
STRENGTHENING MEDIA FREEDOM AND INFORMATION INTEGRITY THROUGH OPEN GOVERNMENT REFORMS

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In collaboration with the Open Government Partnership.



Foreword by Camille Grenier, Executive Director, Forum on Information and Democracy



As the report [Information Systems and Troubled Democracy](#) highlights, the media is under growing economic pressure, leading to news deserts in several regions of the world, while threats against journalists continue to challenge the right to information. In parallel, the recent announcements by big tech leaders show the dependence and fragility of the global information space, in which disinformation thrives and access to reliable information is threatened.

In this context, well-intentioned policymakers — those who care about building policies that ensure a healthier information space sometimes — face hard-to-overcome challenges. Whether the lobbying power of tech companies toward the legislative branch, sudden priority shifts from the government, or a new crisis bursting in the agenda, these inside reformers often need to do a lot of convincing and pedagogy. They also need to hold the line against all the headwinds.

Supporting them is a core element of the mandate of both the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the Forum on Information and Democracy (FID). And it is only natural that these two initiatives have joined forces to further explore how their respective communities can build more bridges and support each other's efforts.

Concretely, the series of webinars hosted in March 2025 have allowed the FID's community to learn more about the OGP's approach and mechanisms: by bringing government reformers and civil society organizations together, the OGP effectively allows governments to elaborate and implement ambitious reforms. Their recently launched challenge on media freedom and digital governance is a major opportunity to push for concrete reforms in member countries.

This report, based on these webinars and prepared by the FID in collaboration with the OGP, is addressed to policymakers and civil society actors and presents concrete next steps to leverage the OGP processes to implement reforms on media freedom and information integrity.

It reflects on the urgent necessity to move from defining the problem to the implementation of already available and evidence-based solutions, as developed and promoted by the FID.

Foreword by Aidan Eyakuze, CEO of the Open Government Partnership



Today, trust in public institutions is under intense pressure. The spread of disinformation and the continued shrinking of civic space threaten the exercise of democratic principles and values. In this context, the integrity of information is not just a policy concern but a foundational pillar of open government. The public must be able to rely on accurate, accessible, and transparent information. This unlocks the public's ability to participate meaningfully in democratic processes and to hold leaders to account.

At the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP), we are convinced that the solutions to these challenges lie in collective, open, inclusive, and innovative action. OGP action plans give reformers — inside and outside government — a powerful tool to take action and co-create commitments that strengthen citizens' access to trustworthy information.

From promoting media freedoms to protecting the rights of journalists and strengthening the transparency and public oversight of artificial intelligence, OGP offers a powerful and inclusive infrastructure to turn intention and ambition into actionable reforms.

The [Open Gov Challenge](#) is our call to action and an opportunity to align ambition with urgency. Through the Challenge, we invite OGP members to take bold steps in tackling the most pressing issues of our time, including ensuring information integrity in an age of digital disruption.

By embracing the Challenge, countries can share and scale innovative practices, learn from one another, and ensure that their commitments are both responsive to global threats and grounded in local needs and solutions.

I encourage all reformers — government officials, civil society leaders, journalists, and the public — to use the OGP as a tool for real impact. Together we can design and implement reforms that restore trust, protect people's right to know and safeguard democratic discourse.

Let's seize this moment to build a more transparent, accountable, and truthful future together!



About the Open Government Partnership

The [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#) is a unique global initiative that brings together governments and civil society to drive concrete commitments aimed at promoting transparency, increasing public participation, combating corruption, and leveraging technology to make governments more open, effective, and accountable to citizens worldwide.

Launched on September 20, 2011, during the UN General Assembly, OGP began with eight heads of state and an equal number of civil society leaders endorsing the Open Government Declaration and unveiling the first set of action plans, each containing specific commitments to advance open government reforms. Since then, OGP has expanded to 77 countries, 150 local governments, and thousands of civil society organizations. OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism ensures accountability by providing comprehensive, impartial reports that assess government progress on their commitments.



About the Forum on Information and Democracy

The Forum on Information and Democracy (FID) is an international entity founded by 11 independent organizations from different backgrounds and regions. It acts as the implementing entity of the [Partnership for Information and Democracy](#), an inter-governmental nonbinding agreement signed by 55 States, which sets high-level principles for a democratic information and communication space.

Since 2019, the FID has produced hundreds of recommendations on the most pressing issues at the intersection of the information ecosystem and democracy, including the [spread of disinformation; accountability regimes; pluralism of information; media sustainability](#); and, most recently, [public interest artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#).

In January 2025, the International Observatory on Information and Democracy — a core FID project — launched its inaugural meta-research report [Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy](#), which provides a critical overview of the threats posed by online disinformation and democratic destabilization through the analysis of AI, media, and data governance research.

Contents

Foreword by Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the Forum on Information and Democracy	3
Foreword by Aidan Eyakuze, CEO of the Open Government Partnership	4
About the Open Government Partnership	5
About the Forum on Information and Democracy	5
Contents	6
1. Why free media and information integrity matter	7
1.1 Freedom of the media	7
1.2 Media freedom in decline	8
1.3 Information integrity	10
1.4 The transformation of the global information space	10
2. The Open Gov Challenge	11
Media Freedom	11
Digital Governance	11
3. How to leverage the OGP process to promote media freedom and information integrity	12
3.1 The OGP process - a participative process that can foster inclusion of media actors at a structural level	12
3.2 Reforms on media freedom and digital governance	13
3.2.1 On Media Freedom	14
Effective protection of journalists	14
Enhance & stabilize funding	16
Improving transparency and independence of the media	16
Promoting media plurality & diversity	17
3.2.2 On Digital Governance: Establish a healthy information ecosystem	18
Establish democratic rules and accountability regimes for online providers	19
Empower users	21
Enhance transparency and access to data of online providers	22
Concluding remarks	24

1. Why free media and information integrity matter

1.1 Freedom of the media

Media freedom is a fundamental principle ensuring that journalists and news organizations can operate without undue interference from state, corporate, or other powerful actors.

