Committee : Human Right Council

Delegation : India

Topic (a) : Countering Disinformation

The topic on the agenda of the United Nation Human Right Council is countering disinformation.

The states of India highlight the importance of ending disinformation among the population and minimize the harm of false beliefs and disinformation threats. To instead establish a media literacy free from propaganda, where actions, feelings and thoughts are not causing social unrest or outburst.

According to the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Risk Report, India was ranked as one of the highest for the risk. Disinformation which refers to false information that are deliberate and intentional remains a critical global issue in this country. Affected citizens suffer from false information that are spread deliberately to manipulate, damage and guide people in the wrong direction.

One of the study regarding the rate of disinformation in India was conducted by the Indian School of Business (ISB) and CyberPeace. It was found that political fake news account propagate 46% of fake news, followed by fake news regarding general issues (33,6%) and religious content (16,8 %). Which means that these three category alone represent at least 94% of the total fake news in the country that triggers voter behavior, social harmony, communal and religious tensions, law and order issues and much more. The rise of deep fake technology and AI-generated disinformation makes it also harder to distinguish the real news from the fake ones.

Enhancing effort to regulate the widespread of disinformation on social media

Disinformation remains a critical global issue which affect the trust and media literacy of civilians. this is why India has reaffirmed its commitment to regulate disinformation. Especially in our digital era and with the rise of artificial intelligence.

Since 2023, India has actively engaged in shaping a response against disinformation. For instance, The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita criminalizes the spread of statements, rumors or report with intention to cause public mischief, alarm or incite violence, enmity or threaten national integrity. Since 2020, the information technology act along with the intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules insist of social Media such as X, Facebook etc. to remove government-flagged unlawful content, including disinformation. The section 69A of it Information Technology Act (IT) authorizes the government to block online content threatening the security of the nation. These law may be fraught with challenges be they show the commitment of the country on this question concerning the right to seek and receive real information. Also counting the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) which issues alerts and advisories regarding Cyber threats and vulnerabilities such as malicious attacks using Artificial Intelligence. The CERT-In has in November 2024 published an advisory on deepfake threats and measures to stay attentive to deepfake threats and which measures need to be followed to stay protected against it.

India recognizes these challenges and is prepares to propose pragmatic and targeted solutions to enhance the response to concerns about disinformation among civilians. The country call on HRC and its member states to collaborate and establish a dedicated force focused on preventing disinformation and protect the right to freedom on true information with improving the legal

frameworks, and ensure the dissemination of accurate, evidence- based information to counter disinformation.

Committee : Human Right Council

Delegation : India

Topic (b) : The implications of Plastic Pollution on Human Right

The topic on the agenda of the United Nation Human Right Council is countering disinformation.

Our states understands the great importance of reducing the plastic pollution as it has an affects on Human Rights. As the rise of Plastic Pollution represents today a pressing global crisis with consequences for the environment of humanity and fundamental human right such as the access to clean water, healthy, food etc.

In India, the accumulation of plastic materials consist today of 9,3 millions of tons of plastic waste which makes him one of the world's leading polluters.

It is therefore in this perspective that the country strive to improve plastic waste management. In 2019, a study realized on the informal waste burning to manage plastic waste releases toxic fumes into air that has proved that this practice has increased to 15% respiratory illness and cancer risks in community living nearby such as low-income workers.

This situation clearly violates the right of the nation to health and safe environment which is taken into account by the government. For this reason the country believes that addressing plastic pollution is mandatory for protecting public health and ensuring the rights of workers, child and the population at large.

I.   Preventing and responding to Plastic Pollution

As previously said, the environmental degradation caused by plastic pollution poses a rising threat to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The UN Human Rights Council's Resolution 48/13 (2021) acknowledge the right to a healthy environment.

India recognizes that plastic pollution is directly linked to the well-being of its population. Since 2022, the country as taken actions against it such as the nationwide ban on identified single-use plastics (2022), the Plastic Waste Management Rules with Extended Producer Responsibility (2016) but also clean-up missions through Swachh Bharat and the National Mission for Clean Ganga.

India urges committees to adopt a right-based approach to plastic pollution that should be common that is able to support developing nations but also to encourage states to integrate human rights impact assessments into plastic pollution to formalize and protect the communities in need such as informal waste workers.

India firmly believe that the effort made to combat plastic pollution should be kept on, as it is essential to upholding fundamental Human Rights globally. By advancing international cooperation and adopting sustainable production the world can ensure that environmental protection and Human Rights progress hand-in-hand. India stands prepared to work constructively within the Human Rights Council and with the community to achieve these goals.