4th Anavryta Model Lyceum Model United Nations 2025

FORUM: Disarmament and International Security Committee/
TOPIC: The impact of the existence of authoritarian regimes on national and international security
STUDENT OFFICER: Anastasia Pyrovolaki, Nancy Stamatopoulou, John Fountoulis
POSITION: President, Deputy President, Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Honorable delegates,

I warmly welcome you to the fourth AMLMUN conference. My name is Anastasia Pyrovolaki and I have the honour of serving as the president at the Disarmament and International Security Committee. I am sixteen years old and a student at the First High School of Kifisia. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, reading and practicing my sport. Lastly, I am really passionate about MUNs, as I have attended plenty of them and I have gained a lot of useful knowledge and experience.

This year's conference revolves around democracy, good governance and civil society. The topics of our committee are urgent matters that trouble humanity and solutions must be found. That's where you come in. You are responsible for finding solutions that agree with your countries' policies on each topic, with, of course, our help throughout the background papers, where you will find all the useful information you may need to complete your resolutions.

I fully understand the stress and anxiety that all of you might have, especially if you are taking your first steps into this magical world, but I am here to guide you and help you all. And just remember that we, now chairs, have been in your position in the past. I look forward to meeting you all and I'm sure that we will have an awesome and fruitful debate. It's my pleasure to be your chair and I'm truly grateful for that opportunity. So, if anyone comes across any problems or has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at anastasiapyrovolaki@gmail.com.

Kind Regards,
Anastasia Pyrovolaki

Dear delegates,

My name is Giannis Fountoulis and I have the pleasure of being a co-chair in the DISEC committee of this year's AML MUN conference. I am 16 years old and I am a student at Model Lyceum of Anavryta, the host of the conference. This year's topics are important issues which concern all of the globe. That is why we need you, the youth and the future of our world, to cooperate with each other and discover innovative and efficient solutions. Having been a delegate numerous times, I know first-hand how stressful and difficult it seems to be a delegate at a conference, especially for first-timers. However we're here to assure you that

MUNs are nothing but amazing and enjoyable experiences and you have nothing to be afraid of. In case you have any queries you can always contact me or my fellow student officers.
Looking forward to seeing you!
johnnyfoun09@gmail.com