As highlighted by the Declaration on Information and Democracy (2018), journalism's social function is that of a "trusted third party" for societies and individuals who hold elites to account by exposing corruption and abuses of power and ensure that civil rights and freedoms are protected. ¹ By monitoring legal processes and holding officials accountable, a free press contributes to the enforcement and integrity of the rule of law.

Journalists' independence is also critical for fostering a well-informed citizenry. Media platforms serve as essential forums for public debate, facilitating the expression of dissenting opinions and encouraging broader civic participation. As stated by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) "No nation can hope to develop democratically without the free expression, publication and distribution of ideas and opinions." ²

The recent report of the *Observatory on Information and Democracy* highlights that: "Democratization is expected to be accompanied by an independent media industry. A vibrant public sphere (or healthy information ecosystem) is central to the ideal of rational democratic deliberation. In this context, news media are expected to provide factual, accurate and impartial (or objective) information."

Source: Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), *Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance*, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

Freedom of expression and media freedom are recognized and protected under national and international law. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that: "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966) similarly states that: "everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference ... [and] the right to freedom of expression" and recognizes that these rights entail duties and responsibilities. The Observatory's report further underlines that these normative goals are "not self-executing," and "especially not in countries where democracy is fragile, or in authoritarian states." ³

In addition, freedom of the media is indispensable for the exercise of other fundamental rights, including freedom of assembly, association and participation in public life. A free and open media environment further contributes to more stability and predictability, including investment, climate, attracting foreign capital, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

¹ Forum on Information and Democracy (2018), *International Declaration on Information & Democracy*, <https://informationdemocracy.org/international-declaration-on-information-democracy/>

² The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2012), *Why Free Media Matters*, www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/e/31230.pdf

³ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), *Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance*, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

1.2 Media freedom in decline

In the last decade and in the face of a rapidly evolving digital world dominated by platforms like Facebook, Google, X, WhatsApp, and TikTok, the media has had to adapt quickly. These platforms have fundamentally reshaped how people communicate and access information. Traditional media outlets have responded by changing their operations and organizational frameworks and building their own online presence in order to survive.⁴

However, this transition has come at a substantial cost. The media industry struggles with unprecedented financial instability as advertising revenue that once supported independent journalism has now moved to social media and online platforms.⁵ These difficulties are further exacerbated by a global climate of increasing threats and attacks against the media.

Attacks on the media

There is no media freedom when journalists are being attacked for doing their work. Media professionals are increasingly facing harassment, intimidation, and attacks from governments and political figures around the world, while the spread of viral disinformation and conspiracy campaigns are polluting information ecosystems and eroding trust in the media as a whole. This has been highlighted by Reporters Without Borders' [2024 World Press Freedom Index](#), which sees a global worrying decline in support and respect for media autonomy and an increase in pressure from the state or other political actors.

Between 2006 and 2024, over 1,700 journalists were killed around the world, with close to 9 out of 10 cases of these killings remaining judicially unresolved, according to the [UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists](#). While killings are the most extreme form of media censorship, journalists are also subjected to countless threats, such as being arbitrarily detained, censored, and targeted with lawsuits and online harassment campaigns designed to intimidate and silence. Women and other minorities are particularly targeted by these cyber harassment campaigns, which has also been reported to result in offline violence.⁶

These attacks and lack of proper investigations by states create a climate of fear for media professionals and have an overall chilling effect for society by impeding the free circulation of information, opinions and ideas for all citizens.

Financial instability of the media

The pressure of increasing attacks and threats against journalists is doubled with a financial pressure on the media industry in general, which finds itself at a critical juncture.⁵ The dependence of news media on digital platforms puts a significant strain on journalists and news organizations that are struggling to adjust to declining advertising revenue. Public Service Media also faces varying levels of financial support, because some organizations have been politicized and influenced by political elites, which also threatens their funding as demonstrated by the latest funding cut to Voices of America.⁷

⁴ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

⁵ City St George's Press Office (2025), Decline in media freedom 'hand-in-hand' with democratic backsliding, <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2025/january/media-freedom-democracy>

⁶ Reporters Without Borders (2024), "Journalism in The #MeToo Era," <https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/medias/file/2024/10/Journalism%20in%20the%20%23MeToo%20Era.pdf>

⁷ BBC News (2025), Trump moves to close down Voice of America www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvge41109r3o

These challenges, including declining advertising, are due in large part to platform business models and the priority given by digital platforms to monetizing audience engagement. A study from Accenture reveals that from 2018-2023, big tech infiltrators grew their operating cash flow four times faster than legacy media (10.0% vs. 2.5%).⁸ Most news organizations are struggling to maintain financial sustainability and independence, and news deserts are emerging in some regions.⁹

As stated by the report of the Observatory, this lack of sustainable financing is putting significant pressure on journalists and their editorial processes and influencing public perceptions of the trustworthiness of news organizations as news media organisations face the multiple challenges of “maintaining editorial authority independent of platforms and governments, maintaining high-quality news standards, and delivering in-depth and diverse content.”¹⁰

This financial decline has direct and far reaching repercussions. Everyday, local media outlets are experiencing layoffs or shutdowns. *According to the Local News Initiative* at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, by the end of 2025, the United States will have lost one-third of its newspapers in the past 20 years. Legacy media is being shut down, with the latest example of Voice of America whose 1,300 staff members have been put on administrative leave.¹¹ In Europe, the media landscape has been called “perilously close to breaking point” by the Civil Liberties Union for Europe as a result of deliberate harm or neglect by national governments.

