

Terms of Reference

1. The High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation convened by the UN Secretary-General will advance proposals to strengthen cooperation in the digital space among Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organisations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders. The Panel's report and its recommendations will provide a high-level independent contribution to the broader public debate on digital cooperation principles and frameworks and support Member States in their consultations on these issues.

2. The Panel will consist of 20 eminent leaders from Governments, private sector, academia, the technical community, and civil society led by two co-chairs. Its composition will be balanced in terms of gender, age, geographic representation, and area of expertise. The Panel members will serve in their personal capacity.

3. The Panel shall meet in person at least once. Additional interactions shall be organized for the Panel as a whole by electronic means or through ad hoc group consultations. The Panel will engage and consult widely with governments, private sector, academia, technical community, civil society, and international organisations across the world. It shall be agile and innovative in interacting with existing processes and platforms as well as in harnessing inputs from diverse stakeholders.

4. In its report to the Secretary-General, the Panel shall identify good practices and opportunities, gaps and challenges in digital cooperation. It shall also outline major trends in the development and deployment of emerging digital technologies, business models, and policies, and the possibilities and challenges they generate for digital cooperation.

5. In particular, the report shall:

- Raise awareness among policy makers and the general public about the transformative impact of digital technologies across society and the economy;
- Suggest ways to enhance digital cooperation by identifying policy, research and information gaps as well as ways to improve interdisciplinary thinking and cross-domain action on digital technologies;
- Present recommendations for effective and inclusive systems of digital cooperation among all relevant actors in the digital space.

6. The recommendations in the report shall seek to maximize the potential of digital technologies to contribute *inter alia* to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to support progress across a range of themes, including digital empowerment, inclusive finance, employment, entrepreneurship, trade and cross border data flows.

7. The Panel shall also contribute to raising individual and systemic capacities to maximize the benefits of emerging digital technologies and to facilitating the participation of all stakeholder groups, especially youth and women, in the digital sphere; and to enhancing implementation of existing digital policies as well as norms.

8. The Panel shall avoid duplication with existing forums for digital cooperation. It shall fully respect current UN structures as well as national, technical community and industry prerogatives in the development and governance of digital technologies.

9. The Panel will complete its deliberations and submit its final report, including actionable recommendations, within a nine-month period.

10. The deliberations of the Panel will be supported by a small secretariat and funded by donor resources. The Secretariat shall seek to leverage existing platforms and partners, including UN agencies, working in the related domains.