

Youth Manifesto for Digital Rights



Young people are the internet's largest user group, but are often the furthest away from internet governance forums. The Youth Voices for Digital Rights project convened fifteen young activists in a multiregional, multilingual space to learn, share, and co-create solutions to today's digital challenges.

Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment (CADE) is a project co-funded by the European Union.



Youth Voices for Digital Rights



Over the course of four online sessions, participants developed a common language about digital rights, learned about multistakeholder internet governance, and shared their unique perspectives for change. With the support of a team of technical experts, storytellers, and facilitators, participants developed a Youth Manifesto for Digital Rights. This manifesto invites governments, corporations, donors, civil society, and other internet governance decision-makers to take concrete action towards their vision for a better digital future.

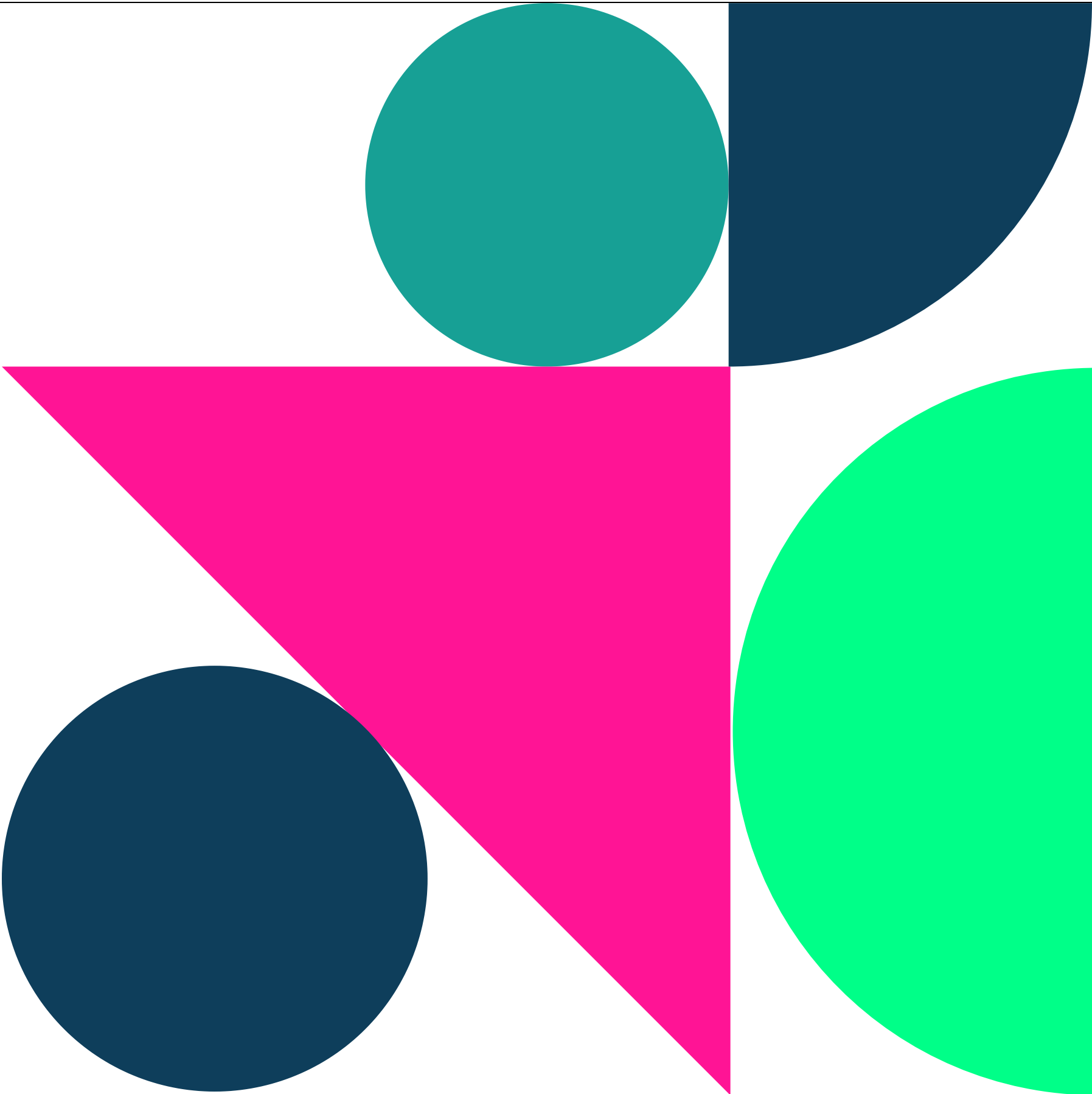




VISION



We envision a digital future where the internet is participatory, affordable, transparent, safe, inclusive, and accountable.





