



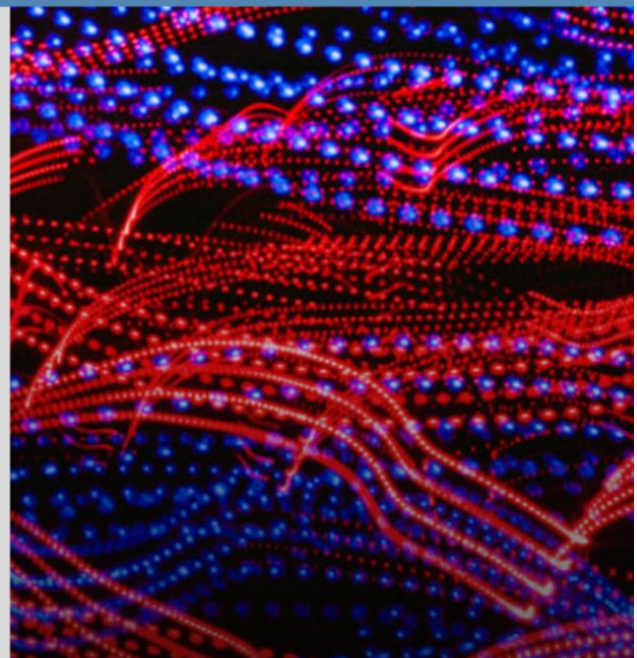
# TOWARDS A GLOBAL DIGITAL GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE

Mapping Pathways for  
Cooperation & Inclusion

MAY 2022

REPORT PREPARED FOR  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
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## Abbreviations

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

European Union (EU)

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

United Nations (UN)

United Nations Foundation (UNF)

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UN GGE)

The Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

World Economic Forum (WEF)

## Executive Summary

*Towards Building A Global Digital Governance Architecture* is a comprehensive roadmap for understanding existing initiatives that pertain to the oversight of digital technologies with the goal of guiding future global governance. The report, both reflective and forward-looking, is rooted in a mapping of initiatives put forth by key sectors. These private sector, governmental, civil society and multi-stakeholder-led initiatives are presented for consideration when assessing the contemporary digital governance landscape. The mapping enables the articulation of the possible policy trajectories of future global digital governance. How have they evolved, and how will they continue to evolve in a nebulous digital climate?

While discussion of a Global Digital Compact is timely, catalysts like COVID-19 have made this conversation even more urgent than ever before. The pandemic forced the world to transition to digital technologies to not only continue with daily activities, but to ensure that the economy withstood the global crisis. The pre-existing need for access to virtual connectivity became even more critical. In 2022, as the world slowly transitions to a hybrid environment, the digital realm will not recede, but will continue to be a larger part of our daily lives.

From the analysis of these four sectoral initiatives, the following underlying trends were evident. The majority of the initiatives proved to be **Western-centric**, meaning the voices of Western countries dominated those of the Global South and other underrepresented groups, though China is becoming a key player on the world stage. Most initiatives are **aspirational** at large with less enforceable verbiage in their mission statements and imposable rules to follow. Additionally, the majority of the initiatives follow a **voluntary** compliance process and do not have mandatory procedures for follow-through. There is also a highly notable focus on **increased digital accessibility**, since equitable digital practices are a global push within these initiatives to address areas in need of capacity building and digital resources. Finally, the sectors collectively pillar their initiatives around the recognition of **digital rights as a human right**. As the digital realm rapidly evolves, the infringements of human rights increase. It is essential that digital technologies are in accordance with human rights and compliant with existing human rights laws.

Additionally, several graphs showcase these findings. Graph 1 reveals that there is a notable majority of multi-stakeholder initiatives among the four sectors covered. Graph 2 underlines that the majority of initiatives are focused on digital governance and policymaking. Graph 3 shows a noticeable increase in the number of initiatives being established after 2008, and graph 4 shows a noteworthy growth of initiatives at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Graph 5 examines the initiatives by their approval mechanism and accountability and notes most of the initiatives do not have a clear approval mechanism in place. Graph 6 reveals that most initiatives are aspirational rather than operational or enforceable. Finally, graph 7 distinguishes the initiatives by the background of their founding members and finds that a majority of the initiatives are Western-led.

Given these trends, the report recommends the following next steps to better prepare for an inclusive digital future:

**First**, it is recommended that the Global South be given a more substantial voice at the discussion table to balance what is currently an outlook monopolized by the West. Representation from both local-level communities and marginalities—as well as the embracement of people-centered practices (indigenous peoples, gender, socioeconomic status, disabilities, race, and gender)—is critical to setting an inclusive agenda that encompass a wider range of fields, such as child protection and safety on the Internet. This inclusive approach would then require the establishment of shared responsibilities amongst other non-state actors including the private and public sectors.

