



Indonesia Civil Society Forum 2022
Advancing Inclusive Democracy in Indonesia
Jakarta, 30 - 31 March 2022



**Group 3: Digitalization – Overcoming Disinformation and
Protecting Civil Space in the Digital Realm**

30 March 2022, 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

This session will discuss the latest developments in building a healthy digital ecosystem for digital media (social media as well as newspapers and online magazines). The Constitution guarantees citizens freedom of expression on the various available information channels, through mainstream media and social media. However, this does not always go smoothly because the space to channel one's expression has become limited. One of the causes comes from a regulation, namely the Information and Electronic Transactions Act known as the ITE law.

Some articles in the ITE law, such as articles 27 to 29 and articles 40 and 45 are considered problematic because they are often used to obstruct freedom of expression, starting with accusations of defamation to provide a legal framework for an internet shutdown. Many citizens have been victims of these articles. The ITE law restricts citizens' freedom of expression and currently a coalition of civil society organizations are seeking to revoke the problematic articles.

The poor health of the digital realm also occurs because of massive disinformation circulating on social media and other media in general. Disinformation is created and disseminated by utilizing deep sentiments that exist in society and often cause sharp divisions. This happens a lot when there is an increase in the intensity of the political atmosphere such as elections, even though the impact persists even years after the vote ends.

The government and civil society are trying to fact-check to reduce the impact of disinformation. However, more systematic, and sustainable measures are needed with respect to the development of digital literacy in society as well as efforts to ward off disinformation. To that end, various efforts are made, including encouraging communication and information to continue to create healthy digital spaces and provide guarantees for civil spaces that are Open and safe to citizens.

Questions:

1. What kind of legal and statutory framework should be established to ensure the sustainability and security of the implementation of civil rights in the digital realm?
2. What kind of media and digital literacy needs to be given to the public to make wise use of digital spaces? What is the most appropriate method for achieving broad goals?
3. What efforts do people and governments need to do in combating misinformation?
4. What should governments and civil society organizations do to mitigate the impact of disinformation based on deep sentiments in society such as racism and religious sentiment? How to address disinformation at the local level?

5. What is the impact of disinformation in the digital realm on online media and what is the role of online media in combating disinformation? Can online media continue the role of the press as part of the pillars of democracy? What are the challenges?
6. What should governments do to establish a healthy internet ecosystem and ensure public safety in conveying and accessing information as part of public participation?
7. What kind of technology does the government need to prepare so that the implementation of democracy in Indonesia is fast, low-cost, and accountable?

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Issue Champions:

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