Why the erosion of media freedom matters

Democratic societies only can function sustainably with well-informed citizens who have the freedom to access, share, and debate information and ideas. As stated in the *OSCE report*, when countries move toward autocracy, media freedom is the most — and often the first — aspect of democracy to come under attack and be eroded. The report highlights that “assaults on media freedom are a strong indication that other democratic rights and freedoms – and therefore human security – are also in danger.”¹²

A decline of media freedom has been shown to lead to security threats by opening pathways for adversarial actors to influence the country in unexpected and even subversive ways.¹³ On the other hand, publicly available and reliable sources of quality information may help fight back, because it is a prerequisite to effectively understand the drivers of political instability and has proven useful in uncovering adversarial influence operations and alerting the public of potential vulnerabilities.¹⁴

A vibrant media sector also contributes to economic growth. They help markets work better by facilitating trade and transmitting ideas and innovation across boundaries.¹⁵ PromethEUs, an independent network of four Southern-European think tanks, found that the media industry is a strong contributor to gross domestic product (GDP) creation in the national economies of Greece, Spain, Italy, and Portugal, with total contributions in the range of 2.1%-2.4% of each country’s annual GDP in 2019.¹⁶

⁸ Accenture (2024), Reinvent for growth in the Media Industry Only the RADICAL will survive and thrive, www.accenture.com/content/dam/accenture/final/accenture-com/document-2/Accenture-Reinvent-For-Growth-2024-Final.pdf

⁹ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

¹⁰ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

¹¹ BBC News (2025), Trump moves to close down Voice of America www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvge41109r3o

¹² OSCE (2024), Media Freedom, Democracy and Security, www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/0/572878_1.pdf

¹³ Murphy, D. (2024), Why the Decline of Local Media Could Be a Security Risk www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2024/08/why-the-decline-of-local-media-could-be-a-security.html

¹⁴ Global Investigative Journalism Network (2023), Pro-China Propaganda, Espionage Tools, Green Illusion: 2023’s Best Investigative Stories from Southeast Asia, <https://gijn.org/stories/2023-best-investigative-stories-southeast-asia/>

¹⁵ Free Press Unlimited, The Right to Tell: The Role of Mass Media in Economic Development, <https://kq.freepressunlimited.org/evidence/the-right-to-tell-the-role-of-mass-media-in-economic-development/>

¹⁶ www.prometheusnetwork.eu/blog/the-economic-footprint-of-the-media-sector-in-europe/

1.3 Information integrity

As highlighted by the Partnership for Information and Democracy (2019), the global information and communication space should be a shared public good in the support of human rights, notably the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and should promote access to reliable information.¹⁷

Building upon these principles, information integrity has been defined by the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Information Integrity (2024) as “the result of an information environment that promotes access to accurate, reliable, evidence-based, and plural information sources and that enable individuals to be exposed to plural and diverse ideas, make informed choices, and better exercise their rights.”¹⁸

1.4 The transformation of the global information space

Digitalization has transformed how we access, share, and consume information. It has led to the rise of online news media and an increasing reliance on social media for news consumption. According to the Observatory’s report, research suggests that social media has gained importance in news consumption, particularly among the younger generation, whereas older people tend to rely more on legacy media. Other factors such as political interest and education also define news consumption habits.¹⁹ For example, Ofcom’s recent study shows that half of the UK population relies on social media as a news source.²⁰

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms play a growing role in analyzing content, determining its visibility, and tailoring it to people based on the data they share. The use of personal data does not follow any fair, transparent, or accountable rules but is tailored to profit maximization through maximum engagement. This extensive use of data for private interests is what Shoshana Zuboff framed as surveillance capitalism. When citizens’ interactions on social media are tracked, recorded, and analyzed, these companies predict and shape people’s behavior.²¹

This has negative consequences for access to reliable information and pluralism and diversity of information and has led to the spread of misinformation and disinformation, negatively affecting democracy, open government, and economic development.

An asymmetrical power relation between private companies and democratic institutions, characterizes this space. While some governments have set democratic guarantees, enforcement gaps remain, and recent developments in big tech companies have intensified a pushback against any kind of regulation.²²

¹⁷ Forum on Information and Democracy (2019), International Partnership for Information and Democracy, <https://informationdemocracy.org/international-partnership-on-information-democracy/>

¹⁸ OECD (2024), Recommendation of the Council on Information Integrity, <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0505>

¹⁹ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

²⁰ Ofcom (2024), News consumption in the UK: 2024, <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/research-and-data/tv-radio-and-on-demand-research/tv-research/news/news-consumption-2024/news-consumption-in-the-uk-2024-report.pdf?v=379621>

²¹ Zuboff, S. (2018), The Age of Surveillance Capitalism

²² Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

2. The Open Gov Challenge

The [Open Gov Challenge](#) launched by the OGP in 2023 during the global summit in Estonia is “a call to action for all members of OGP to raise ambition in ten areas of open government to help strengthen our democracies.” It includes two areas related to information integrity, notably [Digital Governance](#) and [Media Freedom](#). It presents a unique opportunity to promote reforms on media freedom and information integrity.

Media freedom

Develop or reinforce legal frameworks that protect the rights of journalists and independent media. Actions and reforms that fit within the scope of this challenge area are:

- Removing criminal defamation, libel, and other penalties for reporting and tackling the use of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) to silence journalists and activists.
- Creating supportive environments for revenue generation and mechanisms that allow for independent and public-funded media platforms and avoid the concentration of media ownership at the national and/or local level.
- Developing reforms related to reviewing or passing new media laws aligned with open government principles.

Digital governance

Strengthen transparency and public oversight of AI, automated decision-making, and data protection frameworks.

Actions and reforms that fit within the scope of this challenge area are:

- making underlying data publicly available (e.g., through transparency registers for algorithms);
- embedding human rights impact assessments;
- creating public grievance mechanisms;
- creating or strengthening independent oversight agencies;
- creating specific public participation opportunities;
- creating specific mechanisms to promote digital inclusion on AI, automated decision-making, and data protection frameworks and to prevent online discrimination and disinformation based on their use;
- developing reforms that protect personal data and privacy frameworks through establishing transparency, accountability, and consent mechanisms and requirements.