**Second**, we urge state and non-state actors to leverage their unique characteristics, while taking into account both the wants and needs of their diverse communities. Each stakeholder is encouraged to hone in on the characteristics that distinguish them as leaders in the technological realm.

**Third**, initiatives should be practiced in a multilateral capacity to include smaller-scale mechanisms and promote shared global values, like human rights. There must be a concerted effort of, by, and for all stakeholders to monitor and evaluate data from developing countries to establish better digital policy and investments in digital technologies. The mapping provided in this report should not be a finality to the process and needs to be updated regularly.



**Fourth**, there is a need to focus on mediating the levels of Internet fragmentation and unprotected data. As the world becomes more digitized, human rights must also become digitized to uphold society to accountability regarding content and criteria. All artificial intelligence systems must be regulated, and discriminatory and misleading content managed.

**Fifth**, effective implementation of the initiatives must be a mutual priority as to not lose momentum and keep up with the nebulous nature of emerging technologies. In tandem, while respecting the delicate balance between access and security, and encouraging global, multilateral, multi-stakeholder cooperation for a common goal must remain at the forefront.

**Sixth**, implementing Track 1.5 and 2 diplomacy practices will allow for multi-stakeholders to collaborate, build trust, and discuss the ways in which to best address emerging digital technological strategies. This will also allow for a motivating environment that nudges the need to keep global digital technologies at the top of the UN's agenda. The UN might also be the ideal impartial actor to push for more Track 1.5 and 2 dialogues amongst multi-stakeholder participants.

**Seventh**, creating an interactive website to house the mapping of initiatives that is supervised by a neutral party (such as a university or think tank) will allow for a more productive approach to maintaining and advancing the foundational mapping. This would also increase accessibility and transparency for those looking to make use of the mapping.

**Eighth**, it is highly recommended there be a successive practicum in joint partnership with NYU's Center for Global Affairs, the United Nations Foundation, and an expert, multi-stakeholder panel to maintain progress in establishing a global digital governance architecture. The importance of this work as the UN strives to create a Global Digital Compact is both crucial and relevant.

## Part 1: Introduction

The digital landscape is as functional and fascinating as it is fickle. The perpetual creation of new technologies in a society engrossed in invention and competition comes with both beneficial impact and contemporary challenges. The Internet—a technology created to bring us together—has the potential to exist either as our greatest divider or as the most powerful conduit to connectedness. How sectors choose to collaborate will determine how effectively society is able to successfully promote digital technologies as a global public good while balancing the security concerns they present.

### 1.1: Evolution of Global Digital Governance: A Brief Background

In 1963, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) established an initiative with the goal of fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. Five decades later, the landscape of digital technologies became ripe with variegated initiatives, but respective governance was falling short just as digital technologies were becoming more central to nearly all aspects of life. 2018 served as a bumper year that saw the United Nations begin its work on digital cooperation, momentous progress in the European Union with the General Data Protection Regulation law, and—in general—the need for multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation in privacy, protection and access became evident.

In July 2018, UN Secretary-General António Guterres recognized the imminent importance of sectoral cooperation, and appointed a High-Level Panel to assess the economic impact of digital technologies—from social to ethical to legal—in order to leverage their benefits and avoid their downfalls.<sup>1</sup> The High-Level Panel called for cooperation and a global commitment to a safe and inclusive future, stating that the report will “form part of the building blocks of an inclusive and interdependent digital world, with a fit-for-purpose new governance architecture.”<sup>2</sup>

The Secretary-General followed up with the *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation* which presented a multi-year and multi-stakeholder action-oriented plan for tackling interconnectivity and security

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations. (2019) The Age of Digital Interdependence - Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, pg 6.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. (2019) The Age of Digital Interdependence - Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, pg 5.

worldwide.<sup>3</sup> Amongst its ambitions are achieving universal connectivity by 2030 by promoting digital public goods to unlock digital equity and establishing a framework for digital trust and security in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequently, The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology was established to "coordinate the implementation of the *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation* and advance work towards the Global Digital Compact proposed in the Common Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, the technology industry, private companies, civil society, and other stakeholders."<sup>4</sup>

To build upon the Panel's consensus of accountability across borders as well as the *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*, this report recommends cooperation and accountability across sectors in order to effectively execute a digital governance strategy that addresses the delicate balance between security and access, as well as the impending challenges society faces as digital rights become more entwined with human rights.

