Session 3: Access, telecom policy and network shutdowns

The first part of this unit is designed to help understand meaningful access and the regulatory framework, including laws and policies, that enable access to the internet or connectivity. Participants will be exposed to international discussions and jurisprudence from the region that recognise the significance of access. The second part of the unit will focus on the unique problem of network shutdowns and its consequences. Participants will be familiarised with laws and regulations used to impose government-mandated disruptions of internet access. This part of the session will provide participants with a factual primer on network shutdowns to appreciate the legal challenges and evolving jurisprudence on the issue.

Reference Materials

Tables are hyperlinked, please click on the text to access

- **Table 3: Laws and regulations governing the ICT ecosystem**

- **Table 4: Resources/databases on ICT and jurisprudence**

- **Table 5: International human rights law landscape**

Reading Materials

Suggested readings:

1. Divya Srinivasan, Gayatri Khandhadai, *Jurisprudence Shaping Digital Rights in South Asia* (November 2020) (Section on Access)
2. APC, Redes A.C., Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya*, Expanding the telecommunications operators ecosystem: Policy and regulatory guidelines to enable local operators* (September 2020)
3. Aayush Rathi, Arindrajit Basu and Anoushka Soni, *Dialling in the Law: A comparative assessment of jurisprudence on internet shutdowns* (November 2020)

Additional readings:

1. Ritu Srivastava, *Mapping the regulatory environment of community networks in India, Myanmar and Philippines* (August 2019)
2. [Podcast] Chips with Everything podcast, 2020, *Turning off the internet,* The Guardian

Presentation by Shyam Ponappa

Presentation by Umer Gilani

Session Summary

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