

Committee: Human rights council

Delegation: Bangladesh



Topic: Countering Disinformation

The People's Republic of Bangladesh emphasizes that the spread of disinformation poses a significant challenge to social cohesion, democratic processes, and national security. As a nation of over 170 million people and one of the fastest-growing digital societies in South Asia, Bangladesh recognizes both the opportunities of digitalization and the destabilizing effects of online falsehoods. In recent years, the rapid expansion of internet access – now reaching over 130 million users¹ – has been accompanied by a rise in politically motivated misinformation, communal incitement, and coordinated foreign and domestic manipulation, particularly evident during various elections and the COVID-19 pandemic.² These developments have threatened public trust, inflamed tensions against minority communities, and complicated crisis-response communications. The problem is now more evident than ever, as misinformation in Bangladesh has risen by 30% in the first half of 2025.

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Bangladesh has developed a comprehensive national approach rooted in the principles of public order, safety, and responsible digital participation. The Cyber Security Act (CSA), revised from the Digital Security Act in response to domestic and international concerns, establishes a legal framework to address online incitement, cybercrime, and harmful disinformation while increasing judicial oversight and clarifying penalties to prevent misuse. In addition, the government's Rumor Detection Cell, fact-checking initiatives under the Press Information Department, digital literacy campaigns, and cooperation with technology companies aim to reduce harmful content and strengthen the public's resilience to manipulation. Former prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasized at the UN General Assembly that the weaponization of misinformation is taking new shapes as "continued prevalence of terrorist threats" and "instigation of violence and spreading hate

¹ Khan, K. (2025, September 10). Bangladesh's Internet Transformation: From Satellite Shadows to Digital Highways. *RIPE Labs*. <https://labs.ripe.net/author/mdkamruzzaman-khan-2/bangladeshs-internet-transformation-from-satellite-shadows-to-digital-highways/>

²National Institute of Mass Communication. (2025, June). *Combating Fake News in Bangladesh: Role of Media*. https://nimc.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/nimc.portal.gov.bd/page/cbfc22c4_e030_4bf2_a07a_655231b154a6/2025-09-16-06-39-191c5dbe9ebbb87c7a2920cc2dbb45f6.pdf

³ Rumour Scanner Report. (2025, July 20). Misinformation rises 30% in first half of 2025. *The Daily Star*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/misinformation-rises-30-first-half-2025-3943546>

speech and inflammatory rhetoric” reaffirming the government’s commitment to combating misinformation, while encouraging responsible digital behavior.

Bangladesh’s actions are anchored in its obligations under the ICCPR and its engagement in multilateral initiatives such as consultations on the UN Global Digital Compact and UNESCO’s Internet for Trust framework. As an active participant in SAARC and BIMSTEC cybercrime discussions, Bangladesh supports deeper regional cooperation,⁴ especially to address cross-border disinformation affecting refugee populations, including the Rohingya in Cox’s Bazar. Bangladesh stresses that developing states must be equipped with both technological and institutional capacity to identify and mitigate digital threats, as asymmetries in resources and platform governance disproportionately disadvantage the Global South.

In the forthcoming deliberations, Bangladesh seeks balanced and constructive outcomes that uphold free expression while recognizing states’ legitimate responsibility to prevent instability, protect vulnerable populations, and preserve electoral integrity. Bangladesh supports international standards for platform transparency, information-origin tracing, and algorithmic accountability; enhanced digital literacy programs; and the creation of a UN-supported early-warning mechanism to detect rapidly spreading harmful narratives. Bangladesh further encourages commitments from developed countries to provide technical assistance, capacity-building, and technology transfer to low-income nations. In negotiations, Bangladesh will work closely with fellow developing countries to ensure that global frameworks respect national sovereignty while reflecting the interconnected nature of digital threats. Bangladesh is prepared to collaborate with all member states to advance a fair, effective, and inclusive system that strengthens global information integrity.