## 1.2: Objective: Support the Building of a Global Digital Governance Architecture

In his recent *Our Common Agenda* report the Secretary-General proposed a Global Digital Compact, building on his *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*. He proposed that the Compact could outline shared principles across a number of areas, including "reaffirming the fundamental commitment to connecting the unconnected; avoiding fragmentation of the Internet; providing people with options as to how their data is used; application of human rights online; and promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content."<sup>5</sup> And beyond the UN's efforts to create a Global Digital Compact, a resource on governance has proven to be a crucial necessity as the private sector, governments and civil society prioritize cooperation.

To lay the foundation for future-oriented progress, the United Nations Foundation initiated a practicum with New York University's Center for Global Affairs with the objective to advance the

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations. (2020). Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General (A/74/821). United Nations. <https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/9803106.18877411.html>

<sup>4</sup> Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/>.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations. (2021). *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General*, pg 63.

current and existing state of knowledge about sectoral, multilateral and multi-stakeholder digital technology governance initiatives.

Leveraging research, insights and perspectives of expert consultants facilitated a focused mission. After narrowing in on the initiatives spearheaded by three key actors—the private sector, governments, civil society and NGOs—an integrated analysis allowed for a comprehensive and inclusive look at the pros, cons and stakeholder priorities within existing digital governance initiatives. A mapping structure allowed for a clear comparative analysis across sectors, which further identified strengths and weaknesses, shedding light on gaps where new governance initiatives could proactively embark on setting new and necessary norms. It also made clear the need to add a fourth sector—multi-stakeholder—that takes into account the power of combining sectoral forces. In order to create an effective digital global governance framework, creators must take a judicious outlook in terms of what’s more important: cooperation or effectiveness. The reality is that while, ideally, digital rights as human rights imply alignment should exist across the sectors, responsible best practices agreed upon by multiple stakeholders may not render the same results as a single-sector decree.

### 1.3: The Contemporary Setting: The Time Is Now

First came email, then file-sharing, and in 1989, the creation of the World Wide Web revolutionized what it means to be connected.<sup>6</sup> It can be argued that this early progression of technological advancement was a foreshadowing of the steady evolution of technologies in our modern climate.

As of 2021, Earth is home to at least 7.8 billion people, but “an estimated 37 percent of the world's population –or 2.9 billion people–have still never used the Internet.”<sup>7</sup> But while the numbers convey that most of the world is online, a deeper dive shows the discrepancies as to where the majority of Internet users are based. An estimated 96 percent of those who have never used the Internet live in developing countries. Though Internet penetration grew more than 13 percent in the 46 UN-designated Least Developed Countries (LDCs), still, almost three

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<sup>6</sup> Roser, Max, et al. “Internet.” Our World in Data, July 2015. [ourworldindata.org](https://ourworldindata.org/internet), <https://ourworldindata.org/internet>.

<sup>7</sup> “Press Release.” International Telecommunication Union, 30 Nov. 2021, <https://www.itu.int:443/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2021-11-29-FactsFigures.aspx>.

quarters of the population have never connected to the Internet. “Women in LDCs are particularly marginalized, with roughly four out of every five still offline.”<sup>8</sup>

The UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology Office's priorities are aligned with the *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation* key actions, including, but not limited to, affordability, equity and inclusivity when it comes to digital technology access for all. By 2030, the Office aspires to create universal and meaningful connectivity, pushing forward a shared goal set by the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General's *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*, and the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Connect2030 Agenda. But while priorities are aligned, the path forward is not without obstacles. Compounded by the issues that affect both the developing world—like climate change and gender equality—and countries suffering economic disparities or living under an oppressive regime, it becomes evident that Internet governance is about access as much as it is about security. Moreover, in a contemporary setting where a range of societal and economic issues, both globally and regionally, are exacerbated by the permeation of digital technologies, tech exceptionalism—the concept that the world's most complex social problems can be solved with technological solutions—is no longer enough.<sup>9</sup> Internet governance can no longer be siloed and must move toward a multi-stakeholder, multiplatform and multipurpose solution that reflects the ubiquity of digital technologies.

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<sup>8</sup> “Press Release.” International Telecommunication Union, 30 Nov. 2021, <https://www.itu.int:443/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2021-11-29-FactsFigures.aspx>.

<sup>9</sup> John E. Katsos and Jason Miklian. *Overcoming Tech Exceptionalism: How to Improve Societal Impact by Technology Firms in Fragile and Conflict Settings*. 9 Jan. 2019, [globalpolicyjournal.com](http://globalpolicyjournal.com).

