



## Freedom Online Coalition Panel Discussion on "Digital Public Infrastructure for resilience and inclusion: Advancing Human Rights Online"

Seven Visions Dvin Hotel  
Green Hall

16:30-18:00, 26 May 2025

### Overview

As digital technologies reshape every aspect of our social, economic, and political lives, ensuring **equitable access** and **meaningful participation** in the digital ecosystem has become a pressing global priority. **Digital Inclusion**—defined as the effort to ensure all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and the ability to use information and communication technologies (ICTs)—is no longer a technical or development issue alone; it is a matter of **human rights**.

At the heart of this effort lies **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**: foundational systems such as digital identity, interoperable payment systems, and data exchange layers that enable secure, inclusive, and rights-respecting digital services at scale. Countries that have invested in robust DPIs have seen improvements in governance, financial inclusion, service delivery, and civic engagement. However, there are also challenges regarding surveillance, data protection, and algorithmic bias that must be addressed to ensure DPIs support—not undermine—human rights online. This is why under Estonia's chairmanship of the **Freedom Online Coalition** principles for rights-respecting DPI are being developed.

While rapidly growing digital space carries enormous transformative potential, issues of regulation and internet governance gain particular



significance both at national and international levels. For countries like Armenia, priorities around building digital resilience and sustaining digital sovereignty and security with democratic perspective at the core, are as relevant as ever.

In complex geopolitical and security environments the resilient DPI is essential not only for uninterrupted service delivery but also for protection of the basic rights of the people, including the right to public participation.

This panel will explore how DPI can be designed and deployed to **advance digital inclusion** and **uphold fundamental human rights** online, including the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination.

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## Objectives

- To highlight the role of DPI in bridging digital divides and promoting inclusive access to digital services.
  - To assess how DPI can be aligned with international human rights frameworks.
  - To identify policy and design principles for rights-respecting DPI implementation.
  - To spotlight best practices and lessons from different country contexts.
  - To explore risks, including data privacy and exclusion, and propose safeguards.
  - To identify how the small states and emerging democracies can build a DPI system that will be both secure and open and will ensure human dignity in the current complex online world.
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FREEDOM  
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## Program

Opening remarks and introduction by

H.E. Robert Abisoghomonian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Panelists

H.E. Minna-Liina Lind Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

H.E. Gevorg Mantashyan First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia

Mr. Gyan Tripathi Forum on Information and Democracy

Lawyer, and Data Rapporteur of the Observatory

Mr. Laxman Datt Pant Founder & Executive Director, Media Action Nepal

Ms. Mallory Knodel Executive Director, Social Web Foundation

Ms. Tatevik Khachatryan Senior Program Manager, Democracy Development Foundation, Armenia

Audience Q&A

Closing remarks



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DIALOGUE 2025

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