

Position Paper | MUNLawS

Committee: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Delegation: The Republic of Costa Rica

Delegate: Rok Švajger Jontez, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

Topic A: Countering disinformation



The Republic of Costa Rica (hereinafter: Costa Rica), as a Member State of the United Nations Human Rights Council hereby submits its Position Paper on the topic of »**Countering disinformation**« .

Costa Rica as a nation with a long history of democratic tradition and rule of law firmly condemns the spread of disinformation. This originates from its historical background. After Civil War in 1948, Costa Rica became the first nation in the world to voluntarily abolish its army¹. It redirected its resources toward building a democratic society, education system and transparent institutions. Today, the spread of disinformation represents a serious threat to these achievements. Not only it weakens social cohesion but also represents a serious threat to the public trust, electoral process, and the protection of human rights. Consequently, Costa Rica remains committed to implementing effective legal and institutional framework to prevent further negative consequence of spreading disinformation.

At the national level, Costa Rica has enacted several law and policies to combat the spread of disinformation. The adoption of the Framework Law on Public Information Access ensures that citizens can receive accurate information from public institutions. This represents an important step towards preventing the spread of disinformation. Since Costa Rica is aware of the risk of digital age, it has worked with UN Resident Coordinator to perform AI – power analysis of information flow to discover disinformation networks related to sustainable development and hate speech. The main purpose of this initiative is to rebuild trust in institutions.² On the international stage, Costa Rica, as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)³, is committed to upholding the right to freedom of expression and the right to seek, receive and impart information (Article 19). As the member State of the Media Freedom Coalition, reaffirming its dedication to protecting independent journalism. Costa Rica has also supported Human Rights Council resolution 49/21 and 55/10, which emphasize addressing disinformation from human rights perspective and firmly opposes censorship.

¹ Viquez, C. H. (2024). *Costa Rica's Path to Success*. URL: <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/costa-ricas-path-to-success-five-key-policies/>

² Azevedo, Carolina G. (2025). *Disinformation Is a Global Risk. So Why Are We Still Treating It Like a Tech Problem*. UNDCO. URL: <https://un-dco.org/stories/disinformation-global-risk-so-why-are-we-still-treating-it-tech-problem>

³ ICCPR, URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

To effectively address the human-rights implications of disinformation, States should adopt a comprehensive approach that tackles the issue at its source and fully respects human rights.

Firstly, States should invest more resources in educating their citizens about digital literacy. For example, media and information literacy could be part of school curriculum. This will increase the awareness from early age and could massively reduce the negative effects of disinformation.

Secondly, States should establish clearer and more modern regulatory frameworks that reflect current technological realities, including the role of artificial intelligence.

Thirdly, while addressing disinformation, States must remain fully aware that such efforts may affect other fundamental rights, such as those protected under Article 19 of the ICCPR. Any measures must therefore respect the principle of legitimacy, and proportionality, ensuring that measures against disinformation do not infringe upon constitutional rights.

In conclusion, Costa Rica stresses that addressing disinformation is essential for protecting democracy, public trust and human rights. As a country committed to transparency and the rule of law, Costa Rica is ready to work with other Member States on effective and rights-respecting solutions.

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Topic B: The implications of plastic pollution on human rights



The Republic of Costa Rica (hereinafter: Costa Rica), as a Member State of the United Nations Human Rights Council hereby submits its Position Paper on the topic of **»The implications of plastic pollution on human rights«**.

Costa Rica is a state rich in natural wealth. It is a home to approximately 6 % of the global the world's species. Because of that its national polices strive towards preserving its natural resources. The most important sources of Costa Rica economy depend on nature dependent sectors such as fishers and tourism. These two sectors provide employment to more than 200.000 people. These sectors are affected by plastic pollution in oceans, rivers and soil. ⁴ Plastic pollution not only disrupts ecological balance the balance in nature but also represents a threat to human rights such as right to life, health, a clean and healthy environment and the rights of children.

Costa Rica generated around 232, 000 tons of plastic waste. Consequently, Costa Rica has enacted several laws and regulations to combat this problem. In 2011 it amended its Mining Code to prohibit open – pit mining. In similar manner, in 2013, the Constitutional Court prohibited trawl fishing because it leads to destruction of natural seafloor habitat.⁵ It regulates the use of plastic in public institutions, bans Styrofoam importation, plastic straws and plastic bags. To protect natural habitation has designated 12, 7 % of its territory as national parks and prohibited entry of single – use plastics into them. In the future Costa Rica aims to phase out the use of fossil fuels by the 2050.⁶ On the international stage Costa Rica is striving to fight plastic marine degradation after joining the global UN Clean Seas campaign. Costa Rica is a signatory to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)⁷, Basel Convention, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)⁸ and a member of the High Ambition Coalition. This international

⁴ Viquez, C, H. (2024). *Costa Rica's Path to Success*. URL: <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/costa-ricas-path-to-success-five-key-policies/>

⁵ Costa Rica - Global Plastic Action Partnership. (2023). URL: <https://www.globalplasticaction.org/costa-rica>

⁶ 2021: Status of Sustainability Laws and Policies in Costa Rica. (2021). URL: <https://caminotravel.com/2021-status-of-sustainability-laws-and-policies-in-costa-rica/>

⁷ ICCPR, URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

⁸ MARPOL, URL: [https://www.imo.org/en/about/conventions/pages/international-convention-for-the-prevention-of-pollution-from-ships-\(marpol\).aspx](https://www.imo.org/en/about/conventions/pages/international-convention-for-the-prevention-of-pollution-from-ships-(marpol).aspx)

engagement demonstrates that Costa Rica addresses plastic pollution from two connected perspectives: the protection of biodiversity and the safeguarding of human rights.

To effectively address plastic the implications of plastic pollution on human rights, all States should adopt a well – round approach that reduces plastic pollution at its source and is guided by a framework that fully protects human rights.

Firstly, all states should strive to adopt legal frameworks that effectively address the reduction of plastic pollution. Such a treaty would present an enforceable obligation that ensure States uphold their commitments.

Secondly, the international community should set global standards to eliminate most dangerous and unnecessary plastic waste and to strive to design products which can be reduced or easily recycled.

Thirdly, mora attention should be given to educating public about the harmful consequences of plastic pollution and their rights since every individual has the power to contribute solving it.

Guided by its strong legacy of promoting human rights and protecting the natural world, Costa Rica affirms that addressing plastic pollution is inseparable from safeguarding human dignity. As a state committed to respecting human rights and environmental stewardship, Costa Rica stands ready to work alongside other Member States to advance effective, sustainable solutions.