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| **English only** |
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| Contribution by Saudi Arabia, South Africa (Republic of), Egypt (Arab Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Kuwait (State of) and Tunisia |
| TOPIC FOR NEXT OPEN CONSULTATION |
| **Purpose**This document discusses challenges posed by online misinformation and disinformation, suggesting questions related to innovative tools and technologies that can be adopted to identify and reduce the spread of misinformationand disinformation, along with identifying the importance of international collaboration, to establish common standards and share best practices.**Action required**The Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues is invited to **consider and approve** this document. |

# 1 ****Introduction****

The digital age has transformed how information is created, shared, and consumed, offering unprecedented connectivity and access. Despite the benefits, this has also led to the spread of misinformation and disinformation, posing a significant challenge to digital trust impacting individuals, societies, and countries. As social media platforms and online ecosystems become primary sources of information, the rapid misinformation and dissemination and false content remains a pressing concern. Different stakeholders are taking proactive steps to combat disinformation and misinformation, aiming to enhance digital trust and ensure the integrity of online information.

# 2 ****Discussion****

Addressing the challenges posed by online disinformation and misinformation requires a comprehensive approach that focuses on technological innovation, public awareness, and collaborative efforts. Technological advancements, such as automated tools for detecting false information, can help mitigate the spread of misinformation and disinformation. Public awareness campaigns and educational programs are essential for empowering individuals to evaluate the credibility of the information they encounter online. Collaborative initiatives involving stakeholders from various sectors, including social media platform providers, play a vital role in creating a trustworthy digital environment. Encouraging critical thinking and fostering digital literacy are fundamental to reducing susceptibility to misinformation and disinformation. Efforts to enhance transparency and build user trust can further strengthen the resilience of digital platforms. These strategies can contribute to a more informed and reliable online information ecosystem.

# 3 ****Proposal****

Based on the above discussion, the following topic is suggested to the Council Working Group Internet next open consultation: **“The Role of Stakeholders in Combating Misinformation and Disinformation to Strengthen Digital Trust “**

1 What innovative tools and technologies can be developed or adapted to identify and reduce the spread of misinformationand disinformation without compromising user privacy?

2 How can governments and stakeholders work together to ensure equitable access to reliable information?

3 What measures can be implemented to secure online platforms against coordinated Misinformation anddisinformation campaigns and to protect the integrity of information systems?

4 How can international collaboration be strengthened to establish common standards and share best practices for addressing misinformationanddisinformation, while respecting diverse cultural and legal contexts?

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