## Part 2: Mapping & Methodology

The analysis of this report builds upon a comprehensive mapping exercise of the existing private sector, governmental, civil society, and multi-stakeholder-led initiatives. This section provides the context of the mapping exercise, the criteria used to select the initiatives, and what the mapping exercise reveals. The list of initiatives is included in the Appendix.

### 2.1: Mapping Contemporary Global Governance Initiatives

Given the broad and multilayered nature of the digital governance landscape as it exists today, mapping was a necessary exercise to identify key trends, as well as assess any existing gaps. Although this report includes many of the most recent, foundational digital governance initiatives, new initiatives are being created at a rapid pace to reflect the ever-changing digital environment. Hence, it is crucial to maintain an up-to-date list of the contemporary initiatives, as the developing nature of global digital trends often dictate the direction these new initiatives take.

The UN, and other civil-society and governmental organizations, have carried out similar mapping exercises in the past. A noteworthy example is the UN's Mapping of International Internet Public Policy Issues, a 2015 paper that describes over 600 initiatives.<sup>10</sup> Although the UN's paper serves as a useful tool in understanding the pre-2015 Internet policy landscape, the research and analysis carried out in this report differs significantly from any other publicly available resource. This report not only includes a comprehensive list of 99 contemporary initiatives that are easily searchable and digestible for the average reader who may not be familiar with the topic, but it also builds upon present-day trends that continuously influence the global digital governance landscape. The comprehensive list of the initiatives mapped can be found in the Appendix. Lastly, the UN refers to such digital projects and institutions as *mechanisms*. Although "mechanisms" is a useful term, the authors of this report use the term *initiatives*.

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<sup>10</sup> "Mapping of International Internet Public Policy Issues." UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 2015. [https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162015crp2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecn162015crp2_en.pdf)

## 2.2: Determining Criteria: What Makes an Initiative?

In an attempt to view the current digital global governance landscape with a wide–yet comprehensive–lens, the initiatives outlined in this report were selected based on consistent criteria and have been studied through a set of standardized categories.

The criteria requires that the initiatives have at least three members and/or signatories, hence be multilateral in nature. The initiatives must be established by one or more of the following sectors: (i) private sector, (ii) government(s), (iii) civil society, (iv) multi-stakeholder. The four sectors are defined as follows: (i) **private sector** includes for-profit companies (eg. Microsoft) with national and/or global reach; (ii) **government sector** encompasses three levels - federal, state/provincial, and municipal. Further, this includes all regional state-level agreements (eg. European Union) and the entire UN system (UN Secretariat and all Agencies, Funds and Programmes); (iii) **civil society** includes non-for-profit and non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and charitable foundations (eg. Charles Koch Institute, Hewlett Foundation); (iv) **multi-stakeholder sector** includes a combination of government, private sector, and civil society. While the majority of the multi-stakeholder initiatives include all three sectors, there are instances where only two of the three sectors are represented (eg. government-private, civil society-government, etc). For the purposes of this report, if there are two or more sectors present in an initiative, it is categorized as multi-stakeholder.

Synchronically, the categories studied for each initiative, in addition to their title and date of establishment, include the following:

- *Mandate* refers to the mission of the initiative, as stated by its respective institution or membership. The mandate is an essential component as it provides a clear objective and justification for its creation.
- *Focus Area* includes the key issues the initiative aims to address. Focus areas can range from privacy and cybersecurity to human rights and access. The focus area is typically outlined in the initiative's mandate. Clearly identifying focus areas is necessary for a comprehensive analysis of key trends, therefore facilitating a roadmap for making recommendations for the future of the digital governance landscape.

- *Members* is the list of states, companies, or institutions who are signatory to or have declared support for the initiative. It is important to note that advisors and individuals are not considered to be members for the purposes of this report. Members are a core component of assessing the initiative's effectiveness, level of recognition, and degree of support.
- *Geographical Coverage* conveys the region of the world in which each initiative has purview over. The mapping adheres to the UN's designated regional divisions, with selection options from: Global, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Europe, Oceania. Incorporating geographical coverage gives insight into regional trends – and in this case, deficits – of digital governance initiatives.
- *Approval Mechanism* showcases the processes with which the institution approves new initiatives. For example, if the OECD seeks to add a new phase to its Going Digital Project, the approval mechanism refers to the process the organization will use to approve this new initiative. Identifying the approval process is an essential component of measuring the effectiveness of the institution, as well as assessing the difficulties of making changes to the initiative. Approval mechanisms include consensus, majority, signatory, veto, and no objection.
- *Accountability* refers to the initiative's ability to enforce a decree. Whereas some initiatives are highly enforceable due to their penalty structure, others are voluntary and therefore do not hold the power to obligate signatories to implement the initiatives. Selection options for this category include operational (initiative is operational but has an unclear nature of accountability), enforceable (initiative institutes penalties against violations), and aspirational (initiative is completely voluntary with no penalties against violators). Although this is the most subjective category in the mapping, identifying each initiative's degree of accountability is necessary in understanding its durability.
- *Legacy* is the foundational documents and/or doctrines that were referenced or acted as inspiration in the creation of this initiative. For example, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) highlights the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the European Data Protection Directive (1995) as historical backing



for its existence.<sup>11</sup> Legacy is an important component of identifying key legislation that may have influenced the wider digital governance landscape.