Dear delegates

My name is Nancy Stamatopoulou and I'm really honoured to be a part of this year's AML MUN as a chair. I'm in the 11th grade in Anavryta Model Lyceum and for three years I have participated actively in many MUNs. I'm really looking forward to the conference and I can't wait to meet you all. For any help don't hesitate to contact me by email: stamatopoulou.nancy@gmail.com
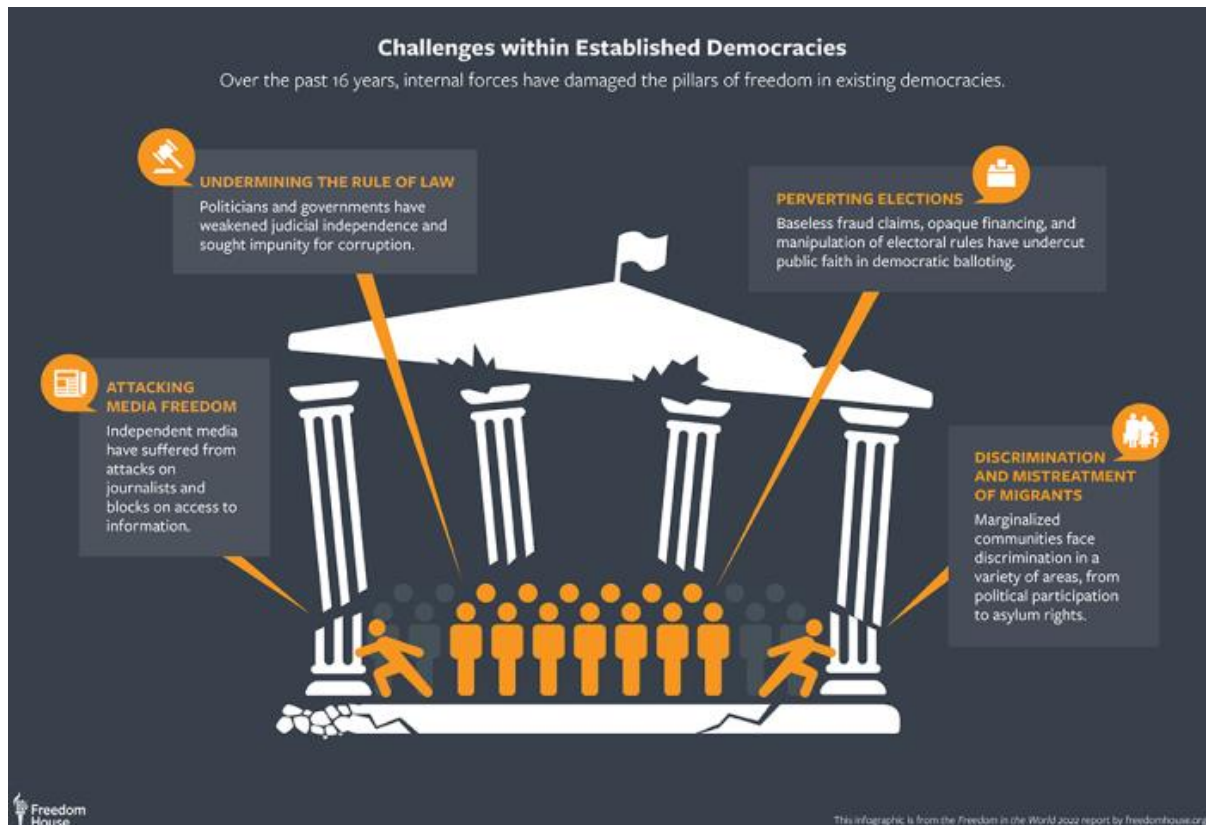
Kind regards,

Nancy stamatopoulou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

At national level, administrations often maintain control through coercive methods such as censorship, mass surveillance, imprisonment and policing. These practices intending to prevent dissent, could engender general irritation, facilitate internal unrest, and elicit processes of rebellion and violent suppression. In many instances, political repression undermines long-term stability and fuels radicalization among disenfranchised populations.

