

UK GOVERNMENT'S SUBMISSION TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON DIGITAL COOPERATION

I. Values & Principles

a) What are the key values that individuals, organisations and countries should support, protect, foster, or prioritise when working together to address digital issues?

The UK government believes that digital stakeholders, including governments, should pursue cooperation that fosters openness and transparency, creates greater trust, confidence and safety online, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. This should be implemented through processes and mechanisms that are based on multi-stakeholder engagement. Effective digital cooperation based on these values and principles will strengthen development and capacity, and ensure that the benefits and new opportunities created by emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, will become available to citizens in all communities worldwide and help promote economic growth.

The approach taken for the development and successful implementation of new digital technologies for the global information society should be inherently multi-stakeholder, in order to foster inclusiveness, openness and transparency, thereby enabling all stakeholders to participate equally and be respected for their contributions to cooperation.

Participating stakeholders in digital cooperation need to consider in a global context how to maximise the economic and social impacts of technologies through strengthening development and capacity, taking into account identified shortfalls and deficiencies that need to be addressed.

In particular, key values stakeholders should prioritise include: cooperation development for all and respect for human rights - including freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association and the protection of personal data and the privacy of individual citizens.

Participating stakeholders should also recognise the benefits of established best practice and take account of the value of flexibility and adaptability according to different national and economic situations.

b) What principles should guide stakeholders as they cooperate with each other to address issues brought about by digital technology?

Participation in frameworks of cooperation and individual initiatives should be based on increasing the understanding of digital technology impacts and creating greater trust. This can be achieved through dialogue and exchanges of information that are underpinned by clearly understood commitments to the

principles of openness, inclusivity and transparency of decision-making and processes of implementation.

The opportunities created by transformative and disruptive technologies should be approached positively and assessed for their wider socio-economic benefits through proactive cooperative engagement based on trust. Negative impacts and risks should be fully analysed and mitigation strategies maximised through collaborative working, bringing other stakeholders and agencies into identifying solutions for negative impacts where necessary.

Respect for human rights and environmental considerations should be designed into cooperative initiatives for digital technologies, alongside objectives for achieving stability, security, safety and integrity of new networks. Wherever practicable, access to these networks should be ubiquitous and neutral.

Key principles for successful cooperative initiatives and projects include:

- maximising the benefits of cooperation not only for those communities with existing advanced network infrastructures but for all communities worldwide, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- enabling, being responsive to, and supporting innovation and the adoption of new technologies that advance development, socio-economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life;
- flexibility recognising that technologies may require different forms of stakeholder cooperation according to specific societal, cultural and economic situations;
- the mechanisms and resource bases of existing processes should be assessed for their suitability in advancing digital cooperation and facilitating specific collaboration and partnerships. If necessary these can be adapted in line with rapid technology change and thus avoid the risk of duplication of processes and initiatives which would be wasteful of resources and be burdensome for stakeholders;
- the technology development community should be involved in advancing new opportunities for cooperation, through inclusive and well-informed processes with a broad, robust and fully open evidence base;
- participating stakeholders in cooperative initiatives should take responsibility for their actions and be prepared to explain them, in full adherence to the values of transparency and accountability;
- data should be managed with respect for privacy and the protection of personal data, so that individuals, businesses and other organisations retain control of their data;
- industry should lead on the development of relevant open source standards that incorporate the values of cooperation from the initial design stage onwards for new technologies and related applications, taking into account varying national and regional circumstances and laws.

c) How can these values and principles be better embedded into existing private and/or public activities in the digital space?

The technology sector should commit to a better balance of participation between the development and supply side, and the information society and specific community demand side. More effective outreach to, and resulting closer partnerships between, industry, civil society, local, regional and national governments, industry pioneers and innovators, and academia will help to achieve this.

All stakeholders, including crucially the technology industry leads and policymakers, should be encouraged to maintain their level of engagement, with support mechanisms for developing country stakeholders to ensure they are able to participate fully. As a result, there will also be better understanding of the reasons for gaps in participation in cooperative initiatives and their implementation, and how these problems can be addressed.

