conducted;**  
(Sweden)

New operative paragraph 18bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 18 to read as follows:

- 18bis. Calls on IPU Members to develop legislation to limit violations regarding the public use of social media and to avoid evasion of the rules governing traditional media that protect human rights by using social media without verifying the truth, given the fact that social media are inadequate and negatively affect societies.**  
(Syrian Arab Republic)