Source: OGP, Open Government Challenge Areas, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/the-open-gov-challenge/open-government-challenge-areas/#toc03>

3. How to leverage the OGP process to promote media freedom and information integrity

3.1 The OGP process — a participative process that can foster inclusion of media actors at a structural level

The OGP process builds upon a participatory process that involves the establishment of a space for ongoing dialogue and cooperation between government, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders, such as a Multi-Stakeholder Forum or Platform. This Forum enables a continuous inclusion of civil society — not only in developing an action plan but also in its implementation and communication and engagement efforts. Beyond this structured forum, the OGP process foresees reaching out to and creating opportunities for the participation of other civil society organizations (CSOs) and stakeholder groups in the co-creation process of the action plan.²³

Potential media actors to be involved in the OGP process:

- Audiovisual regulatory authority
- National press council
- Press union/syndicate
- CSOs specialized in defending media freedom
- Information integrity CSOs, research institutions and think tanks
- Ministry of Culture and Media

Evidence from existing OGP action plans suggests that the inclusion of CSOs specialized in media freedom and information integrity issues as well as of media actors (ministries responsible for media, media representatives, and regulatory authorities) have encouraged the development of related commitments in the action plan.

As the below examples show, such organizations can be involved in the Multi-Stakeholder Forum or at least contacted during the co-creation process. They can also play an important role in the implementation of commitments. Their participation in the OGP process ensures the needed expertise and enables tailoring reforms to country needs while aligning them with international good practices.

²³ OGP (2024), OGP National Handbook, Rules and Guidance for Participants, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/OGP-National-Handbook_2024.pdf

Involving media actors in the OGP process

Armenia includes among its OGP committee the Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA), a CSO not only specialized in access to information but also information integrity issues. It has notably contributed to Armenia’s strategy against disinformation. FOICA has encouraged the consideration of media issues in Armenia’s 2022-2024 Action Plan. In addition, media representatives were involved in the consultation process, and the Public Journalism Club is associated in the implementation of commitment.

In **Latvia**, the OGP process is led by the State Chancellery, which established an Oversight Council for the implementation of Latvia’s Fifth National Open Government Action Plan 2022-2025. This Council includes, among others, the Ministry of Culture (responsible for media issues) as well as the National Electronic Mass Media Council (NEMMC), the regulatory authority. NEMMC is also involved in the implementation of the commitment regarding media ownership transparency.

In **Ghana**, the commitment on combating mis- and disinformation has been elaborated with media stakeholders that are also involved in its implementation, notably the Media Foundation for West Africa. Other actors such as Odikro, National Commission on Civic Education, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Information Services Department, and the Ministry of Education are also involved.

Mongolia also involved a range of media actors during the consultation process to elaborate its 5th National Action Plan. These include the Media Council of Mongolia, Center for Journalism Innovation and Development, and the Center for Journalism Innovation and Development.

Sources:

Armenia (2022), Action Plan 2022-2024, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Armenia_Action-Plan_2022-2024_Dec_Amended_EN.pdf; Latvia (2022), Action Plan 2022-2025, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Latvia_Action-Plan_2022-2025_EN.pdf; Ghana (2024), Action Plan 2024-2028, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Ghana_Action-Plan_2024-2028_December.pdf; Mongolia (2023), Action Plan: 2023-2027, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Mongolia_Action-Plan_2023-2027_December.pdf

3.2 Reforms on media freedom and digital governance

As part of a broader OGP commitment to foster meaningful reforms on media freedom and digital governance, these recommendations offer insight into interconnected reform areas that are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are meant to give a sense of the framework that can be undertaken in the context of the OGP to sustainably improve safety and increase financial security to the media. And they provide guidelines to promote and protect information integrity through digital governance.

Any reforms proposed should honor all domestic and international human rights obligations and commitments and ensure compliance with treaties on freedom of opinion and expression; media freedom; the right to seek, receive, and impart information; and the safety of journalists.²⁴

²⁴ Forum on Information and Democracy, International IDEA, DRI (2024), Protecting Democratic Elections Through Safeguarding Information Integrity, <https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Protecting-Democratic-Elections-2024.pdf>

3.2.1 On Media Freedom

Reforms under this area should work toward creating an enabling and sustainable environment for the media to survive and thrive in the digital era.

Effective protection of journalists

End impunity on attacks against journalists

Taking action to end impunity on attacks against journalists is a precondition for media freedom. A culture of impunity not only silences critical voices but also undermines public trust in justice systems and further exacerbates violence against the media.

States should provide stronger **safety mechanisms** by implementing **robust legal frameworks** to protect journalists facing threats and uphold the rule of law. As recommended by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, these frameworks should be **tailored** to the country's situation and **address the specific threats** that journalists face.²⁵ If the country is at war or is facing high rates of organized crime, rapid-response mechanisms are of vital importance.²⁶ Other good practices identified include **strong political support** from governments regarding the important role of journalists in society and the need to ensure their full protection.

To end the climate of impunity, states should **effectively investigate and prosecute attacks** on journalists, and accountability should extend to not only the perpetrators of these attacks but also those who orchestrate them and often evade justice.

States should also take into account the **emergent safety harassment, especially of women**, because women are 27 times more likely to be targeted by cyber-harassment than men, according to a study by the nongovernmental organization, European Women's Lobby. Reporters Without Borders' *Journalism in the #MeToo Era* report recommends the inclusion of certain forms of cyber-harassment into criminal law, with aggravating circumstances for the perpetrators and those responsible for these offences when they target women journalists and gender minorities.²⁷

Implement robust anti-SLAPPs measures

Another technique to silence the voices of journalists and other society watchdogs is the use of SLAPPs, which can be defined as "groundless or abusive lawsuits, disguised as defamation actions or alleged constitutional and/or civil rights violations, that are initiated against journalists or activists because they exercise their political rights and/or their freedom of expression and information regarding matters of public interest or social significance."²⁸

