

## **Myanmar Digital Rights Declaration**

### **Purpose**

In the current political movement, we believe that it is crucial for all groups - political and revolutionary forces alike - that are fighting for ending the dictatorship to fully grasp the significance of the internet and digital tools technology. Due to the Internet and communication shutdown and limitation, we all have also witnessed the various tribulations in the region.

For that reason, we implement the “**Myanmar Digital Rights Declaration**” to be followed as a **“standard rule”** by all groups, including political and revolutionary forces, in the present political climate, while developing and implementing internet and communication-related policies in their own territories and for the new federal state that will emerge over the revolutionary period

- (1) To ensure full access to internet usage for communities
- (2) To develop transparent and responsible internet policies
- (3) To establish digital laws that align with international digital rights standards
- (4) To support a rule-of-law digital environment that is free and secure and
- (5) To create an environment that is necessary for the development of good digital citizens

### **1. Absolutely ensure that any kind of internet blocking or suspension is not allowed.**

- Internet shutdown/suspension has intensively affected individual freedom, democratic participation and economic activity.
- There shall be no Government and service providers oughtn't participate in the interference or blocking of internet communication.
- Freedom of internet access is as important as fundamental rights of free expression and access to information.
- There shall be no arbitrary restrictions or exclusions that deprive individuals of their access to the Internet.
- Independent oversight bodies must be established to review and monitor them and protect users if any instances of internet suspension or blocking occur.

### **2. Ensure that no person shall restrict, deny and/or degrade service quality for the purpose of disrupting the information flow over the internet.**

- Government and other service providers shall not intercept internet connections with the intention of disrupting the information flow.
- Interception of networks affects digital rights including violates privacy rights and undermines freedom of expression.

- To prevent all forms of interception intended to disrupt the information flow, law, bills and policies shall be adopted.
- Maintaining consistent service quality is essential for user trust, economic activities, and the free flow of information.
- To monitor compliance with these principles, independent oversight bodies must be established. These bodies are responsible for releasing reports on service degradation and taking action against perpetrators to ensure accountability.

**3. Ensure that everyone must have equal access to the Internet.**

- Access to the Internet is essential for business and economic opportunity and democratic participation.
- As access to the internet is a fundamental need for the people living in technology age, government and other service providers shall ensure for all equal access to the internet and digital services regardless of socio-economic distinction or other characteristics such as ethnic origin, marital status, age, color, and religious, philosophical or political affiliations.
- To support access to the Internet, we need to effort developing the telecom infrastructure in developing and remote regions, providing the digital tools and to bridge the digital gap, promoting the digital literacy program.
- Ensure that Internet services must be affordable and accessible to all, ensuring that cost does not become a barrier to access.
- In the market, regulate pricing to prevent monopolistic practices, and offer subsidies or vouchers to low-income individuals to ensure affordable access.

**4. On the internet, equal rights must be created without any other discrimination.**

- Ensuring the creation of equal rights on the internet without discrimination shall promote to social-integration of divisional ethnic and religious settlement, social harmony, equality and full implementation of human rights.
- The non-discrimination of any existence such as ethnic origin, marital status, age, color, sex and religious, philosophical or political affiliations is critical to the establishment of a society that accepts cultural exchange and diverse perspectives.
- In the network, to prevent discrimination and to ensure free and fair treatment for all users, rule and regulation shall be implemented.
- In the digital sphere, governments and service providers must implement policies and programs that promote digital inclusion for marginalized and underserved communities.

**5. Ensure that the right to access and share information on the internet is recognized as a fundamental human right.**

- International recognized that the Freedom of Expression as a fundamental human right, to ensure it, the right to access and share information on the internet should be able to function without any hindrance.
- Must protect and against censorship, undue restrictions, and surveillance that infringe upon individuals' rights to free expression and access to information.
- As accepting the diversity of opinions is the foundation of Democracy, efforts must be made to create and maintain open, inclusive, and diverse digital spaces where all voices can be heard and information can flow freely.

**6. Ensure that the rights to freedom of Assembly and Association on the internet.**

- Right to Freedom of Assembly and freedom of association for social, political, religious, cultural, and other purposes are the fundamental human rights. As they are the priority function of democratic culture, these rights must be fully ensured online.
- To protect it, rights to freedom of Assembly and Association on the internet must not be criminalized or restricted.
- Governments and authorities must not interfere with or penalize individuals for engaging in such activities.
- The right to privacy and anonymity in online communications and associations must be safeguarded to ensure individuals can freely engage in online activities without fear of surveillance or reprisal.
- Individuals and groups must have access to digital tools and platforms that enable them to communicate, organize, and form associations effectively.

