

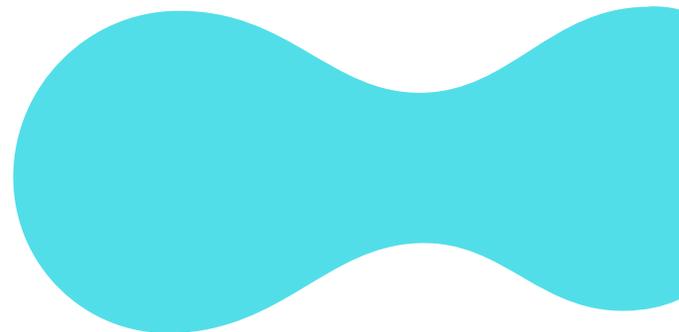
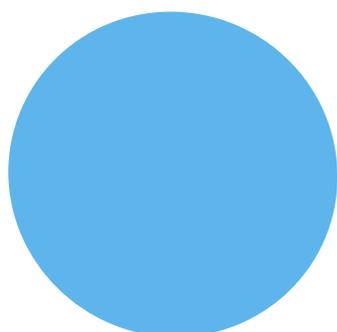
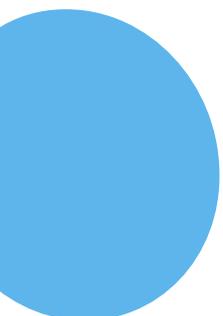


Global
Online Safety Regulators
Network

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2023

The Global Online Safety Regulators Network (the Network) brings together independent regulators to cooperate across jurisdictions. The Network will share information, best practice, experience, expertise and support harmonised or coordinated approaches to online safety issues.

This document details plans to establish the Network and its initial strategic action plan.



The need

The way countries regulate the digital ecosystem will impact the lives of billions of people. Regulating in a rights-based and ethical manner has emerged as a crucial challenge of our time. International cooperation is necessary to shape the normative forces that guide the digital ecosystem: governance, ethics and regulation.

There is no existing transnational group with a global mandate and specific focus on online safety regulation. The Network aims to fill this gap.

Purpose

The purpose of the Network is to bring together independent online safety regulators to:

- cooperate across jurisdictions – sharing relevant information, best practice, experience and expertise
- support harmonised or coordinated approaches to online safety issues.

Strategic priorities

At the core of the Network are three pillars representing its strategic priorities:

- 1. Establishing a respected, clear and influential collective voice of independent online safety regulators.**
 - Contributing to global dialogue on online safety issues with evidence-based advocacy for regulation, grounded in human rights and ethical frameworks.
 - Striving for a free and democratic digital ecosystem, which protects users from online harms, and provides civil remedies alongside the criminal justice pathways of national security or law enforcement agencies.
- 2. Promoting cooperation and collaboration between online safety regulators.**
 - Sharing insights and best practice across the Network to strengthen knowledge, expertise and capabilities of the collective and of individual jurisdictions.
- 3. Striving for harmonisation of online safety regulatory approaches to ensure international interoperability and clear expectations for industry and individuals, while recognising diversity of domestic contexts and approaches.**
 - Consistency across jurisdictions in regulating the digital ecosystem, expanding scope for cooperation and setting standards for how technology is designed and deployed.

A phased approach

Given this is a new endeavour, and online safety regulators are just emerging on the global scene, the Network will be established in phases, with progress against the Network's strategic priorities being incremental and long term.

In the first instance, the Network's primary objective is to create an ongoing dialogue focused on sharing:

- insights and comparing regulatory approaches
- the assessment of and approaches to engagement on online safety issues in relevant international fora.

Depending on the success of this approach, and how developed other regulatory systems become, the Network could progress to developing common frameworks and resources for use by prospective members and other interested parties.



Phase 1 – Prepare

Phase 1 will consist of preparatory discussions with operational-level representatives, before moving onto a formal meeting between the heads of each inaugural member agency. Representatives will:

- commence sharing information and best practice
- review, contribute to and agree on the following guiding documents:
 - Terms of Reference, including membership criteria
 - Strategic Plan 2022 - 2023, including ideas for focus areas
 - Roadmap for Action 2022 - 2023
- convene senior executives and commissioners to formalise the Network.
- publish a joint statement or media release to announce the Network and raise awareness for other jurisdictions.

The Prepare phase will be considered finished once the Network is formally launched.

Phase 2 – Consolidate

Phase 2 is about solidifying the Network through establishing processes and procedures, and continuing to exchange information. Members will present on key focus areas at quarterly meetings. Activities may include:

- Maintaining open lines of communication through senior executive and working-level meetings.
- Building the role of the secretariat through establishing administrative processes.
- Working cooperatively to share information and develop joint research or policy statements.
- Identifying opportunities for possible bilateral or multilateral regulatory cooperation.
- Cataloguing online safety resources and collaborating to fill identified gaps.

Phase 3 – Grow

The final phase consists of an ongoing effort to grow the Network’s membership and reach. Activity may include:

- Inviting other entities – as more jurisdictions establish online safety regulators – to apply to join the Network. This is in line with the agreed membership criteria, with a view to develop diverse and inclusive representation in the Network.
- Creating working groups to drive forward on focus areas, such as regulation, investigations, and research.
- Inviting observers who may not meet membership criteria to provide a multistakeholder lens, such as industry representatives, civil society organisations, or adjacent multilateral groupings with a cyber policy mandate.

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