Outreach, communications and the facilitation of opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue should be increased and sustained, for example through the national and regional Internet governance fora, and the global UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF); the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the African Union; the UN regional commissions (such as UNESCAP for Asia and the Pacific); and other existing international platforms and industry-led initiatives which are concerned with digital transformation issues and coordination.

II. Methods & Mechanisms

a) How do the stakeholders you are familiar with address their social, economic and legal issues related to digital technologies? How effective or successful are these mechanisms for digital cooperation? What are their gaps, weaknesses, or constraints? How can these be addressed?

These issues are often addressed in practical terms through engagement in multi-stakeholder fora such as the global UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the regional and national IGFs which through open and inclusive dialogue and exchanges of information, help to shape decisions taken by governments, inter-governmental organisations, industry players and other major actors in the digital sector. Other valuable opportunities for stakeholder dialogue are the WSIS Forum and RightsCon summits. Through the presence of key government, private industry and civil society stakeholders, these fora provide key opportunities for triggering decisions for the development strategies at the global, regional and national levels.

These processes and fora are also important for facilitating contact with the digital technology sector at the early design and development stage. As a result the technical community enhances its understanding of development objectives and can contribute more effectively to their implementation.

Successful mechanisms contribute to the development and promotion of best practice in consultation and engagement, including:

- how stakeholders reach out proactively to each other in an informative and easily understandable way and make information and evidence available, open, accessible, timely;
- how to adopt and deploy transformative digital technologies;
- development of principles on how stakeholders can open up their policy-making processes to input and scrutiny from other stakeholders;
- ensuring a balance of stakeholder representatives in multi-stakeholder fora.

b) Who are the forgotten stakeholders in these mechanisms? How can we strengthen the voices of women, the youth, small enterprises, small island states and others who are often missing?

Consultations relating to the identification and development of opportunities for digital cooperation should be inclusive and balanced in terms of age, gender, culture, language and geographical origin. The rapid pace of development in, for example, AI is such that economic communities and other affected groups are not easily able to engage in the development of the technology applications that will impact them, create new opportunities and generally shape their future.

Forgotten stakeholders commonly include the following:

- women and young people;
- representatives from the private sector and civil society in developing countries with low levels of access and reliable connectivity, are largely under-represented in many UN processes and initiatives;
- technology pioneers who should be more proactively involved in digital cooperation initiatives from the start;
- business users, in particular SMEs and micro-businesses with limited capacity and few resources to engage in wider initiatives;
- communities in small island and landlocked developing states with access problems who need guidance on how to identify and manage the socio-economic consequences and opportunities created by new digital technologies, and how to promote their adoption;
- dispersed populations in mountainous regions without backbone connectivity, poor access and connectivity, and inadequate transport infrastructure; and
- remote farming communities that would benefit from enhanced market access through, for example, virtual markets and also from access to new technologies that would improve pest control, irrigation etc;
- migrant and refugee communities.

Processes, initiatives and related events should examine at regular intervals how to maximise the levels of both in-person and remote participation using the latest technologies, in order to ensure there is adequate and effective representation of the views of diverse ranges of communities, differing

cultures and varying stages of economic development in all geographical regions.

c) What new or innovative mechanisms might be devised for multi-stakeholder cooperation in the digital space?

Experience shows that more structured consultation processes with citizens and with business and government users of digital technologies should be developed that would ensure amongst other things greater inclusivity.

Awareness of the [Principles for Digital Development](#) should be increased. Developed by governments in partnership with donor organisations, implementers, practitioners and communities, the Principles provide guidance on applying digital technologies to development programmes.

III. Illustrative action areas

a) What are the challenges faced by stakeholders (e.g. individuals, Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities) in these areas?