Moreover, a state's capacity can be lessened by the deterioration of civil society and by the democratic institutions to react effectively to international crises. Corruption and human rights violations might be led by lack of clarity and autonomous oversight. These internal failures not only affect inhabitants but also create humanitarian crises that can evolve into larger regional problems such as mass displacement and instability across borders.
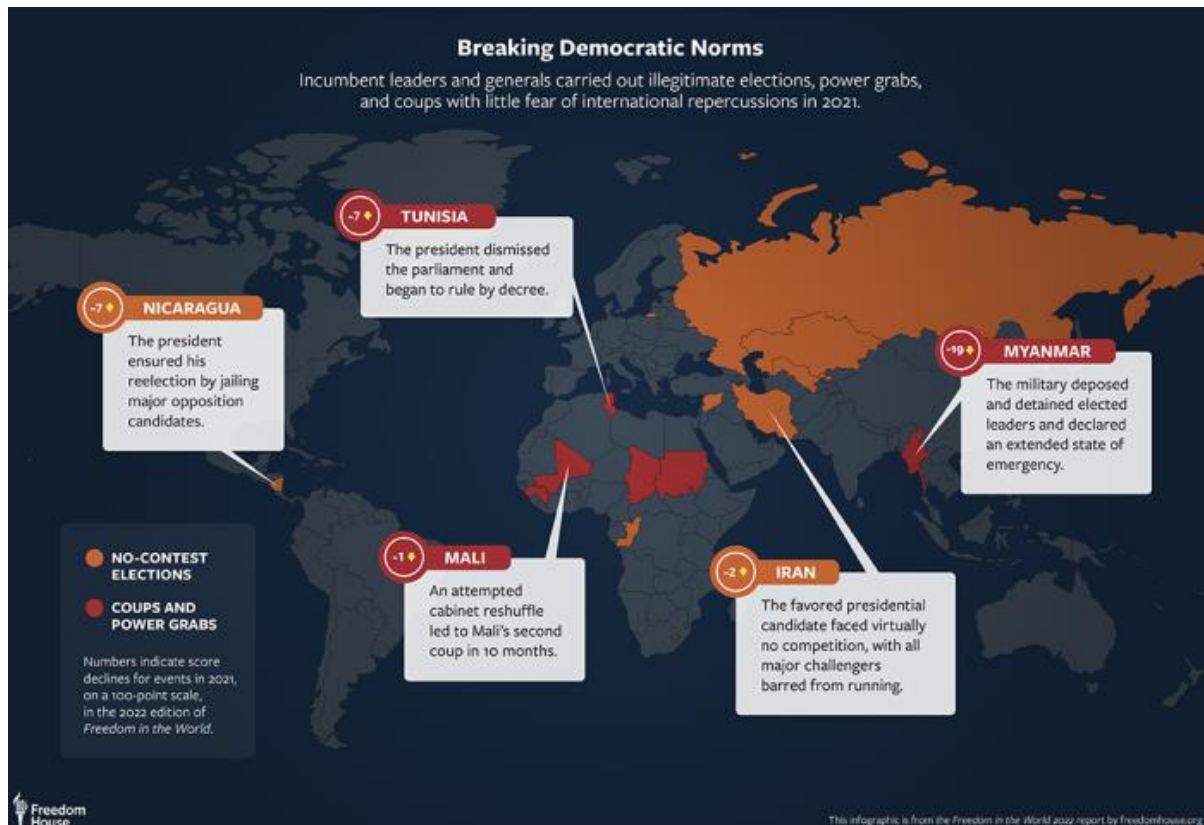
Challenges within Established Democracies[1]

Additionally, some authoritarian governments divert substantial national resources to military buildup at the expense of public welfare . In doing so, they may reinforce their power domestically while instilling fear and suspicion among neighbouring states.

The global security of authoritarian governments is vast. Their unclear decision-making methods, lack of a free press, and restricted accountability make it difficult for other countries to predict their behavior. Such unpredictability is especially dangerous when these regimes have sophisticated military power or weapons of mass destruction.

Authoritarian states may also engage in fierce or expansionist foreign policies in desire to divert attention from domestic instability. A current instance includes Russia's invasion of Ukraine, perceived as an attempt to reestablish geopolitical influence . Such actions destabilise entire regions and impose significant strain on global diplomatic and security institutions.

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[1]Freedom House. *Illiberal Forces in Democracies (Figure). Freedom House*, 2022, freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/styles/308_wide/public/2022-02/FIW_2022_Illiberal_Forces_in_Dems_Final_FOR_WEB.png

Breaking Democratic Norms

Incumbent leaders and generals carried out illegitimate elections, power grabs, and coups with little fear of international repercussions in 2021.

TUNISIA (-7)
The president dismissed the parliament and began to rule by decree.

NICARAGUA (-7)
The president ensured his reelection by jailing major opposition candidates.

MYANMAR (-19)
The military deposed and detained elected leaders and declared an extended state of emergency.

MALI (-1)
An attempted cabinet reshuffle led to Mali's second coup in 10 months.

IRAN (-2)
The favored presidential candidate faced virtually no competition, with all major challengers barred from running.

- NO-CONTEST ELECTIONS
- COUPS AND POWER GRABS

Numbers indicate score declines for events in 2021, on a 100-point scale, in the 2022 edition of *Freedom in the World*.

Freedom House

This infographic is from the *Freedom in the World 2022* report by freedomhouse.org

A global overview of countries where democratic norms were undermined in 2021 through power grabs, military coups, and rigged elections[2]

Another concern occurs from the alliances that authoritarian regimes tend to establish with one another aimed at undermining international norms. They may cooperate in sharing surveillance technologies, engaging in cyber warfare, or transmitting disinformation. The decay of democratic values in global governance poses a threat not only to human rights, but also to the enforcement of international treaties.