As the recent [European Union \(EU\) Anti-SLAPP directive](#) highlights, robust safeguards should be implemented to enable media professionals to "fulfil their crucial role as watchdogs on matters of public interest, without fear of punishment for searching for the truth and informing the public."²⁹

²⁵ The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2024, National Frameworks for the Safety of Journalists: a global perspective, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/journalists/ressources/briefer-national-protection-frameworks-safety-journalists-digital.pdf>

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ Reporters Without Borders (2024), "Journalism in The #MeToo Era," <https://rsf.org/sites/default/files/medias/file/2024/10/Journalism%20in%20the%20%23MeToo%20Era.pdf>

²⁸ European Parliament (2024), Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733668/EPRS_BRI\(2022\)733668_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733668/EPRS_BRI(2022)733668_EN.pdf)

²⁹ EU Anti-SLAPPs Directive (EU) 2024/1069 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401069 p2

In this light, states should establish **minimum standards for procedural safeguards, remedies, transparency, and support for SLAPP victims**. These mechanisms should be **ex-ante** and **ex-post**.

For instance, as highlighted by the *Europe Press Freedom Report 2024*,³⁰ these could include:

- setting up a systematic **monitoring system against SLAPPs cases**;
- developing **provisions for the early dismissal** of cases;
- providing **security for legal costs**;
- ensuring **restitution for wrongful suits** and **compensation for damages**;
- and **guaranteeing transparent court procedures**, including the publication of rulings to ensure accountability.

Enhancing journalistic protections in countering SLAPPs

Slovakia, as part of its 2024-2026 action plan, established a commitment on media freedom and protection of journalists. It foresees the establishment of a multistakeholder forum that can oversee and evaluate the implementation of existing regional commitments. These include notably the EU Commission Recommendation No. 2022/758 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (“Strategic lawsuits against public participation”) as well as the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)2 on countering the use of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

Source: Slovakia (2024), Action Plan 2024-2026, https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Slovakia_Action-Plan_2024-2026_June_EN.pdf

Strengthen protection of sources

Protection of sources is essential for investigative journalism and whistleblower protection. *General Comment No. 34 to the ICCPR* provides that states parties “should recognise and respect that element of the right of freedom of expression that embraces the limited journalistic privilege not to disclose sources.” Some sources may require anonymity to prevent physical, economical, or professional retaliation. Forcing disclosure of sources creates a chilling effect by undermining freedom of speech, media freedom, and access to information.

States should provide a **robust legal framework for protecting journalistic sources** to ensure that journalists effectively and meaningfully investigate public interest matters and come forward with information without fear of retaliation. This could include, for example, strong **whistleblower protection laws** or **cybersecurity measures** to protect journalistic data from surveillance or hacking.

Strengthening protection of journalists and their sources

Mongolia’s 5th National Action Plan 2024-2027 foresees an in-depth study and overhaul of the media regulatory framework to strengthen media freedom. This includes legislative changes to the draft Law on the Legal Status of the Whistleblower and Law on Freedom of the Media to guarantee the confidentiality of sources. It also includes revisions to promote beneficial ownership transparency and protection of journalists against law enforcement attacks. Overall, the ethical standards of the sector shall be improved and international recommendations implemented.

Source: Mongolia (2023), Action Plan: 2023-2027, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Mongolia_Action-Plan_2023-2027_December.pdf

³⁰ Council of Europe (2025), Europe Press Freedom Report, 2024 Confronting Political Pressure, Disinformation, and the Erosion of Media Independence, <https://rm.coe.int/prems-013425-gbr-2519-annual-report-2025-correction-cartooning/1680b48f7b>

Enhance & stabilize funding

As the Observatory report highlights, the platformization of news has led to a power asymmetry between news media organizations and digital platforms that must be addressed. Online news providers are competing with platforms for ad revenues. Governments must address the value gap between the media and big tech platforms. In this regard, measures are needed specifically to **require disclosure of revenue and online traffic** so that the value of news hosted by platforms can be established.³¹

The Forum's 2021 report *New Deal for Journalism* presents policy recommendations for governments aimed at not only ensuring the survival of quality journalism in the digital age but also creating a conducive environment for independent journalism and news media to thrive.

The priority is to enhance and stabilize funding of public interest media, notably through direct domestic support that includes providing **legal, fair, transparent, and equitable direct support to independent journalism** (private, public, nonprofit) **while safeguarding editorial independence**.

Other indirect domestic sources of funding are also highlighted, such as tax credits, exemptions, media vouchers, or international support measures through an increase of official development assistance for public interest journalism.

Another measure put forward by the report includes the **development of an international tax policy**, aimed at taxing larger companies and setting a minimum global tax rate to support more funds for media.^{32 33}

Improving transparency and independence of the media

For the media to truly fulfill its mission of society "watchdog," it requires fully independent governance and management with structures that shield the media from direct or indirect government control or influence and allows them to operate autonomously.

However, the latest Media Pluralism Monitor report (June 2024), which assesses the health of media ecosystems across Europe, raises concerns about the independence of public service media in 13 countries regarding their management and financing. Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index 2024 finds a takeover of the media ecosystem, whether through state-owned media under their control or privately owned media via acquisitions by allied businesspeople.³⁴

In light of these global developments, the legal system needs to provide appropriate mechanisms to avoid editorial interference from private owners or governments. This could include, for instance, **mandating transparency in media ownership** (including beneficial/ultimate owners) to allow public scrutiny of political/commercial influence (e.g., publicly disclose ownership on their website). **Legal rules should also be put in place for public service media** to be editorially and functionally independent, including through adequate, long-term funding that is free of political strings. States should also implement **strong governance mechanisms for media regulators** to maintain impartiality, independence, and transparency.

³¹ Forum on Information and Democracy (2025), Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance, Observatory on Information and Democracy, https://observatory.informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/rapport_forum_information_democracy_2025.pdf

³² Forum on Information and Democracy (2021), A New Deal for Journalism, https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ForumID_New-Deal-for-Journalism_16Jun21.pdf

³³ This proposition will be further explored by the Forum in a forthcoming policy brief in 2025.