There are many difficult challenges such as poor or inadequate infrastructure, out-dated and ineffective policy and legal frameworks, cyber security threats, skills shortages and limited resources for major transformational projects. Specific challenges include:

- limited funding for low-return and hard-to-reach infrastructure development and investment by industry;
- capacity and agreed means to enable participation in key technology engagement and collaborative meetings;
- limited, polluting, expensive and unreliable energy supply in developing and least developed economies – especially in rural areas - and the barriers this creates for wider infrastructure investment and development on which digital technologies rely;
- cyber security vulnerabilities and actual/perceived threats;
- mandating that data can only be stored and processed in one country (data localisation) which creates barriers to trade and data sharing, and in doing so reduces choice and increases costs;
- low levels of digital literacy and skills in communities for taking up new technology applications;
- impacts of emerging technologies on labour markets and limited awareness of the new opportunities they create;
- perceived complexity and lack of scalability of specific technology solutions.

b) What are successful examples of cooperation among stakeholders in these areas? Where is further cooperation needed?

There are many examples of initiatives and projects demonstrating cooperative best practice at the national, regional and international level. The UK Government's approach to Internet governance, strategic digital policy and emerging transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, is developed through rigorous frameworks of stakeholder engagement, working with industry and the tech community to address security and safety challenges by design, protecting rights and privacy, while fostering innovation and promoting industry-led standards.

In the sphere of international cooperation that advances sustainable development, the UK has supported important sectoral projects in Africa and Asia that deliver key opportunities and capacity in the financial, health, education and agricultural sectors. Global initiatives such as the Freedom Online Coalition, the WeProtect Global Alliance and the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), succeed on the basis of effective multi-partner platforms that are open and transparent, supported by both the public and the private sectors.

i. UK examples of cooperation best practice relating to digital technologies implementation and related national policies to maximise benefits and mitigate risks that contribute also to global solutions.

1. The [UK Internet Governance Forum](#) (UK IGF) facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue on emerging technology impacts. The 2018 programme of the UK IGF included sessions on online safety; data protection and countering data exploitation; cyber security and security by design for the Internet of Things.

2. **The UK Government's Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance (MAGIG)** comprises expert representatives from business, civil society, technical community, and various government departments and agencies. The MAGIG serves primarily as a sounding board for the development of the UK Government's information and communications technology policy, in parallel with wider, fully open public consultation processes and ad hoc consultations on specific issues. The lead UK ministry is the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). A recent example is a [consultation related to Internet safety](#) and addressing online harms.

3. The **.uk registry Nominet** has integrated multi-stakeholder engagement as a key component in its policy development through its Stakeholder Committee. Nominet is one of the world's largest domain name registries.

4. The [Digital Charter](#) is the UK Government's rolling programme of work to agree **norms and rules for the online world** and put them into practice. The Charter's core purpose is to make the Internet work for everyone – for citizens, businesses and society as a whole. It is based on

values that cherish freedom but not the freedom to harm others. The UK Government will look to the tech sector, businesses and civil society to own these challenges jointly using the Government's convening power to bring them together with other interested parties to find solutions.

For example, an important approach taken by the UK Government relating to cyber security is supporting businesses and other organisations in taking the steps necessary to keep themselves and individuals safe from malicious cyber activity. This includes working with the tech sector on "**security by design.**"

In March 2018 the Government published the [Secure by Design report](#) which advocated a fundamental shift in approach to securing Internet of Things (IoT) devices, by moving the burden away from consumers and ensuring that security is built into products by design. Central to the report was a Code of Practice primarily for manufacturers of consumer IoT devices and associated services. An informal consultation on the report and its proposed policy interventions was undertaken and in October 2018 the UK Government published the finalised [Code of Practice for Consumer IoT Security](#).

5. Artificial intelligence will transform our future by changing and creating jobs and driving economic growth. It has been estimated AI could add £232bn to the UK economy by 2030. It is important that people and businesses are able to capitalise on these opportunities on the basis of trust in these technologies as fundamentally good for society.