- *Source* is the website link for each initiative. The source is included in the mapping for ease of access and future reference.
- *Gaps Identified* is a set of notes highlighting gaps in each initiative, as outlined by the authors. The identification of existing gaps enhances the analysis of key trends and recommendations provided in this report. These notes will further the conversation and research allowing others, like the UN, to expand upon and address persistent gaps in digital global governance.

Although funding was discussed as a possible category, it is not included in the final mapping. Identifying and assessing the funding sources for each initiative is a potential future research opportunity, as the findings may help differentiate successful initiatives from those that fail.

### 2.3: What the Mapping Reveals

Through the mapping process, it was possible to identify 99 initiatives, in which the majority number (42 in total) were formed by multi-stakeholder.

The following graphs provide the visualization of our findings<sup>12</sup> by sector, focus area of initiatives, year and decade of creation, approval mechanism by the membership, accountability of members, and background of founding members.

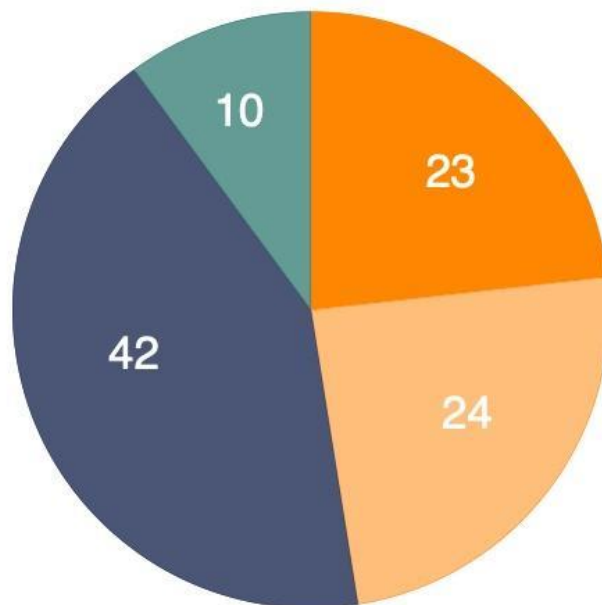
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<sup>11</sup> "What is GDPR, the EU's new data protection law?" General Data Protection Regulation. <https://gdpr.eu/what-is-gdpr/>

<sup>12</sup> The word "unclear" used in the graphs reflected the lack of information regarding features on accountability and approval mechanisms through official websites and reports.

