

REFERENCE: EOSG/SLA/2021/8

Envoy on Technology

The United Nations welcomes applications for the position of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. Subject to availability, this position is at the Under-Secretary-General level and is based in New York, USA.

The Secretariat welcomes applications to supplement the Secretary-General's search and consultations and would especially welcome the application of women candidates.

Applications must be submitted through the following website:
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/vacancies/index.shtml> by Thursday, 27 January 2022 (midnight New York time).

Further information is available on the following website: <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/>

The Envoy on Technology is a member of the Secretary-General's [Global Leadership Team](#), and as such, serves as a role model for the Organization's core values (Integrity, Professionalism and Respect for Diversity) and the desired behaviours of the [United Nations System Leadership Framework](#).

Background

The issue of digital technologies is increasingly at the forefront of the international agenda. Building on the work of the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation and consultations of multi-stakeholder roundtable groups, the Secretary-General issued a [Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#) (A/74/821) which addresses how the international community can better harness the opportunities presented by digital technologies while addressing their challenges.

In the General Assembly's declaration on the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations (A/75/1), Member States recognized the importance of technology as a fundamental global issue and pledged to "improve digital cooperation" to be able to maximize the benefits that digital technologies can bring while curtailing risks. Member States also agreed that "the United Nations can provide a platform for all stakeholders to participate in such deliberations." In his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982), the Secretary-General suggested ways on how to take this forward.

In line with the growing prominence of technology issues and the recognition that the United Nations must improve its efforts to support Member States in this area, an Envoy on Technology will be appointed to coordinate the implementation of the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, in close collaboration with Member States, the technology industry, private companies, civil society, and other stakeholders.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence and short-listed candidates will be contacted directly to undergo an assessment process, reference and background checks, including human rights and conflicts of interest screening.

Duties and Responsibilities

In order to promote and enhance the United Nations' work and in line with the areas of responsibility outlined in the Secretary-General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation, the Envoy will:

- Lead the implementation of the Roadmap, coordinating the range of activities envisaged therein and working closely with the various UN entities such as the Development Coordination Office and multi-stakeholder groups, so as to ensure that there is overall coherence, with full respect for the mandates of different UN entities;
- Serve as senior level advocate and focal point for digital cooperation so that Member States, the technology industry, civil society and other stakeholders will have a first point of call for the broader United Nations system;
- Facilitate dialogue on the recommendations of the Roadmap to accelerate global digital cooperation, seizing on the opportunities that are presented by technology – while mitigating the risks – so that progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 can be made collectively;
- Carry out any other digital cooperation duties and responsibilities, as assigned by the Secretary-General;
- Raise funds for and manage a Trust Fund established to support the work of the office and to support the implementation of the Roadmap;
- Manage the work of their office in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules of the Organization.

Skills and Expertise

The Secretary-General is seeking an individual with the following attributes:

- Recognized global digital thought leader with solid knowledge and experience in the area of digital technologies under discussion at the multilateral level, such as digital connectivity and inclusion, digital security, artificial intelligence, digital rights, data and/or digital privacy;
- Demonstrated commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with experience and understanding of the

ways in which technology can overcome the digital divide and create opportunities for social change and measurable impact with a particular focus on ensuring the respect for human rights and human agency in the digital space and mitigating online harms and rising digital security threats;

- Demonstrated leadership and managerial experience with strategic vision and ability to seize emerging opportunities for influence and impact and the ability to mobilize various forms of support from multi-stakeholders and partners;
- Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously in a multi-cultural team and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization;
- Proven ability to inspire, encourage, build trust and confidence and also build consensus, stimulate effective campaigns and drive collective action among a broad spectrum of people and organizations;
- Demonstrated commitment to the values and guiding principles of the United Nations as well as familiarity with the United Nations system and its work across key pillars of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. For this position, fluency in English is required. A working knowledge of another United Nations official language will be an advantage.

Human Rights Screening

Individuals who seek to serve with the United Nations in any individual capacity will be required, if short-listed, to complete a self-attestation stating that they have not committed, been convicted of, nor prosecuted for, any criminal offence and have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Conflicts of Interest Screening

All United Nations staff members are expected to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Senior leaders in particular, have the responsibility to serve as role models in upholding the organization's ethical standards.

A conflict of interest occurs when, by act or omission, a staff member's personal interests interfere with the performance of their official duties and responsibilities, or call into question their integrity, independence and impartiality. Risk for conflicts of interest may arise from a staff member's engagement in outside (non-UN) employment or occupation; outside activities, including political activities; receipt of gifts, honours, awards, favours or remuneration from external (non-UN) sources; or personal investment. In particular, no staff member shall accept any honour, decoration, favour, gift or remuneration from any Government (staff regulation 1.2 (j)).

Where a real or perceived conflict of interest does arise, senior leaders are obligated to disclose this to the organization without delay. In order to avoid real or perceived family influence or preferential treatment and conflicts of interest that could stem from such situations, the United Nations Staff Rules provide that appointments “shall not be granted to anyone who is the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of a staff member” (staff rule 4.7 (a)).

Short-listed individuals will also be required to complete a pre-appointment declaration of interests for senior positions to identify possible conflicts of interest that may arise and to proactively prevent and manage, as much as possible and in a timely manner, situations in which personal interests may conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the United Nations, should the individual be appointed to this position.

16 December 2021