The UK Government believes an inclusive and ethical approach to AI should be taken that prioritises individual rights, protects data privacy, and avoids harms resulting from automated decision-making. As a member of the G7 group of nations, the UK is committed to the [Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence](#). This sets out a set of 12 principles that promote an inclusive and human-centric AI, its commercial adoption, and the continued advancement of appropriate technical, ethical and technologically neutral approaches to AI.

In a multi-partner initiative known as the [AI Sector Deal](#), the UK government is joining forces with the European, US and Japanese tech sector and the UK has established three new bodies with collaborative links to the tech sector, industry and academia: the Office for Artificial Intelligence, the AI Council and the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation.

The Office for Artificial Intelligence (OAI) is responsible for overseeing implementation of the AI Sector Deal and will drive responsible and innovative uptake of AI technologies for the benefit of everyone. It will do this by engaging organisations and delivering recommendations in particular around data, skills and adoption.

The AI Council convenes experts from across industry, academia and government to discuss opportunities and challenges and crucially it will also ensure effective engagement with industry and academia on priorities, research and development.

The [Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation \(CDEI\)](#) is an independent group of experts that will examine how data is used to shape people's experiences online and promote fairness in decisions made using algorithms.

The [AI and Data Grand Challenge](#) is one of four Grand Challenge missions under the UK Government's Industrial Strategy using data, artificial intelligence and innovation to transform the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases by 2030.

ii. Examples of multi-partner cooperative initiatives and sectoral projects in developing countries which address the challenges of limited access to resources and poor infrastructure.

1. **Access to Finance for Development (AFFORD)** aims to increase the use of a broad range of higher quality, sustainable financial services by Kenyan households and businesses, especially among underserved lower income groups and small scale enterprises.

The financial services include [M-Pesa](#) which enables users to deposit money into accounts through mobile phones and to redeem deposits for regular transactions. Since its launch, M-Pesa has become the most successful mobile phone-based financial service in the developing world and new products have been built on top of the existing platform, offering more services to users. Two-thirds of the adult population in Kenya is currently signed up to M-Pesa. Furthermore, since its introduction, the cost of sending remittances has dropped by 90% and the value of M-Pesa transactions is equivalent to 60% of Kenya's GDP.

2. The [UJoin project](#) is funded by TRANSFORM, a DFID-Unilever partnership. Every1Mobile designs and, working with the public and private sectors, delivers digital solutions in low-income communities in sub-Saharan Africa. One of its projects was to create UJoin, a mobile-friendly online platform, to connect low-income shopkeepers and consumers in Nairobi. The innovative digital community was developed for owners of base-of-the-pyramid shops, called dukas, to help them build their businesses. Through the platform, duka owners can access business and financial courses, online mentoring, peer-to-peer forums to connect, learn and share with fellow duka owners, and access product information from Unilever.

Following collaboration with Unilever Kenya, Vodafone and Mezzanine, the platform also provides duka customers with exclusive vouchers through a digital shopper loyalty scheme. The initiative has reached 500 duka owners based in Nairobi's underserved urban communities, who in turn have signed up nearly 2000 customers.

3. In India, [Project Ujjwal](#) aims to reduce maternal deaths from unwanted pregnancies by promoting awareness through an e-learning platform, of the use of family planning methods. This has led to improvements in birth spacing practices and reduction of unsafe abortions. The project supports the rapid scale-up of quality family planning and reproductive health services through

the private sector, specifically targeting the poor, the young, low parity and socially excluded couples, women and men.

4. A successful example of a remote healthcare initiative exploiting digital connectivity is the [Global Trachoma Mapping Project \(GTMP\)](#) which is the largest disease survey ever undertaken of over 100m people being identified as at risk. Thanks to smart phone technology, the GTMP was able to capture and record on an international database and map in areas where no data previously existed because of remoteness, insecurity, insufficient funding or competing public health priorities. The data collected provides the ministries of health in endemic countries with the evidence to focus health strategies.