CALLS TO ACTION

Participatory

- Ensure internet governance forums enable meaningful and decision-shaping participation by young people.
- Fund youth-led internet governance initiatives, engagement processes, and meaningful participation.
- Amplify the perspectives of global majority regions in internet governance forums and decision-making processes.

Affordable

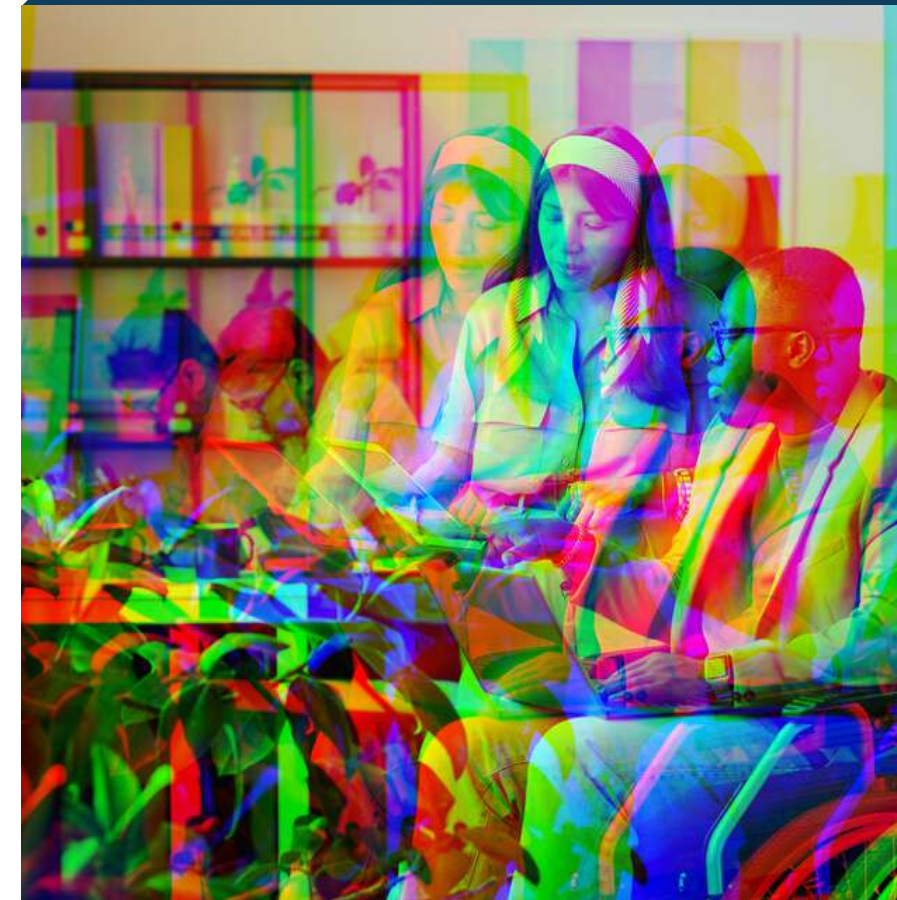
- Ensure high-quality, reliable access to the internet is affordable to all.





