

Roundtable on Information Integrity in an Evolving AI Landscape

Organizers: UNDGC, European Union, Zambia Lithuania, United Kingdom, Brazil, Romania

Conference Room 11, UN Headquarters (UN Web TV)

December 17, 2026, 11:45-1:00

The UN Secretary-General launched the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity in June 2024, responding to a global need for unified guidance to address risks to information integrity such as misinformation, disinformation and hate speech across online and offline information landscapes, challenges that have grown increasingly complex with the advent of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. The Department of Global Communications, with the UN system, developed the UN Global Principles through extensive consultations with Member States, civil society, the private sector, including technology companies, and academia. The Principles reflect the perspectives and needs of a range of important stakeholders, including those in vulnerable and marginalized situations. The Principles call for building societal trust and resilience; creating healthy incentives for information integrity in digital advertising; fostering public empowerment; strengthening an independent, free and pluralistic media; and advancing transparency and research, particularly by supporting researchers and perspectives from the global South. The roundtable would bring together stakeholders for open dialogue to explore solutions on how the UN Global Principles, which provide actionable guidance for stakeholders to strengthen information integrity while upholding human rights, serve as a practical resource for advancing the five objectives of the Global Digital Compact for an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all.

Keynote: Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

Remarks: Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant-Director General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

Statements: Representatives of the European Union, Zambia, United Kingdom, Brazil, Lithuania, Romania.

Moderator: Charlotte Scaddan, Senior Adviser on Information Integrity, Department of Global Communications

Speakers:

- Costanza Sciubba Caniglia (Wikimedia Foundation), Anti-Disinformation Strategy Lead
- Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions), Professor/Coordinator for Research Professional Development in the University Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Nandini Chami (IT for Change), Deputy Director with policy focus on data for development and digital technologies
- and women's rights in the information society
- Nils Berglund (European University Institute), Project Lead, Global Initiative on the Future of the Internet

Libraries and Information Integrity

Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. As both a professor and librarian, and as a member of IFLA's Governing Board, I am pleased to share reflections on **the essential role that libraries play in delivering the information integrity agenda as the foundation of a trusted, inclusive, and sustainable information environment.**

IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, represents the global library field. IFLA brings together and represents libraries, whose longstanding mission is well stated by that of Google: to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. However, importantly, libraries go further by ensuring that the information provided is accurate, verified, reliable, and contextualized.

The ability of libraries to strengthen information integrity rests on a vast network of public, academic, and community institutions worldwide. This infrastructure provides equitable access to information while also fostering media and information literacy, critical thinking, and civic engagement. It complements the many other pillars of

information integrity, including platform regulation, supporting journalism, and transparent and open scholarship and policymaking.

As we can see, the work of information integrity is not complete without that which libraries can provide – trusted content, support for learning, and community cultivation. As the Global Digital Compact observes, to fully harness the benefits of digital connectivity, we must ensure that people can meaningfully and securely use the internet and safely navigate the digital space. For millions, especially in marginalized communities, libraries are the first and maybe the only point of access to credible information.

Libraries are safe, non-commercial spaces where people can learn to discern fact from mis- and dis-information, and where trust in knowledge can be rebuilt. From this perspective, a library is not only an access point but also a learning laboratory, a supported and supportive space and place for exploration and inquiry – and experimentation and investigation – for the pursuit of information integrity.

As a learning laboratory, libraries deliver connectivity, capacity development, digital skills empowerment, and early access to emerging technologies. Libraries are, as such, a vital part of global digital public infrastructure, preserving and sharing content and promoting inclusive access to information and communications technologies.

Libraries have a deep reach into our communities and are tremendous mechanisms for localizing these global efforts. Libraries remain a valued, trusted institution. We bring an existing network, professional expertise, and a commitment to uphold the values of truth, openness, and access for all.

As we look toward the future, IFLA and the world's libraries stand ready to partner with all stakeholders to embed information integrity at the heart of digital transformation.

For more information about IFLA's activities and partnership opportunities:

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