5. The [Axis Project](#) is a partnership between African Union and the Internet Society, co-financed by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and Government of Luxembourg, for developing cooperative initiatives for the establishment of Internet exchange points (IXPs) which serve to reduce costs for users, enhance broadband connectivity and stimulate local online content. Successful IXPs have been launched in The Gambia, Gabon and Madagascar.

iii. Examples of cooperative aid projects relating to sustainable development.

1. The [African Agricultural Technology Foundation \(AATF\)](#) is an independent, African-led not for profit organisation, which was set up 10 years ago with funding from the UK Government, the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID. AATF has three strategic goals which are to (i) access appropriate agricultural technologies; (ii) develop and adapt technologies; and (iii) deploy and commercialise technologies for impact.

The AATF was designed to facilitate public-private partnerships for the transfer, development, production and distribution of agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. The objective is to increase agricultural productivity in Africa, provide a positive impact on the incomes and livelihoods of farmers and lead to food security and poverty reduction. The AATF has acquired agricultural technologies that would otherwise not have been accessible by resource-poor farmers in SSA. These farmers can now have access to some of the most innovative and affordable crop technologies available. These include seeds that are resistant to drought, pest, and weeds.

Through the existing projects developed with its partners, the AATF has:

- (i) brought technologies into Sub-Saharan Africa valued at approximately \$110 million;
- (ii) created eight public-private partnerships across 58 organisations;
- (iii) secured government-backed support for its work in 10 SSA countries; and
- (iv) stewarded the greatest number of technology-based solutions in Africa. Over 30 of the technologies accessed were developed and

adapted and concurrently the AATF has been managing intellectual property for 17 technology licences with 37 technologies.

2. [#SheGoesDigital](#), Kuza is a DFID-supported project – a partnership between Kenya’s Kuza Biashara, the International Trade Centre and SITA (Supporting India Trade & Investment for Africa) – provided training in high-demand skills to young Kenyan female university graduates from marginalized backgrounds. Using a blended and flipped learning approach, technical training in social media and digital marketing via Kuza’s Digital Micro Learning Platform was complemented by live project experience; mentoring and coaching; and interaction with industry leaders and experts. Around 80% of the program graduates were successfully placed in internship opportunities.

3. [Connect to Grow](#), Innovative Ventures & Technologies for Development (INVENT): this project is a joint activity of DFID and India’s Technology Development Board, that supports Indian enterprises looking to enter new markets to create sustainable business-to-business partnerships with enterprises in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa that are seeking proven innovations to grow their business. Enterprises register on an online marketplace, where they are then matched with a partner. The online tool allows enterprise data to be captured and the partnership to be tracked and monitored. The programme offers support, technical assistance and grant funding up to USD \$50,000 to help build the relationship.

4. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be seen as a threat to developing economies due to the potential impact on low-skilled jobs. However, it is also a powerful new tool which can harness data from across the development sector and help address the biggest challenges for sustainable development.

5. [Farm.ink](#) developed a chatbot which uses AI and Machine Learning through natural language processing to allow farmers to share peer-to-peer knowledge and connect with local farmers and buyers. Initially, the Farm.ink bot is being rolled out in Kenya—thanks to its high smartphone usage—with the intention of creating a product that can be simply scaled to farmers around the world. Farm.ink is adapting the tone and user experience of the chatbot so that both farmers and buyers alike will incorporate it into their day-to-day business. The bot currently has a base of 10,000 monthly active users, and is growing each month.

iv. Examples of international frameworks of digital cooperation relating inter alia to Internet governance, access to critical infrastructure, security, human rights online, privacy and data protection.

1. The [Freedom Online Coalition \(FOC\)](#) is an intergovernmental coalition of 30 countries committed to advancing Internet freedom worldwide, in particular free expression, association, assembly, and privacy online – worldwide. The FOC recently established an Advisory Network (FOC-AN) which is a key mechanism for regular engagement with non-governmental Internet

stakeholders in multi-stakeholder dialogue. This in turn creates a channel for independent advice to FOC governments and developing multi-stakeholder collaboration around FOC activities and cooperation in advancing human rights online.