³⁴ RSF (2024), 2024 World Press Freedom Index – journalism under political pressure https://rsf.org/en/2024-world-press-freedom-index-journalism-under-political-pressure?year=2024&data_type=general

Promoting media ownership transparency

Because transparency and enhancing access to information are central to the OGP process, some countries have included transparency about media ownership and beneficial ownership in the framework of such commitments, recognizing the importance of facilitating access to such kind of information.

According to civil society actors involved in **Armenia's** OGP process, this process played an important role in promoting media ownership transparency in Armenia. In this sense, the 2022-2024 Action Plan includes a commitment on "Comprehensive system of electronic procurement: Improving the institute of real beneficiaries," which enhances transparency of beneficial ownership of all businesses, including media companies that have to submit a beneficial ownership declaration to the state register.

Similarly, in the framework of promoting "accessibility and understandability of data, increasing citizens' opportunities to use it and create data-driven solutions" (Commitment 5 of the 2021-2025 Action Plan), **Latvia** included enhancing transparency of media ownership in giving access to mass media ownership, including on beneficial owners, as foreseen by the Electronic Mass Media Law and the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media.

Sources: Armenia (2022), Action Plan 2022-2024, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Armenia_Action-Plan_2022-2024_Dec_Amended_EN.pdf;
 Latvia (2022), Action Plan 2022-2025, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Latvia_Action-Plan_2022-2025_EN.pdf.

Promoting media plurality & diversity

Diverse and independent media sources are essential in promoting a healthy information ecosystem and supporting democratic values.

Protecting media pluralism encompasses two aspects:

- ensuring that a wide range of viewpoints is available and consumed across the media landscape;
- preventing media capture, as described in the point above, which occurs when a media owner or a voice has excessive influence over public opinion and political agenda.

It is also important to note the direct link between media plurality and funding: a lack of funding diversity increases the risk of media concentration. To avoid this, specific measures are needed to promote independent media, including regional, local, minority, and not-for-profit community media.

Such measures can include **direct subsidies**, whether direct or through independent intermediaries to community media, but also **tax exemptions, measures for citizens** to support local journalism, and **incentives** for investors. This also includes a **supportive legal and administrative framework** that facilitates the creation of community media and capacity-building support.³⁵

³⁵ Forum on Information and Democracy (2021), A New Deal for Journalism, https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ForumID_New-Deal-for-Journalism_16Jun21.pdf

Reforming press freedom in Morocco

Since the adoption of the Press and Publishing Code in 2016, the press sector has undergone transformations linked to the digitalization and rise in online news sites. **Morocco's** 2024-2027 Action Plan foresees a “diagnosis of the situation of the print and electronic press” conducted by the Provisory Commission for the Management of the Press and Publishing Affairs. This diagnostic shall lead to regulatory recommendations to reform the Press Code but also recommendations to transform the self-regulation of the press, accession to the journalism profession, and training. The Commission invites other experts to submit their proposals and plans to organize consultative sessions.

Source: Morocco (2024), Action Plan 2024-2027, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Morocco_Action-Plan_2024-2027_Revised_20240627_EN.pdf

3.2.2 On Digital Governance: Establish a healthy information ecosystem

As highlighted above, the right to information does not only depend on an independent and diverse media sector but also on the structures of the global information space, both of which play a growing role in the distribution of news. Media organizations reach a part of their audience via social media and thus have been negatively impacted when Meta decided to take down or reduce access to news. In response to Canada's Online News Act, Meta blocked Canadians' access to news on Instagram and Facebook.³⁶ They are also negatively impacted by untransparent algorithms that are tailored to maximum engagement, which in turn favors the production of clickbait content instead of high-quality content. The declaration of the Partnership for Information and Democracy (2019) provides a vision of an information space that is supportive of the right to information and media freedom.³⁷

Key elements of a democratic global information and communication space

- **A shared public good** of significant democratic value that support the exercise of **human rights**, most notably the right to **freedom of opinion and expression**
- Protection and promotion of **access to reliable information**, which is reliable insofar as its collection, processing, and dissemination are free and independent, based on cross-checking of various sources, in a pluralistic media landscape where the facts can give rise to a diversity of interpretation and viewpoints
- **Protection of journalists and media workers** against all forms of violence, threats, and discrimination
- Existence of **sustainable business models for high-quality independent journalism**
- Online service providers comply with the principles of **transparency; accountability; and political, ideological, and religious neutrality**
- Online service providers enable **access to a variety of media outlets, information, and ideas**

Adapted from the Declaration of the International Partnership for Information & Democracy (2019), <https://informationdemocracy.org/international-partnership-on-information-democracy/>

The establishment of a healthy information ecosystem requires a holistic approach, including democratic rules for the actors of that space, empowerment of users, and access to data to conduct research and verify compliance.

³⁶ BBC (2023), Meta's news ban in Canada remains as Online News Act goes into effect, www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67755133

³⁷ Forum on Information and Democracy (2019), International Partnership for Information and Democracy, <https://informationdemocracy.org/international-partnership-on-information-democracy/>

Establish democratic rules and accountability regimes for online providers

The history of social media has shown that democratic countries cannot rely on self-regulation and the good will of big tech companies to put in place risk mitigation measures to reduce the harms their networks cause to the information space. Recent announcements by big tech leaders to roll back measures that have proven effective, such as fact-checking, illustrate the case.³⁸ Previously, Twitter — when becoming X after the Elon Musk takeover — had pulled out of the voluntary European Code of Practice on Disinformation.³⁹ To promote information integrity, a cornerstone for open governance, democratic states should put in place a regulatory and policy framework that sets clear rules.