Graph 1

Number of Initiatives by Sector

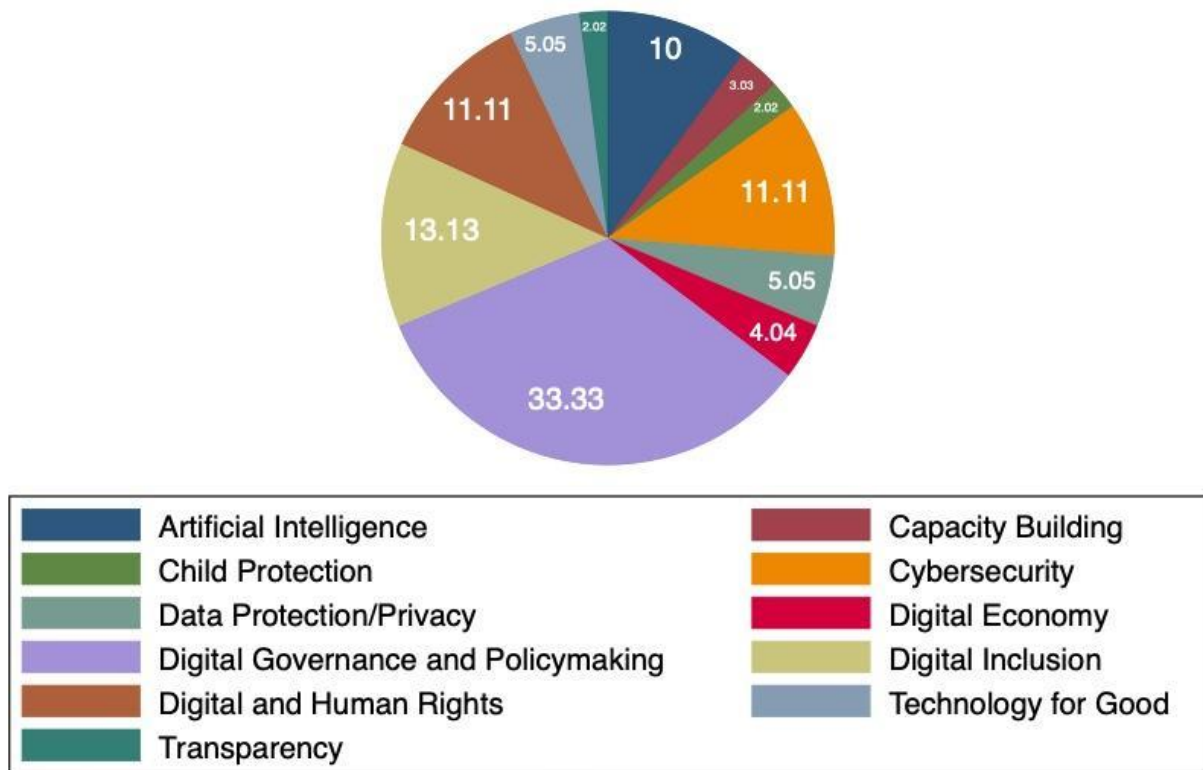


Source: Graphs prepared by authors from mapping survey of initiative

Graph 1 notes the number of initiatives per sector (Civil Society, Government, Private Sector and Multi-stakeholder). Among the four sectors mapped, multi-stakeholder initiatives are nearly double those of civil society and the government sector initiatives, while private sector initiatives are the fewest.

Graph 2

Percentages of Initiatives by Focus Area

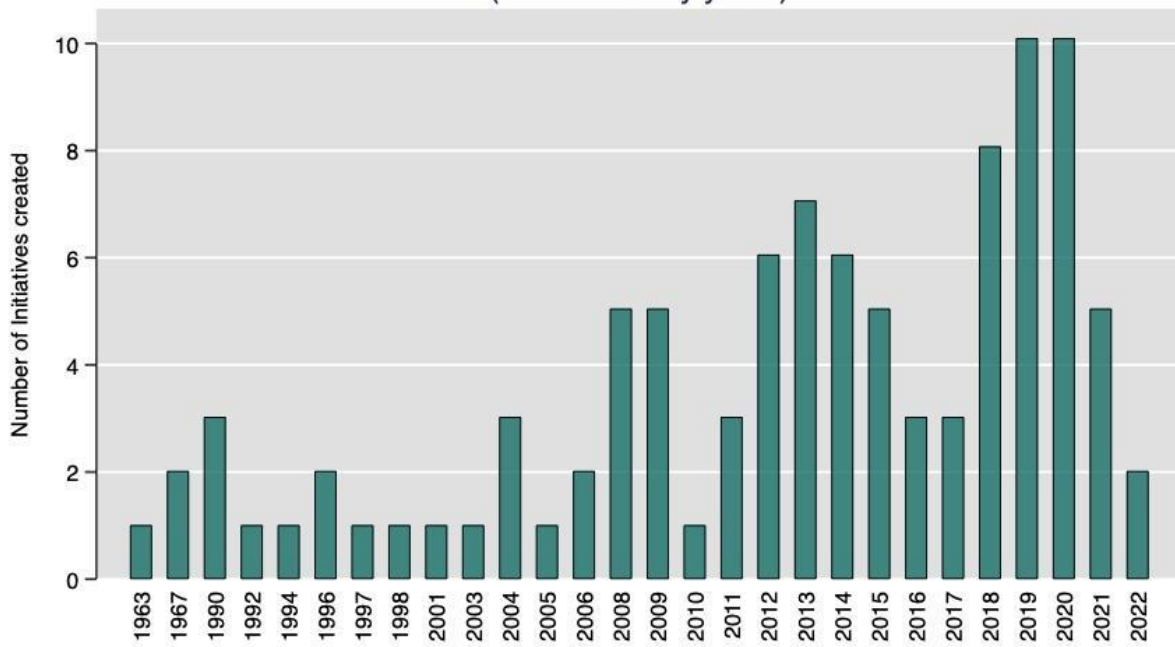


Source: Graphs prepared by authors from mapping survey of initiatives

Graph 2 identifies the primary focus areas of the initiatives mapped. Over a third of all initiatives surveyed are focused on Digital Governance and Policymaking, while Child Protection and Transparency are the least focused on areas.