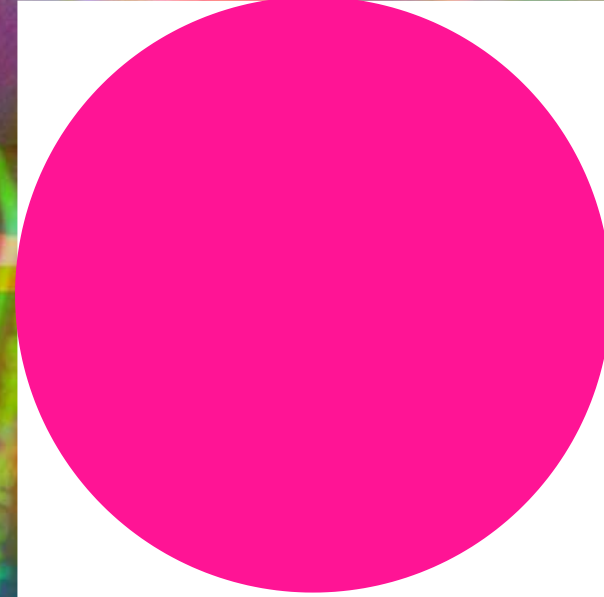
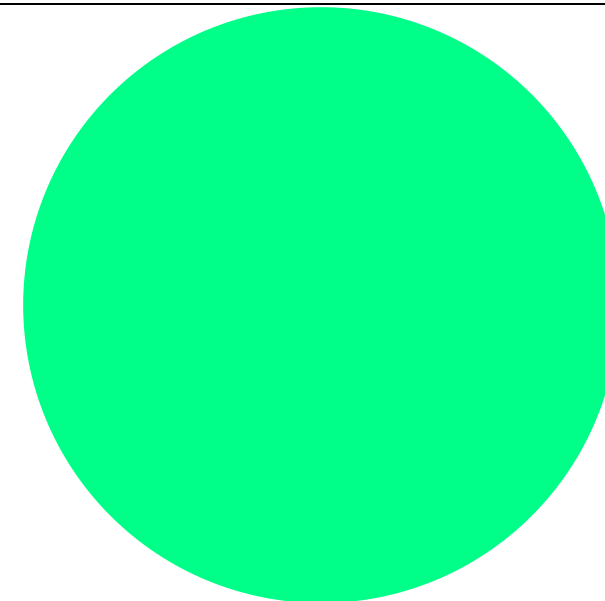
Transparent

- Increase investments in media literacy so that internet users are better informed about their participation in digital spaces, especially as the amount of information on the internet continues to grow.
- Push for greater transparency and accountability from corporations in the collection, use, and management of personal data in the digital space, adopting a human rights-based approach that goes beyond existing national regulations.
- Ensure algorithmic clarity and empower users to make informed decisions. Require platforms to clearly explain why they display certain content and provide people with real tools to control their online experience, preventing manipulation of attention and biases that limit the diversity of information.
- Resist *techno-optimism*: Technology alone cannot solve structural social, political, or economic problems – the human component is necessary for developing long-lasting solutions that centre the people affected.



Safe

- Strengthen existing mechanisms and develop new ones to further protect people's rights in the digital space, including but not limited to data and privacy, freedom of expression, and online security. These mechanisms should be resourced, use evidence-based approaches, and be able to effectively enforce laws and policies.
- Protect historically marginalised communities from harm and discrimination by creating safer digital spaces through regulations and inclusive policies, including against mass surveillance, internet shutdowns, and abuse of digital tools by states and corporations.





