

Statement from the Government of Canada

The internet has fundamentally changed the way people work, communicate, interact and share information. It is a powerful and inherently open tool that allows people to exercise their democratic voices and their human rights in powerful new ways, in particular free expression, association, assembly and privacy online. Yet with these new opportunities come new challenges. Around the world, governments, private industry, civil society organizations, and individuals face a range of threats. These threats need to be addressed if we are to feel safe and secure in our use of the internet, and we require new solutions that are rights-respecting by design.

Canada believes that the Internet should remain an environment where individuals' rights and freedoms are promoted and protected. We believe that the same rights apply online as they do offline. In Canada's view, the relationship between security and freedom in cyberspace is mutually reinforcing. One cannot exist without the other.

At the Sixth Annual Conference of the Freedom Online Coalition, the FOC's Working Group 1 – An Internet Free and Secure launches its “Recommendations for human rights based approaches to cybersecurity.” These Recommendations offer practical guidance for ensuring that cybersecurity policymaking remains rights-respecting by design. The Recommendations, like all of the activities of Working Group 1, aim to effect a paradigm shift in which human rights and cybersecurity are seen and treated as complementary, mutually reinforcing and interdependent.

The Government of Canada welcomes these efforts by the Working Group and would like to thank all of its members for their time and dedication. Canada remains committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders in order to foster cybersecurity policies and practices that are consistent with human rights.

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