



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION AND DIGITAL COOPERATION

→ BACKGROUND

We need to better leverage science, technology and innovation, and especially digital cooperation, for sustainable development.

The agreement of a Global Digital Compact as an annex to the Pact for the Future will provide a framework for digital governance based on shared principles and priorities, more effectively managing the risks of digital developments while harnessing the benefits for the many and not just the few. It aims to propel a digital future that is open, free, secure, and human-centered, while facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes bridging the digital divide, safeguarding human rights online, and promoting accountable effective global management and governance of AI regulation.

→ HIGHLIGHTS

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION are a critical source of economic growth and key enablers for accelerated achievement of the SDGs.

COGNIZANT OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER of technology and innovation, but also of its planetary risks, the 193 member countries of the United Nations have decided to negotiate a Global Digital Compact based on shared principles and priorities.

THE COMPACT AIMS TO PROPEL a digital future that is open, free, secure, and human-centered, while facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL COOPERATION is central to addressing current challenges and

harnessing the potential of digital technologies. This involves enhancing connectivity, digital literacy, and data governance, while upholding freedom of speech and fostering trust and security in the digital realm.

DESPITE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL of technology to drive progress, our digital world is one of stark divides: a persistent digital access divide, a growing data divide that disadvantage developing countries.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, when utilized incorrectly or with malicious intent, can deepen divisions within and among nations, heighten insecurity, violate human rights, and worsen inequality. Tackling these complexities demands a unified global approach rooted in human rights and concerted collaboration among governments, technology companies in the private sector, civil society, and other key stakeholders.

DISINFORMATION AND HATE SPEECH - supercharged by new technologies and growing

inequalities - are feeding people's fears. Guardrails at the global level are urgently needed to combat this threat.

THE SPEED AND REACH of Artificial Intelligence development has been unprecedented, presenting opportunities for transformative, positive progress for humanity in a range of areas. But this new technology also carries risks. There are already troubling signs that AI may exacerbate bias, perpetuate discrimination, and facilitate increased authoritarian surveillance.

AI AND OTHER EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES must be safe, under human control and governed fairly, inclusively, and transparently. The Secretary-General has established a High-Level Advisory Body on AI to develop recommendations before the Summit. Some of these include a scientific panel for understanding the risks and opportunities of AI, an annual AI governance global dialogue, and a global fund to help countries leverage AI for sustainable development.