

Position Paper 1

General Information

Name of Country: United States of America

Name of Committee: Human Rights Council

Name of School: Vector International Academy

Topic: Countering Disinformation

In the rising age of AI our humanity faces rising threats of continuous streams of media filled with disinformation. The matter in question is expanding minute by minute. The United States of America views the issue of countering disinformation as a critical and urgent human rights and democratic governance concern. According to the United Nations, disinformation intentionally spreads false or misleading information with the aim of deceiving, harming public trust, and undermining social stability and human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and access to reliable information. The UN emphasizes that disinformation has become a global threat due to rapid digital communication, artificial intelligence, and malicious actors exploiting online platforms to influence populations, incite violence and destabilize governments¹ (UN, Countering Disinformation). The United States considers this issue extremely important because foreign and domestic disinformation campaigns target democratic institutions, elections, public health responses, and vulnerable populations, making it not only a communication issue but also a national security, human rights, and public safety matter. Furthermore, the UN Human Rights Council has already adopted resolutions urging states to counter disinformation and hate speech while ensuring that human rights such as free expression, transparency, and media pluralism are protected² (UN News, HRC Adopts Fake News Resolution).

The United States has already taken significant legislative and international steps to address disinformation but acknowledges that further action is necessary. Nationally, the U.S. passed the Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation³ Act (S.3274), which created inter-agency coordination to detect, analyze, and respond to foreign information manipulation targeting the United States and its allies, demonstrating that Congress takes this issue seriously

¹ United Nations. (n.d.-b). *Countering disinformation*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/countering-disinformation>

² United Nations. (n.d.-c). *UN's Rights Council adopts "fake news" resolution, states urged to tackle hate speech* | UN news. United Nations. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115412>

³ Congress.gov | Library of Congress. (n.d.-b). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3274/subjects?overview=closed>

and views disinformation as a foreign-policy and security threat ([Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/118/congress/house/resolutions/1471/text), S.3274). Additionally U.S. continued their efforts through H.Res.1471, which calls for multi-stakeholder cooperation in countering disinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing that information warfare affects not only U.S. citizens but also neighboring democratic states, human rights, and regional stability⁴ ([Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/118/congress/house/resolutions/1471/text), H.Res.1471). On an international level of cooperation, the U.S. has participated in strategic partnerships, including cooperation with Japan, focusing on joint research, narrative resilience, and early-warning mechanisms to counter disinformation threats in the Indo-Pacific region⁵ (CSIS, Combating Disinformation: U.S.–Japan Cooperation). These actions prove that the U.S. is willing to collaborate, but more preventative, educational, and community-focused strategies are still required.

As was mentioned previously, the United States will not stop fighting and prioritizing such issues nationally as well as contributing to their resolutions internationally. As a country we believe that the question can be and will be managed with the cooperation of fellow countries accompanied by our strong support. The United States believes that the most effective long-term method to counter disinformation is through societal resilience, especially education and media literacy from early childhood. As the U.S. delegate, I propose that counter-disinformation efforts expand beyond governmental responses and be integrated into national and international education programs, beginning in elementary and middle school, where students are taught how to identify false information, verify sources, understand algorithm influence, and apply critical thinking skills when consuming digital media. The United States plans to invest in media education programs, public awareness campaigns, and partnerships with technology companies and educational institutions to ensure that young people grow up with strong digital-literacy skills. Additionally, the U.S. supports funding opportunities for independent media, fact-checking organizations, and community-based training, ensuring that civil society. By doing this, the United States aims to create a future generation capable of recognizing disinformation before it spreads, thereby reducing vulnerability and strengthening democracy while respecting free expression as required by the United Nations human-rights-based approach.

