

Commission: Science and Technology

Session: Zonal MUN-2024

Sponsors: Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa

QUESTION OF:       **PROHIBITING ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH  
PRIVACY WHILST ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY  
IN AN ERA OF SURVEILLANCE**

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 12, which states that “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attack upon his honour and reputation”,

Recalling the international covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR), especially Article 17, which safeguards individuals against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy,

Concerned by the increasing prevalence of mass surveillance practices that infringe upon individuals’ privacy rights without sufficient legal safeguards or oversight,

Alarmed by the fact that intelligence agencies have been accused of abuse of surveillance powers, including spying on politicians, judges, journalists and activists, even using Wi-Fi hotspot, key card building access and cameras to do so,

Expressing deep concern that such mass surveillance interferes with people’s right to privacy, impacting freedom of expression and protest limiting their ability to express themselves freely,

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Observing that the need for strong measures to ensure safety and order, calls for greater transparency, accountability and stronger legal safeguards to protect privacy,

Reaffirming that data protection commissions are currently investigating 17 priority data breach cases across various sectors, including finance, technology, education, government, logistics and gaming,

1. Affirms that independent oversight bodies will be integrated to monitor government surveillance and data protection practices. These bodies should have the authority to investigate complaints, audit practices and enforce compliance with privacy standards;
2. Appeals for the following of the UN principles on personal data protection and privacy by providing a framework for processing personal data to ensure and respect individual's right to privacy;
3. Urges member States to adopt clear and comprehensive legal frameworks governing that collection, storage and use of personal data, ensuring that such frameworks provide accountability and redress individuals' rights;
4. Requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a panel of independent experts to develop guidance on balancing national security and privacy in the digital age;
5. Recommends the implementation of robust data protection measures such as the use of advanced encryption technologies to safeguard personal data from unauthorized access and misuse;

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6. Acknowledge that it is favourable to develop a monitoring system based on ONI (OpenNet Initiative) methods;
7. Encourages the private sector to adhere to principles of data protection and privacy, and to cooperate with governments in ensuring that surveillance measures are necessary, proportionate and legal;
8. Urges all member States to ensure that any surveillance measures comply with international human rights obligations;
9. Suggests that member states adopt advanced cybersecurity technologies to avoid mass surveillance and indiscriminate data gathering by rather collecting only necessary data to achieve security goals.