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**G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (G7 RRM) &
Rapid Response Mechanism Canada (RRM Canada)**

ISSUE

The G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (G7 RRM) was established by G7 leaders to strengthen G7 coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving foreign threats to democracy at the G7 Summit in Charlevoix in June 2018. Canada leads the G7 RRM on an ongoing basis through its support unit called Rapid Response Mechanism Canada (RRM Canada).

CANADIAN POSITION

- Foreign interference, including state-sponsored disinformation, is a real and present threat to democracies, fuelled by growing geopolitical tensions and the rise of digital technology.
- The G7 RRM is Canada's primary international forum for addressing foreign threats to democracy, especially state-sponsored disinformation.
- Canada is committed to bolstering the G7 RRM with respect to both information sharing and coordinated response.

BACKGROUND**G7 RRM**

Canada championed the establishment of the G7 RRM in 2018, as part of a broader commitment to promoting democracy and strengthening the rules-based international order. The G7 RRM was announced at the [G7 Summit in Charlevoix](#). The G7 RRM is mandated to strengthen G7 coordination to identify and respond to diverse and evolving foreign threats to G7 democracies, through sharing information and analysis, as well as identifying opportunities for coordinated response. Since its inception, the G7 RRM has focused primarily on countering foreign state-sponsored disinformation online.

The G7 RRM comprises Focal Points or representatives from the G7 community, including the EU. In addition, Australia, New Zealand, NATO, the Netherlands and Sweden participate in the G7 RRM as observers. Each Focal Point is expected to leverage their respective national structures and processes to support their engagement.

The G7 RRM has played a critical role in the context of COVID 19, enabling extensive real-time information sharing and analysis with respect to how hostile states have tried to shape pandemic narratives globally in pursuit of geopolitical objectives.

In the context of Russia-Ukraine crisis, RRM Canada has facilitated information sharing and real-time assessments to more effectively understand and address the information environment shaping the evolving crisis. We are also ramping up our engagement with civil society and social media platforms with a view to fostering a more effective multi-stakeholder response.

During the [Cornwall Summit in 2021](#), G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the G7 RRM and undertook to 1) bolster its collective capabilities by working closely with other organizations and forums; 2) improve its analytical capability to detect and counter disinformation online; and 3) work towards a shared understanding of what constitutes hostile activity in the information space. To build

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societal resilience and enhance transparency, the Ministers also asked G7 RRM to produce annual thematic reports on different aspects of the evolving threat landscape and possible responses. This report was published in May 2022, under the auspices of the German G7 presidency, and can be found [here](#). Germany has made countering disinformation one of its G7 priorities and has worked closely with Canada to leverage the G7 RRM for this purpose.

RRM Canada

In recognition of Canadian leadership at the G7, Canada coordinates the G7 RRM on an ongoing basis through a support unit at Global Affairs Canada (GAC) called Rapid Response Mechanism Canada (RRM Canada). RRM Canada has three primary functions: (1) coordinating the G7 RRM; (2) engaging internationally on countering foreign state-sponsored disinformation; and (3) monitoring the digital information ecosystem for signs of foreign state-sponsored disinformation. While RRM Canada was initially established as a three-year pilot, the Government of Canada has since decided to establish RRM Canada as a permanent initiative. On March 9, 2022, the Prime Minister announced \$13.4 M over five years for RRM Canada to continue to support the G7 RRM. In August 2022, RRM Canada received additional resources to create a dedicated team to counter Russian state-sponsored disinformation in Eastern Europe and beyond as part of efforts to expand Canada's diplomatic presence in Eastern Europe.

Coordinating the G7 RRM. RRM Canada operationalised the G7 RRM and provides ongoing strategic and logistical support. This includes convening monthly Focal Points meetings, leading regular analytical exchanges, organising seminars and consultations, developing Annual Action Plans, facilitating information-sharing arrangements, enhancing collaboration, and producing the *Wire* (a monthly open-source round-up of trends and tactics in foreign interference). RRM Canada also supports G7 Presidencies.

In support of this role, RRM Canada maintains a whole-of-government network. This includes Canada's security and intelligence community as well as other relevant Government of Canada Departments, such as Privy Council Office's Democratic Institutions and Canadian Heritage. This collaboration ensures that information from international partners pertaining to foreign threats to democracy is shared with domestic departments and RRM Canada's international engagement reflects whole-of-government approaches.

Engaging internationally on foreign state sponsored disinformation. The multilateral space dedicated to monitoring and countering foreign interference, particularly disinformation, is expanding as the threat continues to grow. RRM Canada supports Canadian engagement through our participation in the

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[REDACTED] for example. RRM Canada is also working with a range of civil society partners, including think tanks, research institutes and academia.

Monitoring the digital information ecosystem for foreign state sponsored disinformation. RRM Canada houses an open source data analytics capacity to monitor the digital information ecosystem in real-time to identify and report on signs of foreign state-sponsored disinformation related to Government of Canada priorities. These priorities include both domestic and foreign issues. RRM Canada analytical work is consistent with the approach and principles established by an [ethical and methodological framework](#) and privacy requirements.

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RRM Canada represents GAC on the interdepartmental [Security and Intelligence Threats to Elections \(SITE\) Task Force](#). SITE was established in 2019 to promote coordination to prevent covert, clandestine, or criminal activities from influencing or interfering with the electoral process in Canada. It includes the Communications Security Establishment, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The role of RRM Canada is to act as an early warning system by providing open source data analytics pertaining to threats to democracy and leveraging the RRM network for information exchange and potential response.

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