⁴ Text - h.res.1471 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Countering Disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calling for multi-stakeholder efforts to address the significant detrimental effects that the rise in disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in regional information environments has on democratic governance, human rights, and United States national interests. | [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/118/congress/house/resolutions/1471/text) | library of Congress. (n.d.-f). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-resolution/1471/text>

⁵ Johnstone, C. B., & Klaas, L. (n.d.-a). *Combating disinformation*. CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/combating-disinformation>

Position Paper 2

General Information

Name of Country: United States of America

Name of Committee: Human Rights Council

Name of School: Vector International Academy

Topic: The Implications of Plastic Pollution on Human Right

The United States Government considers plastic pollution to be a fast-worsening global problem causing damage to environmental integrity, public health, and long-term economic resilience. Every year, the world produces around 430 million metric tons of new plastic. If we proceed on this trajectory, global plastics use is expected to nearly triple by the year 2060⁶(UNDP). Microplastics and chemical additives have shown up in oceans, drinking water, soil, and even human bodies, giving rise to urgent concerns for current and future generations. According to the National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution⁷ (EPA, 2024), most plastics that reach the U.S. market are designed neither to be reused nor recycled, and thus can stay for decades or centuries in landfills, escaping into waterways, and building up in ecosystems. These harms are not equitably distributed: many frontline and low-income communities situated adjacent to petrochemical manufacturing sites and waste-processing facilities confront higher risks and greater exposure to pollution (EPA, 2024). Plastic pollution is hence not just an ecological crisis but also a social and health equity problem for the United States that demands a coordinated policy response both domestically and internationally.

The United States has already taken several important steps to address the issue both at home and abroad. Domestically, the National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution outlines a comprehensive life-cycle approach focusing on reducing unnecessary plastic production, redesigning products for circularity, improving recycling and reuse systems, and preventing leakage into waterways (EPA, 2024). The Biden-Harris Administration has committed to phasing out single-use plastics across federal operations, signaling national leadership and using government purchasing power to encourage more sustainable alternatives ⁸(Biden-Harris

⁶ *Plastic pollution*. UNDP. (n.d.-a).

<https://www.undp.org/chemicals-waste/our-work-areas/plastic-pollution>

⁷ National strategy to prevent plastic pollution. (n.d.-c).

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-11/final_national_strategy_to_prevent_plastic_pollution.pdf

⁸ Biden-Harris administration to phase out single-use plastic | World Wildlife Fund. Accessed November 19, 2025.

Administration Announcement, WWF). Beyond federal policy, the collaborative U.S. Plastics Pact brings companies, scientists, and nonprofit organizations together in an effort to eliminate problematic packaging and increase recyclability, with progress documented in the 2023–24 Impact Report⁹ (U.S. Plastics Pact, 2024). Internationally, the United States continues to play an active role in the United Nations Environment Programme’s Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee working towards a legally binding global treaty. During the resumed fifth session, INC-5.2, the U.S. highlighted the need for a science-based, life-cycle treaty with strong monitoring and capacity-building provisions ¹⁰(INC-5.2, UNEP; U.S. State Department, 2025).

We as a country believe in change and are willing to invest with various resources into the solution of this problem. Looking ahead, the United States is planning to enhance and expand its response with economic, technological, and educational solutions that would result in reduced plastic production and move towards a circular economy. Among the measures being proposed by the U.S. is the use of taxes or fees on virgin, single-use plastics. These should progressively take effect to discourage both consumers and industries from using plastics, thus reducing the profitability of virgin plastic production. The United States supports accelerating the transition to biodegradable, compostable, and eco-friendly materials whenever that is scientifically safe and economically feasible. Next, investments in modern waste-management innovation include new facilities for recycling, plastic-to-resource processing, and community-level waste-recovery activities that can lower leakage and create green jobs. The U.S. believes education is perhaps the key, and thus it will support national campaigns and school programs that teach responsible consumption and waste reduction. By combining economic incentives, sustainable material innovation, stronger waste-management infrastructure, and public education, the United States is confident it can lower overall plastic dependency and support global cooperation to eliminate plastic pollution for future generations

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/news/stories/biden-harris-administration-announces-commitments-to-phase-out-single-use-plastic-across-the-federal-government/>.

⁹ “U.S. Plastics Pact: 2023-24 Impact Report.” U.S. Plastics Pact | Working together to end plastic waste. Accessed November 19, 2025. <https://usplasticspact.org/2023-24-impact-report/>.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of State. (n.d.). U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/releases/2025/08/outcomes-of-the-resumed-fifth-session-of-the-intergovernmental-negotiating-committee-inc-5-2-to-develop-a-new-legally-binding-instrument-on-plastic-pollution>