Furthermore, authoritarian regimes may perform as sanctuaries for terrorist networks or facilitate illicit arms trade and nuclear proliferation, thereby further jeopardising international security. Their limited cooperation with international bodyguards and their refusal to adhere to United Nations resolutions can impede the usefulness of multilateral efforts to stave off disagreement.

The international community has responded to the reanimation of authoritarianism through numerous means, such as economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, support for democratic opposition groups and humanitarian interventions. However, these responses

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[2] "Freedom in the World 2022: Breaking Democratic Norms." *Freedom House*, 2022, https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/styles/308_wide/public/2022-02/FIW_2022_Breaking_Democratic_Norms_Final_FOR_WEB.png?itok=YNLfbq0y

have generated mixed outcomes, and in certain instances, have even bolstered authoritarian leaders by facilitating anti-Western propaganda .

The United Nations , particularly the Disarmament Initiatives and Security Cooperation (DISEC), assumes a pivotal role in navigating this intricate terrain and DISEC shall evaluate the effect. It is absolutely indispensable to consider the engagement with these regimes diplomatically and also to ensure their accountability for law violations. The challenge lies in formulating global policies that handle the safety posed by authoritarian governments, without actually intruding upon state independence or exacerbating divisions.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Authoritarianism

"the belief that people should obey authority and rules, even when these are unfair or even when this means the loss of personal freedom"[3]

Authoritarian regimes

"systems of government that have no established mechanism for the transfer of executive power and do not afford their citizens civil liberties or political rights"[4]

Totalitarianism

"the principles and practices of a political system in which there is only one party, which has complete power and control over the people"[5]

Autocracy: "a system of government of a country in which one person has complete power"[6]

Illiberal democracy

"loyal to electoral democracy but using state power for largely nationalistic, anti-minority, and anti-freedom purposes, often led by strong leaders and their associates".[7]

Hybrid regimes

"a combination of democratic and authoritarian features, blending elements of both systems rather than being fully democratic or autocratic. They are characterized by formal democratic institutions, such as elections, but also exhibit autocratic practices like political repression, flawed or manipulated elections, limited press freedom, a weak rule of law, and corruption.

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[3] **Pádraig Carmody.** "Authoritarianism." *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, Oxford University Press, 2024. *Oxford Reference*, 15 Sept. 2024.https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/authoritarianism?q=authoritarianism

[4] **"Authoritarianism."** *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 21 June 2025, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism

[5] **"Totalitarianism."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/totalitarianism

[6] **Oxford Learner's Dictionaries.** "Autocracy." *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2025, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/autocracy

[7] **"Illiberal Democracy."** *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, last updated 2025, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illiberal_democracy.

These regimes represent a "grey zone" between democracy and authoritarianism, with common alternative names including illiberal democracy or competitive authoritarianism"[8]

Censorship

"the act or policy of censoring books, etc"[9]

propaganda: "ideas or statements that may be false or present only one side of an argument that are used in order to gain support for a political leader, party, etc"[10]

Centralization

"the process of giving control of a country or an organization to a group of people in one particular place; the fact of being controlled in this way"[11]

BACKROUND INFORMATION

The structure of authoritarian states

Under authoritarian regimes, a small elite or a single leader holds all the power and makes decisions without consulting the general populace. Though research has shown that authoritarian rule varies greatly, the term authoritarianism is frequently used to refer to any type of non-democratic government.

A strong secret police force, a mass party, and a charismatic leader were the hallmarks of the most prominent authoritarian governments of the 20th century. Totalitarian regimes are those that brainwash and totally control their citizens through state institutions. The goal of totalitarian governments is to inculcate in their subjects a lifelong devotion to the government and its ruler. From an early age, children are brainwashed into believing that the regime's guiding ideology is superior and that their leaders are heroes. All opposition members are either imprisoned, exiled, or killed; no dissent is allowed. Because people are encouraged to spy on one another and act as informants for the regime, there is a lack of political trust.