2. The [WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online](#) combines two major initiatives: the Global Alliance, led by the U.S. Department of Justice and the EU Commission and WePROTECT, which was supported by the UK Government. The initiative now has unprecedented reach with 84 countries already members of WePROTECT or the Global Alliance, along with major international organisations, 24 of the biggest names in the global technology industry, and 20 leading civil society organisations.

3. For the cybersecurity sector, [FIRST \(Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams\)](#) successfully brought together computer security incident response teams (CSIRTS) from government, commercial, and educational organizations, with over 400 members in Africa, north, central and south America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. A key aim of FIRST is to foster cooperation and coordination in incident prevention, to stimulate rapid reaction to incidents, and to promote information sharing among members and the community at large.

In addition to the trust network that FIRST forms in the global incident response community, FIRST also provides value added services including access to up-to-date best practice, technical colloquia and an annual incident response conference.

4. The [UN Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#) through stakeholders proactively engaged as members of its Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) has successfully evolved into an outcome-oriented forum which drives cooperation at several levels. Firstly, through convening stakeholders from over 100 countries from their business sector, the technical community, civil society, governments, parliaments, and academia, the IGF creates a unique meeting place for dialogue and information exchange at the centre of the Internet ecosystem, that facilitates further cooperative engagement and cooperative practice.

The IGF has also developed a range of on-going, cooperative inter-sessional activities for the development of [best practice](#). For 2018, these focussed on four key digital policy areas: cybersecurity, local content, emerging technologies - specifically AI, Big Data and Internet of Things - and gender and access.

Key contributors worldwide to these cooperative IGF collations of key practice and experience are the over 100 IGF- accredited [national multi-stakeholder IGFs](#) such as the Uganda IGF, the Belarus IGF, the Afghanistan IGF and the Trinidad & Tobago IGF.

There are also well-established [multi-stakeholder initiatives](#) at the regional level modelled on the global UN IGF such as the Arab IGF, EuroDIG, the East African IGF, and the Asia-Pacific IGF.

National and regional IGFs (“the NRIs”) come together at the global IGF to exchange experience and hold joint thematic discussions, e.g. at the Paris IGF on emerging technologies.

A significant multi-year IGF project on [enabling access for the next billion\(s\)](#) people is also making progress to identify policy options that address challenges, barriers as well as opportunities for cooperative processes and coordination of actions. This initiative through the active contributions of a diverse range of experienced stakeholders and policy experts will achieve higher levels of connectivity and access in particular in developing countries and remote communities.

A third strand of inter-sessional cooperation is the work of the [IGF Dynamic Coalitions](#) which retain the connections between global stakeholders on a diverse range of specific topics in a dynamic output-orientated way. These currently include blockchain, child online safety, human rights, platform responsibilities, Internet of Things and digital trade.

5. Stakeholder cooperation is critical for the security of Internet routing. Global Internet connectivity and reachability is established by over sixty thousand networks exchanging information through the BGP routing protocol. The [Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security](#) (MANRS) is a community-led initiative in which network operators and IXPs commit to adhere to high standards of security and to take action in order to implementing critical security measures.

6. [ICANN \(Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers\)](#) was established by the US Government as a multi-stakeholder, private sector-led, not-for-profit organisation to take over the historic role of the US Government in coordinating and managing the global domain name system. In recognition of its global role in the Internet’s critical infrastructure and reliance on participation of stakeholders worldwide, ICANN convenes public meetings three times each year rotating through different regions to enable attendees from around the world to participate in person.

During the history of the Internet since the rapid expansion of the early 1990s, there has never been any substantive failure in the Internet’s technical global infrastructure and in the domain names system. This is due to the distributed and collaborative governance model of the domain name system and ICANN itself being fundamentally open, private sector-led, accessible and multi-stakeholder with the active participation of experts from civil society and senior policy makers. The domain name system (DNS) has expanded and evolved successfully, keeping in step with the increase in access worldwide to the Internet and the growth of the global digital economy.