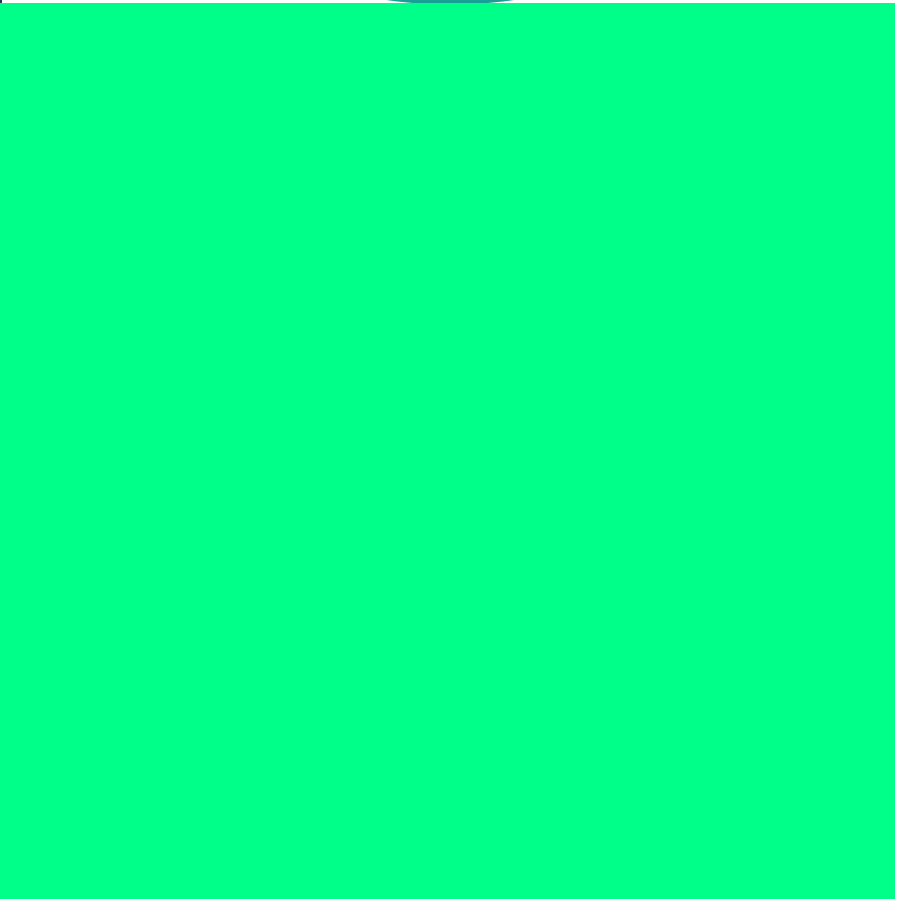
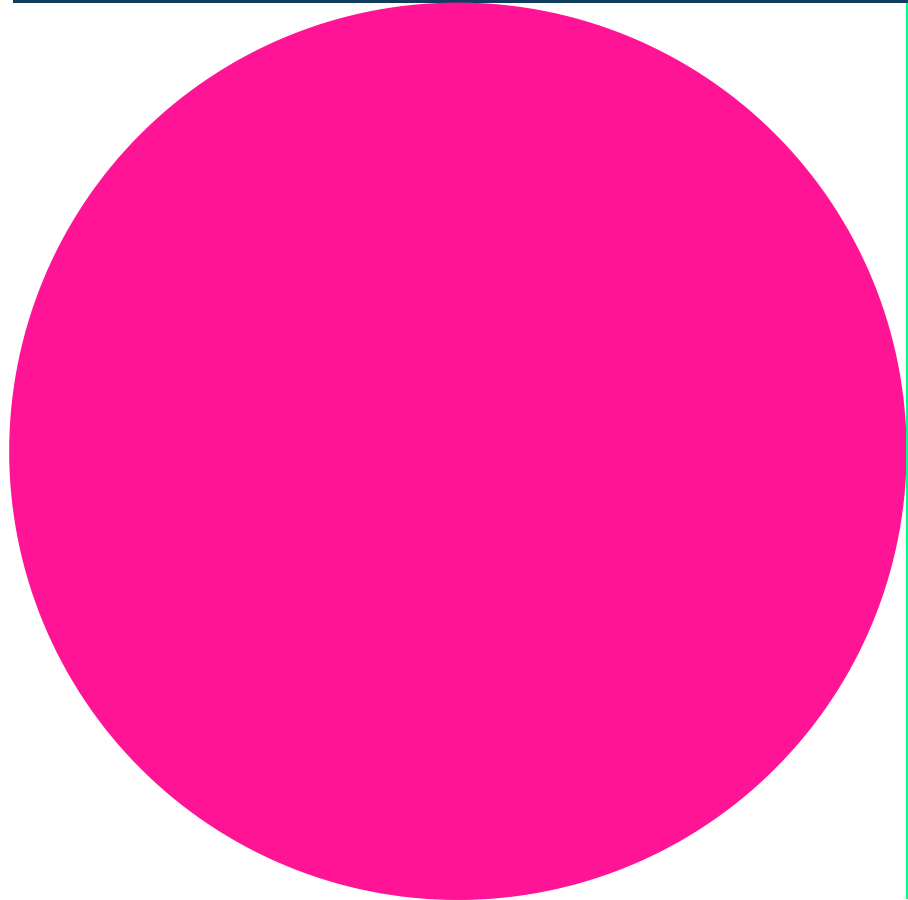
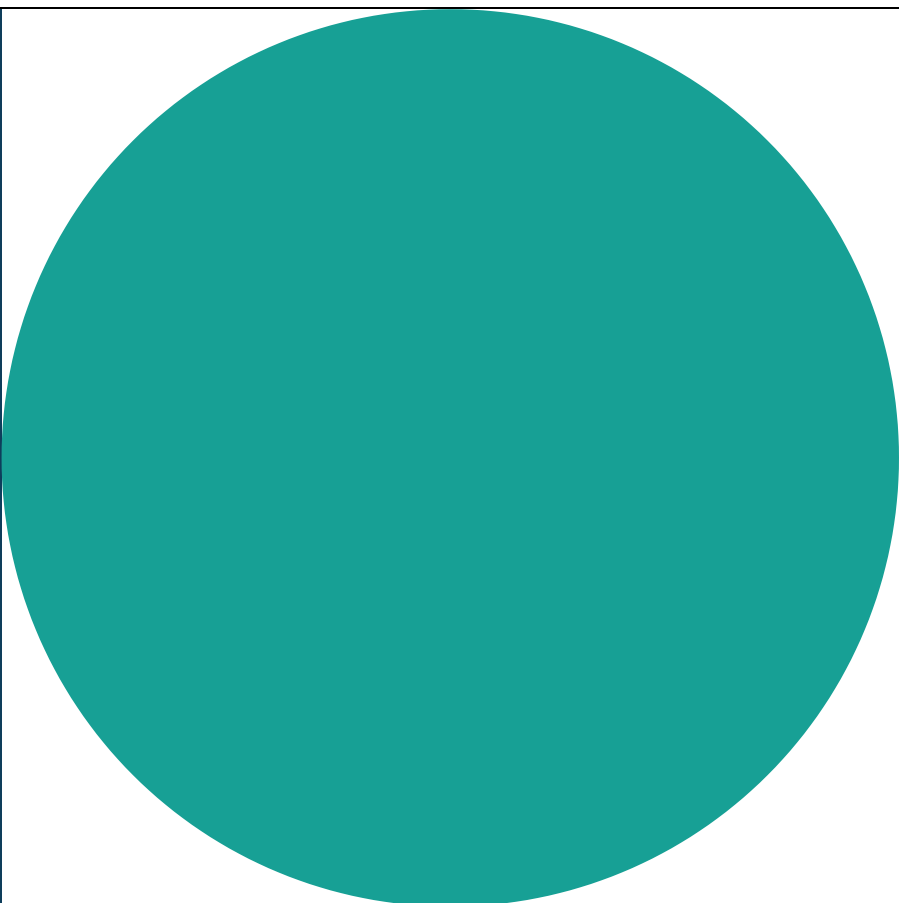
Inclusive

