

## Privacy-tech

### Measures to limit government surveillance over citizens online

Privacy is an incredibly versatile term, relevant to this year's theme regarding autocracy, freedom, and democratic governments. Privacy can be understood as online and data privacy. The International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) defines privacy as "the right to be let alone" and as the "freedom from interference or intrusion. Information privacy is the right to have some control over how your personal information is collected and used", continuing along this line; "data privacy, sometimes also referred to as information privacy, is an area of data protection that concerns the proper handling of sensitive data including, notably, personal data but also other confidential data, such as certain financial data and intellectual property data, to meet regulatory requirements as well as protecting the confidentiality and immutability of the data." (SNIA -Storage Networking Industry Association)

In this year's theme of authoritarian governments, delegates must distinguish between the topics of the right to democracy, the general protection of democracy, governmental surveillance, and privacy. In limiting government surveillance, the question aims to ask delegates how nations across the world can guarantee the freedom of privacy to all citizens across the world.

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights mentions privacy in Article 12, writing "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

Delegates should mention various forms of surveillance, practiced by governments such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. Surveillance can include the monitoring of financial payments, mobile phone location tracking, infiltration of smartphones, commercial data centers, and anonymous networks, virtual reality surveillance, data transfers, and the monitoring of hotel reservation lists.

Adding onto this, law enforcement agencies will often demand information and data from tech companies, intelligence agencies will often tap directly into internet cables, and the use of

license plate readers or facial recognition cameras is becoming more prevalent than ever (CDT - Center for Democracy and Technology).

Delegates should mention the disproportionate surveillance of ethnic and low-income households, acknowledging that online surveillance and data privacy breaches can often originate as a result of classist governmental regulations. One example of this comes from the United States, as in 2012, an alleged drug dealer was tracked using a GPS system that had been placed without their consent, with the FBI being given permission to track anyone that may have seen the accused in their car. Low-income neighborhoods are often policed more, which might increase the incidence of situations where data privacy is breached (The Century Foundation).

Member states should aim for a fruitful and productive discussion and attempt to reach international cooperation. Delegates should not refer to offline surveillance, as while this is relevant to the rise of authoritarianism in a global setting, it is not the main focus of the debate. The topic may be alluded to, but delegates should primarily focus on content such as online free speech, discrimination, censorship, and real-world impacts that may damage a democratic society in its entirety.

The topic of terrorism and preventing crime should be relevant to the discussion as well, and delegates should provide a resolution that ties into these themes correctly, by acknowledging crime prevention rates and mentioning that the misuse of data privacy can lead to human rights violations and generate a restless citizen population worried for their freedom.

#### Works Cited:

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