However, the way those governments are run is the most startling aspect. In post-Cold War autocracies, the twisted use of democratic institutions to uphold authoritarianism has become more widespread. Today, elections are held in almost all authoritarian regimes, but the competition is unfair and the outcome is certain. Fewer regimes now hold staged elections resulting in victories by absurd margins, as when Tunisia's Pres. Ben Ali snagged a third term in '99—supposedly with, get this, 99% of the vote. That way those governments look democratic. Venezuela's Maduro pulled the same stunt in 2018, letting the opposition

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[8] **"Hybrid Regime."** *Populism Studies*, populismstudies.org

[9] **"Censorship."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/censorship

[10] **"Propaganda."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/propaganda

[11] **"Centralization."** *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/centralization

scoop up almost a third of the vs, so he can make it look like a real contest. In most of these regimes, they'll let a handful of opposition folks hang around, maybe parade them for the cameras. But behind the scenes? They're getting tossed in jail, bullied, bribed, or just pitted against each other until they're useless. Meanwhile, regular folks get hammered with fake news about anyone daring to run against the big boss—because, heaven forbid, the incumbent actually risks losing.

How authoritarian regimes operate

Now, shifting gears—authoritarian governments usually control the economy. Whether it's state-run industries or just a metric ton of red tape, the idea is to keep the money and power close to the regime. It's not really about a healthy marketplace; it's about rewarding the loyalists and keeping everyone else in check. The courts? Judges in these places might as well be government employees, because justice is whatever the regime says it is that day. Trials get politicized, laws are applied whenever it's convenient for the people in charge, and honestly, the odds of getting a fair shake are pretty much zero. The truth is, not all authoritarian states look the same. The common thread is always the same though—power clings to the top, and regular folk lose out on basic freedoms.

When it comes to tackling big, messy problems, you get two very different vibes from authoritarian versus democratic setups. On one hand, authoritarians can pull off some wild feats—just look at Singapore rolling out massive support for its older citizens, or Vietnam building subways like it's SimCity. Centralized power means things move fast, no endless debates, just action.

Most of the time that speed comes at a price. Remember Chernobyl? That whole disaster blew up (literally and figuratively) because the Soviet government tried to hush it up. No transparency, no accountability, just a giant mess. Or, take Belarus's 2020 election circus—repression, corruption, you name it. Not exactly an ad for "trustworthy government."

Democracy, its perks and drawbacks

Democracies are very different . People get to speak up, human rights are supposedly protected, and the government at least pretends to listen. Sweden's strong on sustainability because citizens actually get involved, and Canada's big on making sure minorities aren't left out in the cold. But, let's be real—it's not all smooth. Decision-making can drag on forever , and sometimes the place just grinds to a halt thanks to endless political bickering.

To sum up, there's no perfectly designed government . Every system's got its perks and its potholes. Each country's gotta work with what it's got if it wants to handle whatever curveballs come its way.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED
Russia

The current president's authoritarian rule in Russia has had a significant impact on both domestic and global security. With strict laws limiting freedom of speech and assembly and more than 20,000 people arrested or prosecuted for anti-war sentiments, domestic political opposition and civil society have been suppressed to a degree similar to that of the Soviet era. Aggressive foreign policy has accompanied this atmosphere of internal repression: Russia's protracted war against Ukraine, continuous sabotage operations in Europe, and expansion in fields like drone warfare enhance NATO's perception of threat. While Russia's lack of respect for international norms has strengthened Western unity but also increased instability, its use of hybrid warfare—which includes sabotage, cyberattacks, and support for proxy actors—undermines European and global security.

China

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), led by Xi Jinping, runs China's authoritarian system. It puts internal stability first, often through surveillance and limits on freedoms. This, in turn, supports China's aggressive stance on global security. China's "wolf warrior diplomacy," which aims to expand the country's territory, and its revisionist goals go against international norms and make neighbors and the rest of the world nervous. The regime's cooperation with other authoritarian regimes like Russia and North Korea is meant to help the regime stay in power, not to promote ideological alignment. China's actions, such as building up its military, cracking down on dissent in places like Hong Kong and Xinjiang, and using technology to control people, make the region less safe and lead to new military alliances that want to limit China's growing power.

