



The High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation

The High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation was convened by the UN Secretary-General to advance global multi-stakeholder dialogue on how we can work better together to realize the potential of digital technologies for advancing human well-being while mitigating the risks.

“Digital cooperation” refers to the many ways in which governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities cooperate to address the societal, ethical, legal and economic impacts of digital technologies in order to maximise benefits to society and minimise harms.

The Panel consulted widely across regions, demographics, sectors and disciplines. Its report highlights the urgency of improving digital cooperation and invites readers to commit to a Declaration of Digital Interdependence.



Declaration of Digital Interdependence

Humanity is still in the foothills of the digital age. The peaks are yet uncharted, and their promise still untold. But the risks of losing our foothold are apparent: dangerous adventurism among states, exploitative behaviour by companies, regulation that stifles innovation and trade and an unforgivable failure to realise vast potential for advancing human development.

How we manage the opportunities and risks of rapid technological change will profoundly impact our future and the future of the planet.

We believe that our aspirations and vulnerabilities are deeply interconnected and interdependent; that no one individual, institution, corporation or government alone can or should manage digital developments; and that it is essential that we work through our differences in order to shape our common digital future.

We declare our commitment to building on our shared values and collaborating in new ways to realise a vision of humanity's future in which affordable and accessible digital technologies are used to enable economic growth and social opportunity, lessen inequality, enhance peace and security, promote environmental sustainability, preserve human agency, advance human rights and meet human needs.

Report Themes

Building an inclusive digital future

Digital technologies can make a decisive contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require policy frameworks that support economic and social inclusion, bringing marginalised groups to the fore, investments in human capital and infrastructure, smart regulatory environments, and assisting workers facing disruption from technology's impact on their livelihoods. Education systems need to be reimagined for the digital age, and new collaborative platforms are needed to leverage data and digital public goods for the SDGs.

Protecting human rights, promoting digital trust and security

Universal human rights apply equally online as offline. We urgently need to examine how human rights norms and standards apply to new and emerging digital technologies, and put in place practical measures for closer dialogue and cooperation between governments, businesses and civil society. Autonomous intelligent systems should be designed in ways that enable their decisions to be explained and humans to be accountable for their use. Trust needs to be proactively promoted, and cooperation is imperative to bring about digital stability and security.

Fashioning a new global digital cooperation architecture

Digital interdependence necessitates that we strengthen global digital cooperation mechanisms. The Panel proposes three options for improving the global digital cooperation architecture, and outlines functions and principles that should underpin them. The UN has a unique role to play in enhancing digital cooperation.

Three possible global digital cooperation architectures

- 1. Internet Governance Forum “Plus”**
Build on the multi-stakeholder and multilateral legitimacy and functionality of the IGF
- 2. Distributed Co-Governance Architecture**
Build multi-stakeholder co-governance through self-forming networks covering all stages from norm design to implementation
- 3. Digital Commons Architecture**
Manage the digital realm similarly to other global ‘commons’ such as space, climate and the sea by facilitating collaborative use.



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