

Improving Multi-Stakeholder Information Sharing

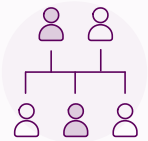
Throughout 2020, the Paris Call Community for Countering Election Interference—led by the Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD), the Government of Canada, and Microsoft in support of the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace—convened a series of multi-stakeholder workshops, each addressing a critical topic related to preventing interference in the electoral process. The outcomes below are a first glimpse at some of the key observations made by practitioners during these workshops. A more in-depth overview of best practices is planned for early 2021.

Effective information sharing is critical to successfully countering election interference. Here are some of the best practices we heard from stakeholders across government, industry, and civil society.



Thoughtfully Assess the Information-Sharing Challenges

- Consider all parts of the electoral cycle as vulnerable to interference.
- But identify your vulnerabilities and focus on potential weak points.
- Recognize that the effects of separate activities can cumulatively amount to interference.
- Use shared language to discuss threats and responses to ensure messages are clear.
- Acknowledge that threats and responses evolve.



Build And Leverage Multi-Stakeholder Relationships

- Identify points of contact across government, civil society, and industry. Keep lines of communication simple.
- Clearly state information-sharing goals, including who should share what type of information.
- Hold joint scenario-planning and rapid-response exercises.
- Where possible, the public and private sectors should aim to coordinate on policy changes.
- Cooperate and share best practices with regions around the world.



Foster Intra-Government Coordination

- Build inter-agency coordination for the long term, including through support from senior officials.
- Engage political parties across the political spectrum.
- Create a non-partisan expert group to collect and assess reports of election interference and notify the public of interference.



Communicate Effectively

- Communicate in simple but specific language.
- Improve and publicize methods for identifying election interference.
- Communicate with citizens about the tools they should use to combat disinformation.
- Notify parties about not just breaches but also attempted breaches.
- Center conversations around interference victims.