Access to reliable information

Access to reliable information is a cornerstone of a global information space to enable an informed citizenry that can actively participate in open government reforms. Currently, the global information space is not characterized by an objective to facilitate access to reliable and diverse information but rather by an objective to encourage engagement:

Online providers should be encouraged to **proactively ensure that recommender algorithms do not impede access to reliable information**, such as public interest journalistic content, as those produced by media and certified by the Journalism Trust Initiative.⁴⁰

It is important that the standards to identify reliable information are neither governed by governments nor by platforms but based on self-regulatory standards from an independent media sector.

Access to reliable information is particularly important in times of elections or crisis. Disinformation and misinformation on election candidates, dates, and procedures have not only been an issue on social media platforms but also in chatbots, as several studies have shown.⁴¹ Cooperation with independent institutions, such as electoral management bodies, can provide an avenue to provide citizens with trustworthy information on the election process.

Particularly during periods of elections, platforms should **proactively collaborate with independent electoral management bodies to provide access to reliable election information** and debunk election mis- and disinformation.⁴²

Tackling electoral disinformation

Indonesia's OGP National Action Plan 2023-2024, as part of the Civic Space and Democracy area, includes a commitment on Creating a Mechanism to Handle Election Disinformation. The commitment is notably led by the General Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu). In cooperation with the relevant ministries, it is foreseen to formulate regulations and establish a participatory oversight mechanism to monitor electoral disinformation.

Source: Indonesia (2023), Action Plan 2023-2024, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Indonesia_Action-Plan_2023-2024_EN.pdf

³⁸ Meta (2025), More Speech and Fewer Mistakes, <https://about.fb.com/news/2025/01/meta-more-speech-fewer-mistakes/>

³⁹ BBC News (2023), Twitter pulls out of voluntary EU disinformation code, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65733969,

⁴⁰ Forum on Information and Democracy (2020), How to End Infodemics, https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ForumID_Report-on-infodemics_101120.pdf

⁴¹ Algorithm Watch (2024), Chatbots are still spreading falsehoods <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/chatbots-are-still-spreading-falsehoods/>

⁴² Forum on Information and Democracy, International IDEA, DRI (2024), Protecting Democratic Elections Through Safeguarding Information Integrity, <https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Protecting-Democratic-Elections-2024.pdf>

Diminishing the reach and effects of dis- and misinformation

While it is important to diminish the effects of dis- and misinformation, any policies to do so should not be abused to stifle freedom of speech and the opinion of opponents. It is therefore advisable to put in place measures that identify the risks of dis- and misinformation and technical solutions that can diminish them, such as fact-checking, user reporting, and reducing the virality of content. It is also important to impose liability on platforms for knowingly and intentionally amplifying harmful dis- and misinformation.

Online providers should conduct **systematic risk assessments of their recommender algorithms** and put in place mechanisms to tackle dis- and misinformation, such as cooperation with **fact-checking organizations and user reporting mechanisms**, as well as technical solutions to **reduce the virality of content**.

Online providers should be held liable for knowingly and intentionally amplifying harmful dis- and misinformation and not putting in place risk-reduction measures.

Establishing a comprehensive frameworks to promote information integrity

Combating mis- and disinformation is part of **Ghana's** Action Plan (2024-2028). This includes, on the one hand, development and establishment of a framework for media literacy and fact-checking and, on the other hand, a human rights assessment of existing legislation to ensure that it does not impact free speech. The assessment will suggest amendments to the Electronic Communications Act, 2008, and the Criminal Offences Act, 1960.

Civil society members of **Canada's** Multi-Stakeholder Forum underlined the importance of commitments on disinformation, particularly in a post-Covid world that was characterized by mis- and disinformation. Canada's 2022-2024 Action Plan, under the section "Democracy and civic space," has a range of measures for a healthy democracy, including free press and fighting disinformation. This includes financing for research on disinformation, capacity-building and knowledge dissemination, new models of private financing for independent journalism, promoting the Guiding Principles on diversity of content online, countering foreign information manipulation, and implementing the Declaration for Electoral Integrity Online.

Kenya's 2023-2027 Action Plan in the framework of a commitment on digital governance aimed at strengthening digital inclusion also includes elements on the information space, notably the elaboration of a Public Participation Bill "on safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms online (freedom of speech, privacy, association and safety, internet shutdowns, etc.)".

Sources: Ghana (2024), Action Plan 2024-2028, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Ghana_Action-Plan_2024-2028_December.pdf;
 Canada (2022), Action Plan 2022-2024, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Canada_Action-Plan_2022-2024_Updated-August2023_EN.pdf;
 Kenya (2023), Action Plan 2023-2027, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Kenya_Action-Plan_2023-2027_December.pdf

In addition to these efforts, measures that promote access to reliable information and open data can also help to reduce the effects of mis- and disinformation. Several members of the OGP community have implemented reforms in this sense.

Fighting disinformation through access to information

Enhancing access to information and open data has been a cornerstone of the OGP, with the presence of access to information law serving as an eligibility criterion. Building upon this tradition, several OGP members have included commitments in their action plan to enhance access to information with the objective of tackling disinformation.

This includes **Armenia's** (2022-2024) commitment to strengthen the strategic communication architecture of the states, enhancing their ability to respond to manipulative content, identify false content, and provide accurate information. **Finland's** plan (2023-2027) puts an emphasis on improving data sharing to enhance access to government information with the objective to prevent misinformation. **Germany's** plan (2023-2025) foresees decentralized dialogues with citizens to build knowledge on foreign policy to prevent dis- or misinformation on the topic.

Sources: Armenia (2022), Action Plan 2022-2024, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Armenia_Action-Plan_2022-2024_Dec_Amended_EN.pdf; Finland (2023), Action Plan 2023-2027, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Finland_Action-Plan_2023-2027_December_EN.pdf; Germany (2023), Action Plan 2023-2027, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Germany_Action-Plan_2023-2025_June_EN.pdf

Accountability regimes

As explained above, democratic states need to put in place accountability regimes for online providers to ensure that they implement democratic rules. The case of X's refusal to nominate a legal representative in Brazil as required by law illustrates the importance of liability regimes. Brazil's Supreme Court then ordered the suspension of the platform until an agreement was found.⁴³ In the EU, the Commission has already opened investigations on big tech for refusal to comply with the Digital Services Act.⁴⁴ It is crucial that platform moderation decisions are made in accordance with international human rights norms and standards and can be reviewed by an independent judicial authority.

