

ESCAP: Topic A Primary Sources

Digital inclusion and accessibility of information and communication technology

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source 1: UN General Assembly Resolution 68/167: The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age

Adopted in the United Nations General Assembly on December 18th, 2013, this resolution provides insight into past solutions to protect digital privacy of member states. As an introduction to the topic, this resolution references Article 17 of *The International Covenant on Civil/Political Rights* and Article 12 of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, both of which are universally accepted documents (articles) that can be used to guide actions taken by delegates during committee.

<https://undocs.org/A/RES/68/167>

Source 2: UN Fact Sheet: Information and Communications Technology (ICTs)

This fact sheet provides numerous factoids, statistics, and brief synopses of the hurdles that member states face in equitably providing technology to their citizens. Focusing on youth and *future* development of ICTs, the document explains current progress on the topic and highlights policies that could be pursued in a resolution agreed upon by ESCAP.

https://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/IYY_Fact_Sheet_ICT_Final.pdf

Source 3: UNHCR Consultation in Connection with UN General Assembly Resolution 68/167

With the passing of Resolution 68/167, the High Commissioner of the UNHCR was requested to submit a report regarding mass collection of personal data and digital surveillance of citizens. In light of this, many supranational organizations including Human Rights Watch, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and World Wide Web Foundation banded together to compose an extensive guide detailing what the High Commissioner's report should focus on. With 27 pages of information, it attempts to navigate the difficult process of internationally regulating digital privacy and surveillance *while also* respecting the sovereignty of states in the UN.

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Privacy/PrivacyInternational.pdf>

Source 4: China's Social Credit System: A mark of progress or a threat to privacy?

In order to assess the current state of ICTs in Asia, it is imperative to understand the current policies in place regarding them. Recently, China has implemented a 'Social Credit' system that uses technology to monitor citizens' actions and punish them for actions the state deems unlawful while also rewarding obedient citizens with perks (e.g. decreased taxes). This policy brief explains the effects of China's system on its regime and the concerns and benefits of similar policies that may be implemented in Asian UN member states.

<https://www.piie.com/system/files/documents/pb18-14.pdf>

Source 5: ICT Co-Deployment with the case of Infrastructure: The Case of Bhutan

Another assessment of current policy, this ESCAP report regarding Bhutan explains how ICTs have been implemented in conjunction with aging infrastructures (especially in developing states like Bhutan). A primary focus of the ESCAP committee will be *equitable* implementation of ICTs in ESCAP member states; thus, delegates should find sections 12-14 particularly useful in determining possible solutions that can be pursued in resolutions.

<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ICT%20Co-Deployment%20with%20the%20Electricity%20Infrastructure%2C%20The%20Case%20of%20Bhutan.pdf>

Source 6: A Three-Fold Plan to Strengthen ICT for Development in Asia-Pacific

Noeleen Hayzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, delivered this speech on November 12th, 2012. As an executive secretary, he outlined his ideas for ICT development in Asia at the beginning of the committee (to assist in beginning debate). His three main points center around infrastructure, policy, and assessment of current development. Further, delegates can use his guidance in creating resolutions that further strengthen the prominence of ICTs across ESCAP.

<https://www.unescap.org/speeches/three-fold-plan-strengthen-ict-development-asia-pacific>