**7. An independent oversight body must be established to protect against activities that may affect digital rights.**

- Role of independent oversight is crucial to ensure that digital rights are protected and that any violations are addressed impartially and effectively.
- While establishing the Independent Oversight Body, it should be constituted by experts from diverse fields, including technology, law, human rights, and civil society, to ensure a balanced perspective on digital rights protection.
- Oversight body must have a clear mandate to monitor, investigate, and report on activities that affect digital rights.

- Oversight bodies must operate transparently and regularly publish reports on their findings without interference.

**8. Criticism expressed on the internet shall not be considered a criminal activity according to the perspective of Freedom of Expression.**

- Freedom of expression and the exchange of ideas are among the foundations of democracy. Considering it a criminal activity is neither reasonable nor logical.
- When revising and replacing outdated laws to protect freedom of expression in the present, ensure that they are not used to suppress dissent, silence the voices of vulnerable groups, or reinforce the excessive influence of rulers.

**9. Ensure the protection and promotion of the right to safeguard the private information of individual internet users.**

- It shall not be unlawful for any person to employ means, including encryption or cryptography, protection tools, electronic devices, and security practices, to protect the privacy of the data or networks over which they hold property rights.
- Organizations and/or individuals who store the users' data need to clearly inform the users how data collection and sharing practices, and consent must be obtained.
- Organizations and/or individuals who store the users' data have to use robust technology and laws to prevent alteration or destruction and to protect unauthorized access to users' personal information.

**10. To protect the right to privacy and preserve human dignity and freedom of movement, targeted surveillance of individuals or the public must be prevented.**

- Targeted surveillance of individuals or the public negatively affected privacy, preserving human dignity, freedom of movement and freedom of expression.
- To guarantee users' privacy, internet service providers, telecom operators, or any related organizations must not authorize access to their users' private information that they hold. The service providers shall not presume this information to be their property.
- An internet service provider, telecommunications entity, or any person providing internet or data services is obligated to notify the owners before granting any authority access to the person's private data or networks, even if the person is accused of committing an act that may harm the public interest.

**11. On the internet, derivative content that is the result of creation, invention, innovation, or modification by a person must be protected by intellectual property rights. Such contents shall not be owned by everyone including Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Network Service Providers (NSPs) except original creators.**

- Recognizing and protecting intellectual property rights encourages creativity and innovation.
- Inventions and innovations created by individuals on the internet shall remain the property of the original creators and shall not be owned or claimed by any other party, including Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Network Service Providers (NSPs).
- To protect Inventions and innovations of individuals and intellectual property rights on the internet, robust legal frameworks must be implemented.

**12. Measures must be implemented to ensure equal digital rights and interests for women without any hindrance.**

- Supporting programs and policies are needed to eliminate the internet usage gap, especially for women who face difficulties accessing the internet due to living in remote areas or having low incomes.
- In the digital sphere, programs must be developed to provide digital literacy and skills training specifically tailored to the needs of women, enabling them to survive safely online.
- Necessary measures must be implemented to protect and take action in both legal and technical aspects affecting women's dignity in the digital sphere, sexual harassment online and human trafficking.
- To ensure the equal rights and opportunity of women in the digital sphere, their participation in the policy-making process must be increased.

**13. A safe internet space must be created to protect children from physical and psychological harm, including human trafficking and sexually soliciting via the Internet.**

- Comprehensive education programs must be developed and implemented to help children stay safe online.
- Establish and enforce robust legal frameworks to protect online criminalization against children including human trafficking.
- Utilize technology to monitor, detect, and prevent the sexual solicitation of children and human trafficking online, while respecting privacy rights.

- Offer psychological and social support services to children who have been exposed to online solicitation or trafficking, helping them recover from trauma.

**14. To ensure that people with disabilities can access and use the internet network and online services**

- Internet services and platforms must adhere to recognized accessibility standards, such as the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), to ensure that digital content and services are accessible to people with disabilities.
- Technological innovations that support the use of technology by people with disabilities must be encouraged.
- Develop and offer tailored digital literacy programs that equip people with disabilities with the skills and knowledge to effectively use the internet and digital services.

**15. The use of generative AI must ensure that it is not harmful to human existence and digital rights.**

- As generative AI emerges as a new technology in the digital sphere, like other new technologies, it comes with both pros and cons.
- In this situation, developers or organizations creating AI systems must respect digital rights and align with digital rights principles, including the following declaration: not to have a negative impact on digital rights; not to affect human existence and human rights standards.

Human existence means individual freedom, choice, and responsibility.