Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Truth, Trust, and Hope in the Global Information Environment: Putting Principles into Practice

21 September, 11:15–12:30, Conference Room 3, UN Headquarters

Organized by: International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE); Member States Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Switzerland; UN Departments of Global Communications, Peace Operations, UNDP Human Development Reports Office

Background on the Event

The Swiss-based International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE) is an independent and global science body producing actionable scientific knowledge about threats to the world's information environment. Its mission is to provide policymakers, industry, and civil society with independent assessments on the global information environment by organizing and elevating research, with the aim of improving the global information environment. Hundreds of leading scientists from around the world contribute to IPIE outputs. This event illustrated how the latest science related to the global information environment is needed to put principles into practice. The event was co-chaired by Dr. Anna Sjöström Douagi, Acting Nobel Foundation CEO and IPIE Trustee, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming. IPIE Professors Philip Howard, Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, and Klaus Bruhn Jensen presented on the IPIE's mission and on emerging areas of scientific consensus about the need for global AI auditing standards and the degradation of information integrity about climate science. USG Fleming facilitated a discussion with leaders from several stakeholder groups, including Dr. João Brant (Government of Brazil), Dr. Selcan Kaynak (IPIE), Mr. John Momoh (Channels Television), and Dr. David Spergel (Simons Foundation).

Key Issues Discussed

- *Improving the Global Information Environment*: Professor Chun presented on the need for a diverse and coordinated audit ecosystem to ensure that AI systems sustain human rights and the SDGs. Dr. Kaynak spoke about harms to children online because of inadequate safeguards. Noting the need to create proper safeguards with evidence, Dr. Spergel discussed open science and the need for sufficient data to conduct scientific research.

- *Implementing the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity*: Professor Jensen presented on the importance of information integrity about climate issues for public understanding of what is needed to curb the climate crisis. As chair of the discussion, USG Fleming reinforced the urgent need to build trust through information integrity to support achievement of the SDGs and fulfill UN mandates. Panel participants discussed the need to implement the Principles to heal our troubled information ecosystem, with Dr. Brant highlighting the

negative effects of misinformation on many topics, including democracy, health, and climate action. Mr. Momoh discussed the fundamental need for journalists to build trust, saying "journalists must be diligent in their fact-checking now more than ever before."

- *Digital and Media Literacy*: During the panel discussion, Dr. Brant discussed Brazil's recognition of the importance of media literacy, noting recent work conducted by the Brazilian Ministry of Education on a media education strategy. Mr. Momoh echoed Dr. Brant's remarks, noting that social media's monetization of content can overpower credible sources. The IPIE announced plans for a *Scientific Panel on Digital Literacy in Curriculum*.

Recommendations for Action and Commitments

Strengthen Global Governance of Digital Spaces

- In September 2024, 193 countries adopted the [Global Digital Compact](), a comprehensive framework for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence.
- Switzerland committed to addressing disinformation and hate speech, and highlighted the role of evidence and science in policymaking, through its [Digital Foreign Policy Strategy]().
- Brazil is actively addressing climate misinformation through its 2024 Presidency of the G20 and the [Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration]().
- Brazil, together with the UN Department of Global Communications and UNESCO, plan to launch a new Global Initiative on Promoting Information Integrity on Climate Change.
- The IPIE has launched the [Scientific Panel on Information Integrity about Climate Science]() to identify how policy and technology design can promote public understanding of climate science.
- The latest [2023-2024 Human Development Report]() is part of a trilogy of HDRO outputs on polarization, destabilized planetary systems, and far-reaching AI applications.
- The Department of Peace Operations is working to integrate [digital technologies into peacekeeping missions]() and promote [accurate information in crisis settings]().
- In mid-2025, the [IPIE]() will host its first Conference of the Panels. IPIECOP1 will convene multiple Scientific Panels in New York City for working-level meetings to build consensus about actionable policy recommendations that will improve the global information environment. IPIECOP2, planned for Lagos, will be held in mid-2026.

Advance Ethical AI and Data Practices

- The IPIE has launched the [Scientific Panel on Global Standards for AI Audits](), which aims to foster and advance global conversations around AI systems centered on the public good.
- The IPIE has launched the [Scientific Panel on Child Protection and Social Media](), which will investigate the scope, dynamics, and impact of child exploitation facilitated by social media.
- Canada recently published its [Digital Charter](), stating its strong stance on digital governance and the ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- Chile commits to its continued engagement on the [AI for Good Forum](), which it [launched]() as President of ECOSOC in 2024.
- Chile, as an OECD member, also commits to its ongoing leadership on the Steering Group of the [OECD Expert Group on Governance Responses to Mis- and Disinformation.]()
- Finland is committed to developing partnerships and continuing to lead the conversation about promoting digital governance, such as through [its work in 2024 with civil society]().

Webpage to Find More Information: [www.IPIE.info/News/IPIE-Summit-of-the-Future]()

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