Iran

The Supreme Leader and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) are in charge of Iran's authoritarian government. This has a big effect on both national and international security. Internally, the regime keeps a tight grip on power by limiting freedoms, suppressing dissent, and using political repression. This keeps its grip on power stable, but it also increases the risk of unrest and insurgency. Iran's security strategy includes supporting proxy groups in the Middle East, like Hezbollah in Lebanon, militias in Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen. This helps Iran expand its power and weaken its enemies in the region. Iran's nuclear and missile programs are a constant threat to global security, which is why the world has imposed sanctions and worked diplomatically to limit its capabilities. Its involvement in regional conflicts and hostility toward U.S. allies make the Middle East less stable, which makes it harder for everyone in the region to stay safe.

North   Korea

North Korea's authoritarian government is one of the most oppressive in the world. It stays in power by violating human rights, spying on people, punishing people without reason, and completely silencing dissent. By focusing on making weapons of mass destruction and building military ties with Russia, like sending millions of rounds of artillery to help Russia fight

in Ukraine, this shows how these kinds of governments are a threat not just to their own countries but to the whole world. North Korea's missile launches, cyber attacks on global targets, and diplomatic brinkmanship are all meant to change the balance of power in the region, stop outside intervention, and get the world to recognize it as a nuclear state. The fact that the regime is willing to work with other authoritarian states shows how complicated the security risks are that these kinds of governments pose.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is often described as an alliance of authoritarian states, primarily led by China and Russia. The main goal of the SCO is to protect the governments of its members. To do this, it focuses on fighting terrorism, separatism, and extremism. In authoritarian regimes, these terms are often used to include peaceful dissidents and political opposition.The group's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) promotes cooperation, information exchange, and military drills, strengthening member governments' capacity to quell internal discontent and fend off alleged Western meddling, like opposition movements modeled after the Color Revolutions. By emphasizing mutual recognition and non-interference with members' political and security definitions, the SCO successfully protects authoritarian leaders from outside pressure on democratic reforms or human rights. The SCO facilitates a regional order that prioritizes state sovereignty over political liberalization by giving its members a platform for security cooperation outside of Western frameworks. This allows them to strengthen information controls, solidify regime stability, and collectively oppose liberal democratic influences.

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)

Although it was created to promote economic integration among post-Soviet nations, the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), led by Russia, has come under fire for encouraging authoritarianism. The EEU establishes frameworks that promote legal convergence and policy harmonization, despite its stated economic mission. Authoritarian leaders utilize these frameworks to strengthen central control and curtail domestic pluralism. Because of its stronghold, Russia is able to advance governance standards that put regime stability ahead of openness or liberalization, which makes the EEU a desirable bloc for nations looking for alternatives to democratic reforms spearheaded by the West. Authoritarian trends in the larger Eurasian region can be strengthened and expanded by the EEU's integration mechanisms, which provide member governments with the power to resist external democratic pressures and foster a cooperative atmosphere that allows illiberal practices to be institutionalized and replicated throughout the union.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS
1945–1991	Cold War Era
December 16, 1966	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
May 23, 1969	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)
March 15, 2006	Human Rights Council (HRC)
2010	Rise of Digital Authoritarianism
July 15, 2016	Attempted Coup in Turkey
November 8, 2016	Russian Interference in U.S. Election
December 3, 2020	European Democracy Action Plan
February 1, 2021	Military Coup in Myanmar
February 24, 2022	Russian Invasion of Ukraine
2022	Code of Practice Against Disinformation (Enhanced): Strengthened to be a more efficient and flexible tool to fight disinformation in the EU.
2023	Defense of Democracy Package: Introduces new EU regulations to strengthen transparency and democratic accountability

RELEVANT UN TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

This treaty contains clauses guaranteeing freedom of speech, assembly, and political activity. The ICCPR serves as a fundamental document for international human rights law, providing a comprehensive framework for protecting civil and political liberties around the globe.