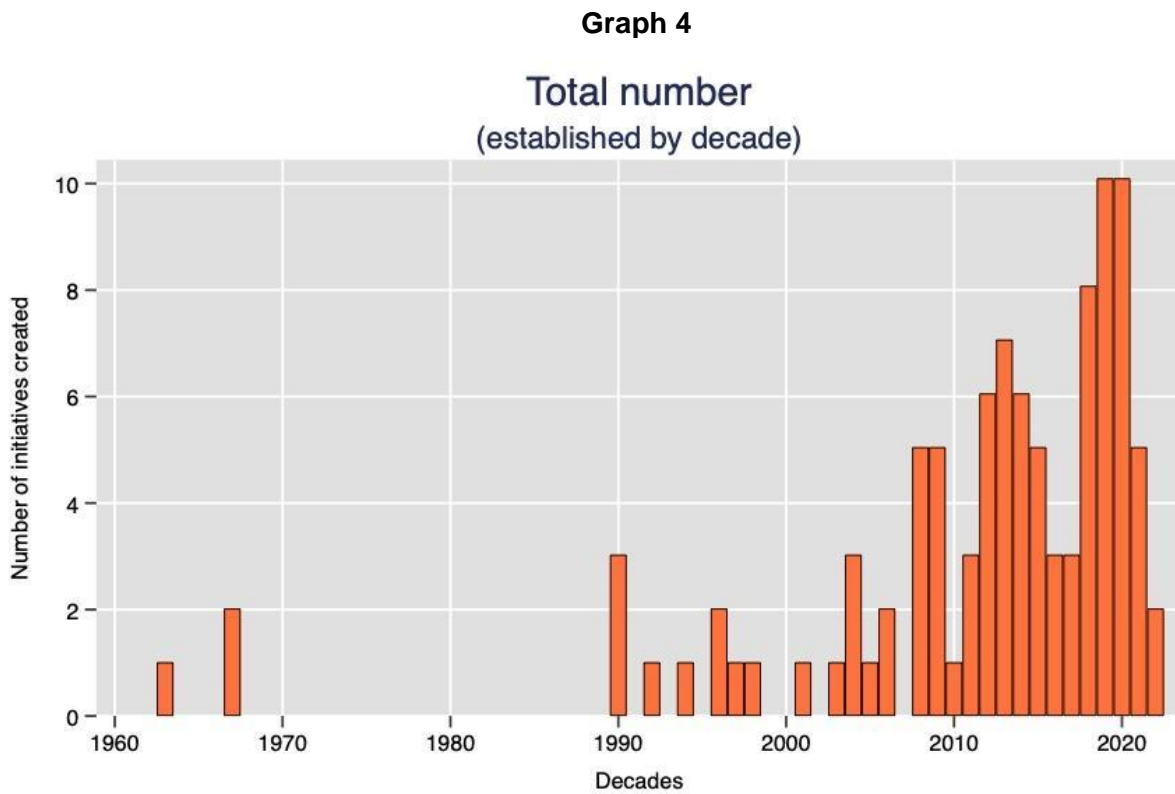
Graph 3

Total Initiatives  
(established by years)