- Adapt and localise decision-making, strategies, and technology deployment to serve the nuances of different local contexts, especially across the global majority regions and diverse language communities.
- Use the internet as a tool to address structural inequities and not worsen them, including but not limited to income, gender identity and expression, disability, language, faith, race, and geography.
- Recognize and protect rights in the digital economy. Establish frameworks that protect people who use the internet as a means of work and livelihood, guaranteeing fair conditions and preventing job insecurity resulting from arbitrary changes to platforms or their terms of service.
- Leave no community behind.



Accountable

- Ensure people have accessible ways to challenge digital harms, platform decisions, and rights violations, with effective mechanisms for justice and remedy.
- Ensuring sustainable digital development accountable to current and future generations. Prioritizing environmentally friendly infrastructure and devices that reduce energy consumption and the generation of technological waste, so that digital advances do not harm the relationship with the environment for future generations.





Fundación
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FOR
DIGITAL RIGHTS



Charlemagne Agbassa
Benin



Huguette Oke
Benin



Francia Andriamanantena
Madagascar



Kasumi Ranasinghe Arachchige
Sri Lanka



Mar Marín
Mexico



Rhoda Julius
Tanzania



Ganga Bahadur Gautam
Nepal



Nancy Borissova
Bulgaria



Aurelio Mofuga
Tanzania



Jonathan Dueñas
Ecuador



Mustapha Lawal
Nigeria



Facundo Rodriguez
Argentina



Himani Singh
India



Ramna Saeed
Pakistan



Roi Vincent M. Merca
Philippines

Civil Society Alliances for Digital Empowerment CADE

CADE aims to enhance the capacity of Civil Society Organisations for effective advocacy in multilateral and multistakeholder internet governance processes. It supports inclusive participation, particularly from the Global South, and promotes a human-centric policy approach in shaping digital policies and standards.

Disclaimer: This manifesto was co-funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Forus and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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