



## **CHARTER**

### **The Southeast Asian Coalition on Tech Accountability (SEACT)**

#### **1. PREAMBLE**

The Southeast Asian Coalition on Tech Accountability (SEACT) was founded in 2021 to bring organizations in Southeast Asia together to demand greater accountability from tech companies. The decision to start SEACT was spurred by the outsized role the policies, actions, and features of such platforms play in human rights and democracy across Southeast Asia. These effects are usually not confined to one country and, even though contexts may vary, the impacts tend to be similar across borders. Also, concerns are often not addressed when responses come from one country alone, especially if the country in question does not play a significant role in geopolitics. SEACT was formed address regional issues at the intersection of human rights, democracy, and the policies as well as actions of tech companies in Southeast Asia.

#### **2. MISSION**

Act together as a regional community to bring greater accountability from tech companies on human rights and democracy in Southeast Asia.

#### **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 To defend digital rights in Southeast Asia by holding tech companies accountable to their human rights obligations and responsibilities.
- 3.2 To facilitate collaboration, including with marginalized communities whose rights and freedom are affected or have the potential to be affected by tech companies' policies, features, and actions, to achieve objective 3.1.

#### **4. SECRETARIAT**

- 4.1 The coalition has DigitalReach as the secretariat to facilitate the overall administration of the coalition. The organization works on digital rights in Southeast Asia from the perspective of civil and political rights. DigitalReach initiated the SEACT in 2021, and the coalition is under the Tech Accountability program at DigitalReach.
- 4.2 The role of the Secretariat is to facilitate the following for the coalition;
  - 4.2.1 Facilitate the organization's strategies and activities among members and organize activities members agree to undertake.
  - 4.2.2 Conduct impact assessments of the strategies and activities conducted and to share results with members.
  - 4.2.3 Fundraise on behalf of the coalition.

- 4.2.4 Recruitment for the DigitalReach's Tech Accountability Program whose task is to oversee SEACT's administration.
- 4.2.5 Facilitate SEACT's membership recruitment and administration.
- 4.3 If DigitalReach can no longer take on Secretariat responsibilities, the organization is required to notify all the members in the coalition. If the coalition decides to have a new Secretariat, DigitalReach has to designate the new secretariat based on agreement by the member.
- 4.4 Substantive decisions that affect the overall direction of the coalition must be discussed with the members or put to the membership for vote. Any call to vote must give adequate time to members to respond. Emergency decisions may be made by the secretariat.
  - 4.4.1 The Secretariat is required to consult the members if a proposed activity is about the member's country of focus.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 The coalition is driven by members who make decisions on issues proposed by the Secretariat. The members have the following responsibilities:
  - 5.1.1 Provide advice on the work of the coalition in order for it to meet the needs of a local context and accurately respond to these needs.
  - 5.1.2 Work with the Secretariat and other members on the coalition's work or at least participate in the coalition's activities and promote the activities within their network.
  - 5.1.3 Act as a focal point when the activities are organized in or about their respective country as per agreement.
- 5.2 Members can propose strategies or activities they think the coalition should adopt. However, this is not required, and the contribution of the members towards the coalition depends on the member's capacity.
- 5.3 The SEACT coalition welcomes organizations that meet the following criteria:
  - 5.3.1 Non-profit, non-governmental organizations that works on digital rights-related issues in Southeast Asia.
  - 5.3.2 Organization whose work is focused on local human rights issues in Southeast Asia.
  - 5.3.3 Organizations whose mission aligns with the mission of the coalition.
- 5.4 Membership may be terminated for the following reasons:
  - 5.4.1 The member is inactive from the coalition's activities for 12 months.
  - 5.4.2 The member ceases operations.
  - 5.4.3 The member decides to leave the coalition. In this case, the member needs to provide an official written statement to the Secretariat. The official written statement must be from the executive (s) of their organization. Termination will take effect with acknowledgement of the Secretariat or three months after written notification, whichever is sooner.

- 5.4.4 Changes to the mission or nature of operations for a member such that they no longer align with the coalition’s mission. The Secretariat is responsible for raising any such issue with the respective member and facilitate the exit from the coalition. The process must be made transparent to other members.
- 5.4.5 The member takes actions considered to have a conflict of interest, potential to cause or already caused damage to the coalition’s reputation. The Secretariat is responsible for raising this issue with the respective member and facilitate the exit from the coalition. The process must be made transparent to other members. Other members may be invited to vote for the exit of the member in question.

**6. CODE OF PRINCIPLES**

<b>Principles</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Impact-based</b>	Decisions to undertake any project or activity, the work must result in a measurable impact for the target community.
<b>Reflecting Local Context</b>	The design and outcome of the work has to be based on the understanding and analysis of the local context. This will help the coalition identify the needs of the target communities. Work should be realistically achievable and utilize the best possible and appropriate approaches to achieve the objectives.
<b>Fairness and Transparency</b>	Work with members or communities must be undertaken in a fair and transparent manner, with the aim to empower them and not to exploit their knowledge, resources, and labor. All work must be based on an agreement between all the parties with a view toward benefiting the target community or local organization that has a measurable contribution.
<b>Sustainable</b>	The activities have to be part of an ongoing effort, and should be carried forward beyond the intervention of the coalition.
<b>Non-discrimination</b>	Members are treated equally regardless of their gender, race, religion, and nationality.

**7. FUNDING**

- 7.1 The coalition, through the secretariat, cannot accept funding from sources that can or appear to cause conflicts of interest with the coalition’s mission. The coalition, through the secretariat, is prohibited from accepting funds and support from tech companies that are the subject of the coalition’s work.
- 7.2 As the Secretariat is responsible for fund raising, the Secretariat is obliged to provide transparency over funding sources to coalition members.
- 7.3 Members have the right to vote in situations wherein the acceptance of funding by the coalition could give rise to questions or potential conflicts of interest.

**8. AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF THE CHARTER**

- 8.1 If the members of the coalition, including the Secretariat, would like to amend or repeal the charter, this must be done in consultation with all the members via the main communication channels or email.
- 8.2 The Secretariat is responsible for facilitating the repeal or amendment process.

- 8.3 Any amendment or the repeal of the SEACT charter requires a two-third majority vote among all members.
- 8.4 The adoption of the amended provisions or the new charter requires a two-third majority vote among all members.
- 8.5 Any process of amendment or repeal must be transparent to all the parties in the coalition.
- 8.6 In terms of a repeal, the new charter has to be adopted within 30 days. The new charter can be adopted if it receives a two-third majority votes from all members.
- 8.7 The provisions in this charter and the charter itself are in effect until official adoption the amended provisions or the new charter.