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)

This convention illustrates how international treaties are made, interpreted, and applied, as it is very common for authoritarian states to interpret treaties in ways that benefit their interests. Standing as a paradigmatic instance of customary international law codification, the VCLT assembles binding reference points on the do's and don'ts of treaty craft. Within its clauses, it crystallizes procedures for wording, interpreting, revising, and terminating treaties, making it an essential tool for international diplomacy

Human Rights Council (HRC)

The UN has established the Human Rights Council (HRC) which has a crucial role in monitoring and reporting on human rights violations in authoritarian states. The HRC fights against authoritarian regimes by documenting serious violations. It promotes accountability through various mechanisms, sets international human rights standards, and supports defenders of democracy. However, its effectiveness faces challenges from political bias and authoritarian influence within the UN system.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

European Democracy Action Plan

In 2020, the European Commission adopted the European Democracy Action Plan with view to establishing more resilient democracies in the EU. The plan included:

- Nurturing free and democratic elections
- Enhancing media freedom
- Combating disinformation

To support and deepen this action, the Commission put forward the Defence of Democracy package in December 2023.The European Democracy Action Plan has marked considerable progress in enhancing democratic resilience, with results including the adoption of the European Media Freedom Act, which protects media freedom and pluralism across Europe, and initiatives to combat foreign interference, such as the development of new instruments to impose costs on perpetrators, thus creating the European Democracy Shield.

Code of Practice Against disinformation

In 2022 the European Commission enhanced the Code of Practice Against Disinformation in order to make it a strong, efficient and flexible tool to fight disinformation.The Code of Practice was introduced in 2018 for online platforms, trade associations and key figures of the advertising sector. It obliged them to curb disinformation and improve their online policies. However it has also proven to be an efficient tool when it comes to ensuring greater transparency and accountability of online platforms as well as providing a structured framework for monitoring and improving the platforms' policies on disinformation.Exchanges with signatories have become more frequent and efficient. For

instance, during the crisis caused by the coronavirus, platforms conducted a monthly report to the Commission providing an overview of their actions to promote authoritative content, improve users' awareness, demote or take action against harmful content and identify advertising linked to coronavirus disinformation.

Defense of Democracy package

In 2023 the European Commission adopted the Defense of Democracy package which set new regulations to strengthen transparency and democratic accountability The Defence of introduces:

- a legislative proposal to ensure common transparency and accountability standards for interest representation activities seeking to influence the decision-making process in the Union that is carried out on behalf of third countries.
- a recommendation to promote democratic, fair and resilient elections
- a recommendation to promote the engagement of the public and civil society organisations in policy making

The common transparency standards aim to:

- protect the EU democratic territory
- promote trust in institutions
- protect an open public debate from covert interference

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Norms

By strengthening institutions such as independent judiciaries, the free press, and the rule of law, democracies can increase their ability to withstand internal threats and authoritarian influence.

Coordinated International Pressure

Authoritarian regimes can be isolated internationally through joint attempts by democratic allies to put political and economic pressure on them. This includes reducing corruption, enforcing sanctions, and coordinating diplomatic initiatives to assist democratic activists in closed societies.

Countering Digital Authoritarianism

It is crucial to create regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies to stop their exploitation by authoritarians for censorship, surveillance, and disinformation. Democracies must cooperate to stop the global proliferation of oppressive digital tools.

Multilateral Cooperation and Information Sharing

Authoritarian governments frequently work together to stifle opposition abroad. Through efficient collaboration and specific channels for information exchange, such as quick reaction mechanisms, democracies can upend these networks.

Strategic Use of Tools for Deterrence

Compared to only military or economic tools, information and diplomatic tools have the potential to deter authoritarian aggression more successfully. Authoritarian threats can be more effectively addressed by customized solutions that combine security and governance initiatives.

Clear Consequences for Repression

Establishing and publicizing a tiered framework of consequences for authoritarian regimes that repress their populations can deter abuse of power. Responses would be proportional to the severity of repression, from internet shutdowns to the use of lethal force against nonviolent protesters.

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