Democratic states should **hold platforms accountable for complying with decisions from independent regulatory and judicial authorities** and **apply sanctions** or reinstate accounts and **content** according to the decisions. This can include large fines.⁴⁵

Empower users

Beyond a regulatory approach, user empowerment is a key component of creating a healthy information ecosystem. Mis- and disinformation will never be completely eradicated, but rather users need to be put in a position to critically evaluate the information they encounter and choose the information they are exposed to.

⁴³ Le Monde (2024), Brazilian Supreme Court upholds decision to block X www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/09/03/brazilian-supreme-court-upholds-decision-to-block-x_6724591_4.html

⁴⁴ European Commission (2025), Supervision of the designated very large online platforms and search engines under DSA, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/list-designated-vlops-and-vloses>

⁴⁵ Forum on Information and Democracy (2022), Accountability Regimes for Social Networks and Their Users, https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ID_Report-on-Accountability-regime_Sept22.pdf

User empowerment includes two key elements: building the critical thinking skills of citizens through media literacy and AI literacy programs to enable them to better understand the technology they are using, why they are exposed to certain information, and how to assess it. According to the Observatory's report, these interventions are overall considered as an effective means.

On the other hand, it also includes mechanisms to give users choices — choices in the information they see but also the possibility to challenge content moderation decisions taken against them and choices in terms of how much data they share. This includes user choice in ranking algorithms, interoperability to be able to move from one platform, appeal mechanisms, and privacy control.

Platforms should put an **appeal mechanism** in place to enable account holders to challenge platforms' decisions and provide effective remedies.

Platforms should provide users with the possibility to choose among **several recommender systems, explain** to them why they see certain content, and enable them to set their **privacy preferences**.⁴⁶

Governments should put in place **comprehensive media literacy and AI literacy programs** to equip citizens of all ages with the necessary skills to critically evaluate the technologies they use and the information they interact with.

Promoting media literacy

Australia's 2023-2025 Action Plan puts a focus on the skills of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. According to research, these communities rely less on mainstream media and more heavily on digital media and social media and private messaging apps to access news. Through a Partnership with the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, this commitment will help CALD communities to critically assess information and spot disinformation. It will also strengthen knowledge about the media habits of these communities.

Source: Australia (2023), Action Plan 2023-2025, www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Australia_Action-Plan_2023-2025_December.pdf

Enhance transparency and access to data of online providers

The right to information is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is a cornerstone of the OGP process that has, since the OGP's inception, promoted the adoption and implementation of Access to Information Laws.

The global information space — dominated by private companies — is rather characterized by its opaque nature, with very little access to data, with the exception of the European Digital Services Act requirements, notably its Article 40. In fact, tech companies have reduced the access possibilities they provided, as the end of Meta's Crowdtangle tool illustrates.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Forum on Information and Democracy (2023), Enable Peacebuilding through Safeguarding the Integrity for Information in Space in Times of Conflict, https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ID_Recommendations-in-Times-of-Conflict-2023.pdf

⁴⁷ Le Monde (2024), Meta va supprimer CrowdTangle, logiciel essentiel pour repérer la désinformation sur Facebook et Instagram, www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2024/04/01/meta-va-supprimer-crowdtangle-un-outil-contre-la-desinformation_6225428_4408996.html

However, access to the data of online platforms is crucial to enable a deeper understanding of the scale and severity of mis- and disinformation, the impact of recommender systems on news consumption, and opinion forming. Access to data is also a critical step in assessing compliance with regulatory or self-regulatory obligations. The FID therefore suggests broadening the scope of access to information laws to include big tech. ⁴⁸

Online platforms should be mandated to **publish crucial information about their systems, including their terms of service and policies, their algorithms for content ranking and moderation.**

They should also make available **data regarding moderation requests** (from governments, civil society, and users) and their decisions and turnaround time; the **prevalence, treatment and reach of disinformation; inauthentic accounts and bots; and the activities of trusted flaggers.** ⁴⁹

Platforms should be mandated to make available programs for **vettted independent researchers and independent regulatory authorities** to study systemic risks on their platforms.

Finally, platforms should be mandated to **disclose financial information relating to paid online advertisements** as well as their policy regarding advertisement. ⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Grenier, C; (2024), Five Priority Areas to Bridge the Open Government and Information Integrity Agendas, www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/five-priority-areas-to-bridge-the-open-government-and-information-integrity-agendas

⁴⁹ Forum on Information and Democracy, International IDEA, DRI (2024), Protecting Democratic Elections Through Safeguarding Information Integrity, <https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Protecting-Democratic-Elections-2024.pdf>

⁵⁰ Forum on Information and Democracy, International IDEA, DRI (2024), Protecting Democratic Elections Through Safeguarding Information Integrity, <https://informationdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Protecting-Democratic-Elections-2024.pdf>

Concluding remarks

This report provides some insights into critical reforms that would enhance media freedom and information integrity as crucial aspects of open government. It does not pretend to be an exhaustive list of recommendations but rather builds upon the long-standing work of the FID that has published several hundreds of detailed policy recommendations in line with other recent recommendations and insights from international stakeholders and initiatives.

Beyond these recommendations, it is crucial to extend press freedom and information integrity to citizens' right to access a diverse range of trusted information. States must recognize this fundamental right through principle-based legislations that effectively strengthen quality information access for all. In parallel, major online platforms must acknowledge their responsibility in shaping the information landscape by enhancing user choice and ensure that people can easily access and identify relevant and reliable sources of information.

The OGP and FID are committed to working closely together on moving from defining the problem and potential solutions to their actual implementation. The upcoming [OGP Global Summit](#) to be held in October 2025 in Spain could be a critical moment to move this agenda forward.