⁴ Statement by Bangladesh delegation at the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025-. <https://documents.unoda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Bangladeshs-statement-at-OEWG-on-security-of-ICT.pdf>

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Topic: The Implications of Plastic Pollution on Human Rights

The People's Republic of Bangladesh addresses plastic pollution from a rights-based perspective, recognizing its significant impact on the rights to health, safe water, a clean environment, sanitation, sustainable livelihoods, and the wellbeing of future generations. As a delta nation, Bangladesh is especially exposed to the environmental and human rights consequences of mismanaged plastic waste.⁵ Rapid urbanization, high population density, and industrial growth have increased environmental pressures, with annual plastic waste generation estimated at over 800,000⁶ tons and the annual per capita plastic consumption in Dhaka alone rising to over 22.25kg.⁷ A substantial portion enters waterways, contaminating major rivers such as the Buriganga and the Turag, disrupting fisheries, and affecting communities whose livelihoods depend on aquatic ecosystems. Informal waste workers, women, and children are disproportionately exposed to health risks and unsafe working conditions, highlighting the direct link between pollution and human rights.

Bangladesh has long been a global leader in plastic regulation. In 2002, it became the first country to ban polythene bags after severe floods were linked to clogged drainage systems. The government's National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management ⁸(2020–2030) now outlines a transition toward a circular economy, aiming to reduce plastic waste by 50% by 2025, improve recycling systems, and promote biodegradable alternatives. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change continues to strengthen enforcement and develop extended producer responsibility (EPR) frameworks. At the political level, The Government of Bangladesh has emphasized that plastic pollution threatens the fundamental rights of millions of people - including the rights to health, safe water, sanitation, and a clean environment - and that protecting our rivers and ecosystems from

⁵Jessorey, B. (2025, January 16). Plastic Pollution: A Growing Threat to Bangladesh's Environment. *Pressenza*. <https://www.pressenza.com/2025/01/plastic-pollution-a-growing-threat-to-bangladeshs-environment/>

⁶ Practical ACTION. (n.d). *Valuing plastic in Bangladesh*. <https://practicalaction.org/our-work/projects/recycling-plastic/>

⁷ International society for human rights. (2025, June 4). *Bangladesh's Plastic Tide: A Nation Grappling with a Mounting Crisis*. <https://ishr.org/bangladeshs-plastic-tide-a-nation-grappling-with-a-mounting-crisis/>

⁸Global plastic action partnership. (n.d.). *Bangladesh - Advancing sustainable growth through targeted action on solid waste and plastic pollution*. <https://www.globalplasticaction.org/bangladesh>

plastic waste is essential for safeguarding the wellbeing and dignity of present and future generations.⁹

Internationally, Bangladesh actively supports the development of a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty and participates in the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, reinforcing its commitment to addressing pollution throughout the plastics life cycle. It also advances climate-resilient development through the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan and integrates plastic pollution reduction into its implementation of the SDGs, particularly Goals 6, 12, 13, and 14. As a Least Developed Country and one of the nations most affected by environmental degradation, Bangladesh stresses that any global framework must reflect principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and access to financing and technology.

In committee deliberations, the People's Republic of Bangladesh will encourage member states to recognize plastic pollution as an urgent human rights issue and to support ambitious, binding obligations addressing production, consumption, and waste management. Bangladesh calls for global funding facilities to support infrastructure in developing countries, strengthened monitoring of microplastics, protection of informal waste workers through improved safety standards, and enhanced research cooperation. Bangladesh aligns with climate-vulnerable nations and the African Group in advocating strong treaty provisions while engaging constructively with major producing countries to ensure a fair and implementable global agreement. The Republic is ready to collaborate with all partners to advance a comprehensive, equitable, and future-oriented approach to ending plastic pollution and safeguarding human rights.

⁹ The World Bank. (2021, December). *Towards a Multisectoral Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management in Bangladesh*.

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/42712a1018d536bb86c35018b9600c53-0310062021/original/National-Action-Plan-for-plastic-management-Dec.pdf>