Committee: SOCHUM

Committee Topic: Developing the Framework to Address the Global Digital Divide

Topic Summary: In an area of rapid technological growth, society faces an unprecedented challenge. More so than ever, digital accessibility has become inextricably linked with the rights to education, access to job markets, and the cultivation of social networks. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has further transformed and accentuated the critical role of digital tools, now indispensable for meeting daily needs. Despite its importance, there exist wide gaps in digital access that exacerbate existing global inequalities. For instance, geographical areas disproportionately affected by natural disasters are more at risk of internet outages, sometimes for days or even weeks. Additionally, digital literacy continues to be a significant barrier in many communities, hindering marginalized populations from harnessing the full potential of available digital resources. The global digital divide is a complex and wide-reaching issue that requires attention and action from individuals, corporations, and policymakers alike. Given the close linkage between individual rights and technology, addressing these disparities becomes crucial to ensure equitable access and upholding the principles of human rights for all as technology continues to advance.

The goal of this committee is to craft a resolution addressing the challenge the global digital divide brings to promoting the fundamental rights of all individuals. Specifically, the committee will examine several pertinent questions. What standards or principles pertaining to individual rights

should the UN adopt to match the rapid innovation of the digital age? How should member-state governments collaborate to ensure that individuals are protected alongside constantly changing technology? Most importantly, how should the international community encourage innovation in technology while closing the digital gap and diminishing global inequalities?