Host Your Own

Digital Cooperation Discussion

A toolkit for hosting your own discussion event and contributing insights to the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel.

#DigitalCooperation

As a global community, we face questions about security, equity, ethics and human rights in a digital age.

We need to seize the potential of technology while safeguarding against risks and unintended consequences.

I see the United Nations as a unique platform for dialogue in our digital age. **We need researchers, policymakers, technologists, entrepreneurs, civil society actors and social scientists to come to the table and share their part of the solution.**

- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

Introduction

The UN Secretary-General established a [High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation](#) in 2018 to make recommendations for strengthening cooperation in the digital age.

It is clear that no one person, nation, company or organization has the answers. That is why the Panel is reaching out to learn from and build upon the experience of many different stakeholder groups, from diverse geographic regions and areas of expertise.

This toolkit is designed for universities, research centers, innovation hubs, hacker spaces and other groups interested in hosting discussion events of their own.

This distributed consultation model enables bottom-up participation in the Panel's research process: stimulating a global dialogue and making it possible to gather insights and contributions from communities around the world.

Overview

Purpose & Motivation

Hosting a discussion on digital cooperation is an opportunity to convene your community, collect ideas, and make your voice heard at the UN - whether you're a law professor teaching a course on data privacy, or an open-source technology developer.

Your summary notes will be considered an official submission to the Panel as part of their research and consultation process.

Format

Select one or more of the Discussion Topics (see next page) to focus on.

Discussions can be held in different formats: roundtables, small-group brainstorming, or short presentations—whatever works best for your community or institution.

Number of participants can vary. For groups larger than 25 or 30, we recommend breaking into smaller group discussions and gathering at the end to share conclusions. The key is to make sure the format invites open discussion.

Participants

If possible, try to make your discussion interdisciplinary by including participants from various sectors and with varied areas of expertise.

For example, try to include representatives from private sector, academia, government and civil society, or some combination of at least two or more groups.

Expected Output

At the end of your event, submit a summary of your discussion to the Secretariat of the High-level Panel.

Topics for Discussion

1. Values & Principles

One of the broad goals of the High-level Panel is to help identify global values and principles for cooperation around digital issues.

Thus, the Panel wants to know what values and priorities matter to you and your community? For example, what values do you think are relevant today when it comes to creating, deploying and using digital technologies? And how can these values and principles be embedded in business practices and policy?

Subject matter experts or communities interested in specific topics can also narrow down the focus. For example, if your community specializes in Artificial Intelligence (AI), you might adapt the questions accordingly: "What values do you think are relevant for the future of AI?"

2. Methods & Mechanisms

How can different stakeholder groups work together to maximize the benefits of digital technologies and mitigate the risks they pose? This is another crucial question the Panel seeks to address.

You can contribute by helping the panel answer some key questions around cooperation in the digital age. For example: What are the new and emerging forms of multi-stakeholder cooperation around digital issues (e.g. legal instruments, treaties, codes of conduct, partnerships, forums)? How well are these forms of cooperation working, and what are their limitations? What new methods and mechanisms could there be today?

This topic, too, can be narrowed to specific focus areas or to capitalize on your community's expertise. For example, those interested in data might ask: "How do various stakeholders currently cooperate around data and data policy?"

Topics for Discussion

Action Areas

The Panel is exploring potential action areas where enhanced digital cooperation may be useful, such as: human rights and human agency; trust and security; data; closing the digital gap; inclusive finance, trade, technology and participation in the digital economy; enabling development; and building the capacity of individuals, institutions and governments to manage the ongoing digital transformation.

Are there good examples of existing cooperation among stakeholders (if so, please share), and where is further cooperation needed? What are the priority action areas in your view?

Preparation & Reporting

Suggestions for running your event, and guidance for reporting back

Checklist for Organizers

digital COOPERATION

2-4 weeks before
- Choose a date, time and venue. Consider co-hosting with an institution or organization.
- Tweet to @UNSGdigicoop and let us know you're planning to host a consultation
- Develop a list of potential attendees and send out invitations. (If you are part of an existing network with a mailing list, feel free to invite your whole community. Alternatively, develop a custom guest list with a focus on drawing in a diversity of expertise.)

1 week before
- Send reminders with logistical details
- Plan out the session and solidify your agenda. If working with a co-host, discuss and assign responsibilities: facilitator, note-taker, photographer

during & after
- Take photos of the event, and take notes
- Submit a consultation summary report using the online submission form.
- Send participants a thank you email. Consider including a written summary of the event and photos.

Suggested Agenda

Welcome and introductions (10 min)

To set the scene and context, consider showing the announcement video about the High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation: https://youtu.be/_OXGVk0Veww

Presentation of objectives and expectations (10 min)

Small group discussions or interactive panel (30 min)

Summarize and conclude (10 minutes)

Feel free to adapt this agenda according to your time restraint. We recommend a minimum of one hour and a maximum of two hours for each consultation.

Discussion Questions

Below are a few suggested discussion questions. Feel free to adapt to fit your community's expertise and interest areas.

Values & Principles

- What values do you think are relevant today when it comes to creating, deploying and using digital technologies?
- Where can you find these values in existing norms and frameworks, and where are the gaps?
- How can these values and principles be embedded in business practices and policy?

Methods & Mechanisms

- What are the new and existing forms of multi-stakeholder cooperation around digital issues (e.g. legal instruments, treaties, codes of conduct, partnerships, forums)? How well are they working, and what are their limitations?
- Which stakeholder groups are missing or under-represented?
- How can we better incorporate values and principles into these frameworks?

Action Areas

- What problems should digital cooperation seek to solve? What are the priority action areas in your view?

Tips for facilitation

1. Create a safe and comfortable environment that encourages frank discussion and participation. Invite participants to introduce themselves at the start.
2. Clearly communicate the objectives and expected outcomes of the consultation. Frame the discussion so that everyone has an understanding of what is being discussed.
3. Ask open-ended questions.
4. Manage participation: Notice individuals who may be shy or more quiet than others. Make sure to solicit their input and encourage them to contribute.

Summary Report

Once the event is complete, please submit a summary and key takeaways here: https://www.tfaforms.com/4701186. The form will ask you to provide:

- Contact person (name and email)
- Hosting organization(s) or individuals
- Date and location of discussion event
- Participant info (number of attendees and professional categories)
- Summary of the discussion
- Key insights/recommendations for the Panel
- 3 quotes from the consultation
- Photos

Thank You

We look forward to hearing from you

Website: **www.digitalcooperation.org**

Twitter: **@UNSGDigiCoop**

Email: **contributions@digitalcooperation.org**

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