**FORUM:** Special Conference 1

**QUESTION OF:** Countering disinformation and misinformation in light of the changing face of modern media platforms

**SUBMITTED BY:** RUSSIAN FEDERATION

THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE 1,,

*Defining* misinformation as untrue, or “fake” news that has originated from unsupported sources of and is unknowingly spread amongst the public,

*Further defining* disinformation as misinformation spread explicitly with the malicious purpose of tricking the viewership, convincing them of incorrect information, falling in the wider category of “fake news” thusly,

*Noting with concern* that disinformation is a widespread issue, affecting most countries, if not all, as many social media networks transcend national boundaries, due to the nature of the internet,

*Reaffirming* the current situation in which Use of mobile devices for news continues to grow. As of spring 2017, 45% of U.S. adults often get news on a mobile device, up from 36% in 2016 and 21% in 2013. According to a pew research centre poll,

*Convinced* that misinformation and disinformation is spread online, via social media sites in particular, due mainly to inconsistencies in fact checking from within the media outlets, and an1 over representation of opinion-based news,

*Alarmed* that two-thirds of Americans (67%) get at least some news on social media, implying that there is a higher risk for disinformation or misinformation to affect the populous, as the less regulated news outlets are diminishing in significance as a result of the adaptable social media outlets, no longer providing solely personal and social information, but news as well,

*Recognising* that citizens of the United States do not represent the wider global population, however the results of studies on the topic are the most through and reliable there, nonetheless appreciating that 54.4% of the internet landscape is in English, additionally sites mostly originating from the U.S, in particular social media sites, are the most prominent in their sectors,

*Recalling* the statements that the USA has experienced a changing face of social media outlets, along with the rest of the globe, as a result disinformation and misinformation has been spread throughout the internet on these sites at an alarming rate,

*Welcomes* and supports the efforts made by social media outlets to sift through public information on their platforms, in particular the termination of accounts spreading extremist views and falsehoods as truth,

1. Encourages National and independent news outlets to prioritise providing well sourced and sited information on their platforms, online and elsewhere, as to keep their reputations separate from those of less reputable online points of information distribution;
2. Promotes unbiased and centrist views on news, regardless of prominence of News outlet, so that the viewership is guided to create their own judgment on the issues at hand;
3. Invites Member States to continue to support and assist, as appropriate, News Organisations that uphold the aforementioned points, by highlighting them on national social media homepages already present on most major platform;
4. Further encourages individual nations to increase media literacy to help counter misinformation such as, but not limited to:
   1. how to spot fake news
   2. understanding the importance of fact-checking
   3. distinguishing the difference between a reliable source and an unreliable source
   4. the possible dangers of being ill-informed;
5. Calls upon all member states to raise awareness of misinformation and make aware of the platforms:
   1. facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media, platforms that must obligate their users to restrictions including but not limited to:
      1. no hate speech against any group of individuals
      2. no Anarchist motions being supported by a large group of a surplus of 50 people
      3. no Explicit content including pornographic material or graphic images
      4. no False information that has been accidentally or purposefully planted
   2. online forums
   3. campaigns or posters, except trusted sources monitored by the government;
6. Recommends sharper control over press freedom and media outlets by means of, but not limited to:
   1. censorship of sensitive topics
   2. encouraging member states to create organised committees to monitor the news portrayed to the people by each news source
   3. imploring all member states to invest in research and development of monitoring the public news sources for the protection of the state;
7. Requests all governments to implement a routine check of the public knowledge and access to news sources;
8. Strongly urges all network operators of Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) networks and cyber access to require users to register and identify themselves to ensure that all internet users are identifiable in an attempt to making the recognising of cyber criminals an easier process.