



Digital Platforms and Societal Harms

Introduction to IEEE Public Policy

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What is Public Policy?

- ▶ Public Policy is the rules that govern society. It is made up of laws, regulations, and other actions by government that determine what can and cannot be researched, built, sold, and used in a community.
- ▶ It can be global e.g. UN Treaties
- ▶ It can be e.g. in national laws or policy
- ▶ It can be local: state based, local government, even the policies at a particular university
- ▶ Most definitions limit public policy making to government. Public policy work outside of government consists of actions that seek to inform and influence government thinking.

Technology Policy for the Public Good

IEEE and its organizational units engage in coordinated public policy activities at the national, regional and international levels in order to advance our mission and vision of securing the benefits of technology for the advancement of society. Goals include:

- Encouraging the multiple and beneficial uses of technology to advance the interests of humanity and serve the public good.
- Educating policy-makers, the public, and our members on the social implications of technology, including technology-related opportunities, threats and barriers.
- Providing non-partisan public fora for exploration and communication of how public policy can best capture and increase the public benefits derived from technology.



Public Policy as part of the IEEE's mission

Rationale for involvement in and contribution to public policy matters

- Recognition of the growing involvement of governments in technology-related matters
- Need to “educate” and advise policy-makers, the public, and our members on technology policy matters and on their societal implications

General trend within IEEE towards more involvement in policy activities

- IEEE-USA has been working on public policy related matters since the 70's
- IEEE Board looked into public policy related activities at least since 2012, making it one of the main priorities in the 2015-2020 and 2020-2025 strategic plans
 - Leverage IEEE's insight to provide governments with innovative, practical recommendations to address public policy
 - Build communities that inform public policy
- Increasing engagement and interest by IEEE OUs in public policy activities, such as by IEEE-SA, Societies (e.g., PES), etc.
- Potential activities in Asia (e.g., India, Canada) have also been discussed in past years and will continue to be explored

Board actions

- In 2015 IEEE established the Global Public Policy Committee (IEEE Bylaw I-305.8), principles to guide IEEE Public Policy Activities (Bylaw I-311), processes and authorities for development and approval of policy documents (IEEE Policies, Section 15)
- In 2017 IEEE established the European Public Policy Committee (effective as of January 2018)
- In 2024 IEEE replace the Global Public Policy Committee with the Global Policy Caucus, updating the bylaws. The GPC is a larger body made up people appointed from across different parts of the IEEE.



IEEE Strategic Plan

2020-2025

OUR MISSION

We foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

OUR VISION

We will be essential to the global technical community and to technical professionals everywhere, and be universally recognized for the contributions of technology, and of technical professionals in improving global conditions.

CORE VALUES



IEEE WILL:

- Drive global innovation through broad collaboration and the sharing of knowledge
- Enhance public understanding of engineering and technology and pursue standards for their practical application
- Be a trusted source of educational services and resources to support life-long learning
- Provide opportunities for career and professional development
- Inspire a worldwide audience by building communities that advance technical interests, inform public policy, and expand knowledge for the benefit of humanity

IEEE will foster a collaborative environment that is open, inclusive, and free of bias and will continue to sustain the strength, reach, and vitality of our organization for future generations.

www.ieee.org/strategic-plan

Approved by the IEEE Board of Directors, November 2019

Global Public Policy Committee / Global Policy Caucus

Mission:

To encourage, assist, coordinate, and oversee public policy activities throughout IEEE with the goal of enhancing and sustaining IEEE's reputation as a globally-relevant resource of high-quality, balanced and effective advice, information and advocacy on public policy issues within IEEE's sphere of technical competence and professional interest

Role:

- Advises the IEEE Board of Directors (BoD) on public policy matters when asked
- Reviews all OU position statements, verifying compliance with IEEE Policy 15
- Considers renewals of existing position statements
- May bring forward its only policy statements and whitepapers

Resources:

- <https://globalpolicy.ieee.org> | <https://www.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-org/ieee/web/org/about/whatis/ieee-policies.pdf>