Internet registries are represented at ICANN through two names supporting organisations; the **GNSO** for the generic names such as .com and .xyz' and the **ccNSO** for the country code registries such as Nominet for .uk.

Over 175 national and territory administrations are represented on ICANN's **Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)**. The African Union Commission and European Commission are also full GAC members. There are 35 IGO observers on the GAC, including the UN agencies that have a direct policy interest in Internet issues, i.e. the ITU, UNESCO and WIPO.

ICANN also has an advisory committee on security and stability (**SSAC**) and an advisory committee representing the interests of Internet users (**ALAC**).

7. The [**Global Commission for Stability of Cyberspace \(GCSC\)**](#) is an initiative to promote mutual awareness and understanding among the various cyberspace communities. With 28 global representatives from various specialist interests, the GCSC works on issues related to international cybersecurity. The GCSC takes a multi-stakeholder approach to issues that continue to be discussed through multilateral processes and regional groups (such as the UN Group on Government Experts on Information Security UNGGE, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, ASEAN Regional Forum, the Commonwealth and the Organisation of American States).

8. The [**NETmundial meeting**](#) (*Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance*) was held in São Paulo in April 2014 was a key milestone in the evolution of global Internet governance. It was attended by 1500 stakeholders from 97 countries who agreed a set of highly influential documents that remain valid to this day. Its concluding, non-binding Multi-stakeholder Statement contained a shared set of Principles relating to sustaining a unified Internet with an open and distributed architecture, open standards, adherence to human rights, and maintenance of security and stability. A NETmundial Roadmap was also published to guide the evolution of Internet cooperation and governance.

9. The [**African Union Cyber Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection**](#) is a joint collaborative initiative between the African Union Commission, the Internet Society (ISOC) and other partners. It produced the following outputs: Internet Infrastructure Security Guidelines for Africa; and Personal Data Protection Guidelines for Africa

c) What form might cooperation among stakeholders in these areas take? What values and principles should underpin it?

Forms of cooperation among stakeholders include public/private partnerships of investors, application developers, service providers, policy makers, consumer bodies and regional/local administrations. Closer more

inclusive ties between industry and education/employment strategic policy development are also important.

Key values and principles underpinning this cooperation include:

- effectiveness achieved through a goal-oriented approach;
- transparency and accountability to the wider community;
- inclusiveness through open multi-stakeholder process;
- collaborative approach through shared objectives and modalities;
- sustainability through building additional capacity, infrastructure resource base;
- maximising responsiveness to innovation as technology advances; and
- working with regard to the international dimension and how to contribute to wider development objectives through best practice and resource sharing where possible.

IV Any other ideas you would like to share with the Panel?

The UK Government welcomes the work of the High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation in reviewing how cooperation through public/private partnerships is taking place to deploy transformative digital technologies that contribute to sustainable development worldwide.

We are aware that many UN agencies are engaged in work that promotes digital innovation, including WSIS Action Line facilitators. We welcome this engagement across the UN system, particularly given the contribution that harnessing technological innovations, such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, can make to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. However, there is also a risk that different international organisations may duplicate one another's work or miss opportunities for effective collaboration. In addition, there is great potential for more collaborative and open cooperation between UN agencies and non-governmental stakeholders.

In this document we have offered a non-exhaustive list of examples of valuable initiatives that are contributing to this objective and illustrate the core values and principles of inclusivity, openness and transparency. The UK Government believes that the Panel's work in mapping and assessing existing and recent initiatives, including those led by UN agencies and those developed through the wider global multi-stakeholder community, will confirm that the creation of new overarching frameworks or international structures for advancing digital cooperation would risk duplication and complexity.

We appreciate we have provided a lot of information in this submission. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you, particularly as the panel focuses its attention on recommendations.

21 January 2019

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