Source: Graphs prepared by authors from mapping survey of initiative

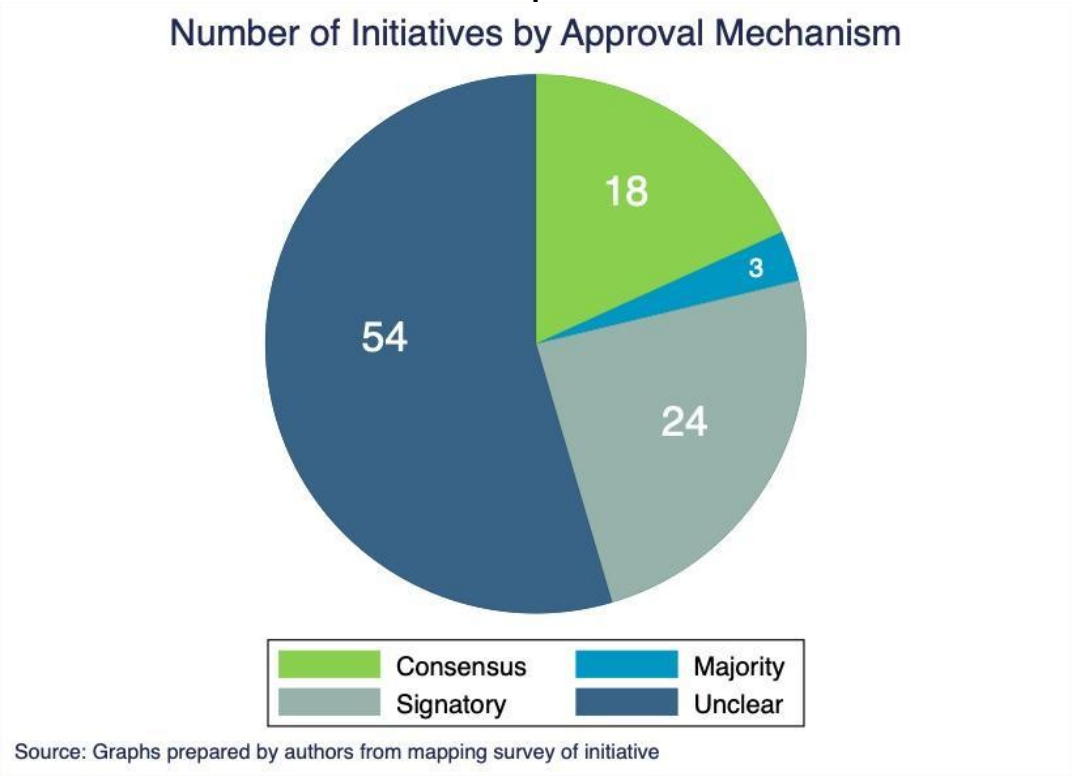
Graph 3 notes the number of initiatives established per year, starting with 1963. After 2008 a significant increase in the number of initiatives being established is discernible.



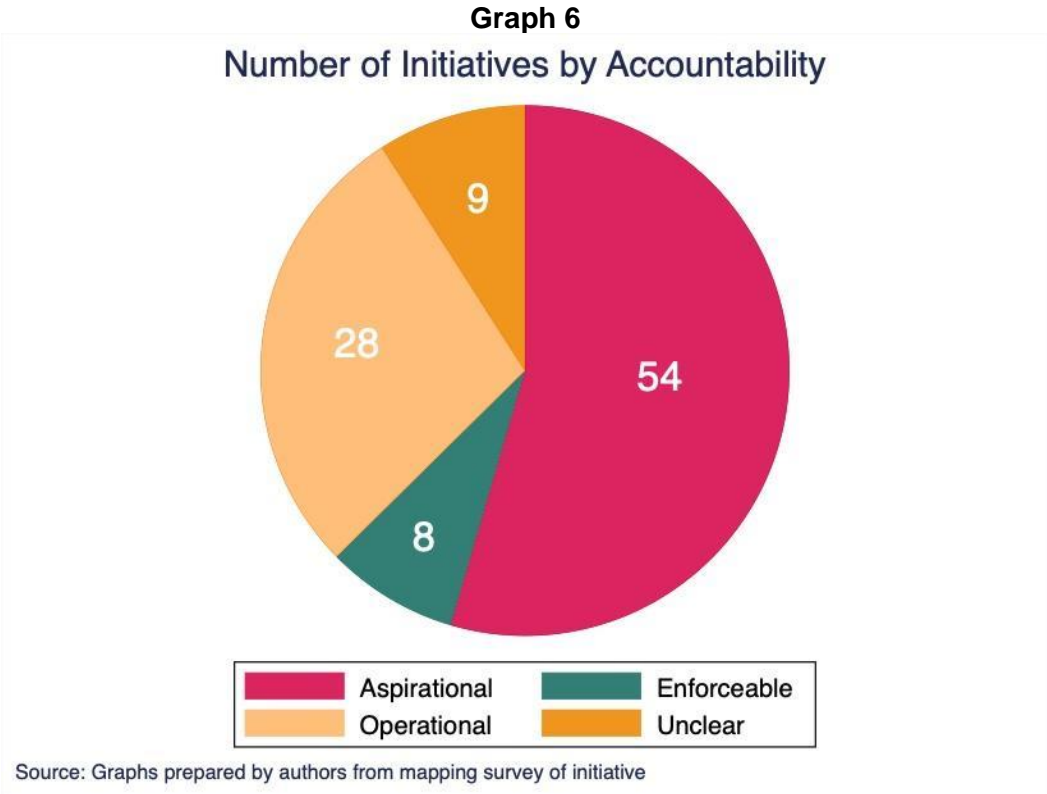
Source: Graphs prepared by authors from mapping survey of initiative

Graph 4 notes the number of initiatives by decade. It shows that while there were no new multilateral initiatives in the 1970s and 1980s, there was a significant growth from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with 2018-19 being a bumper year.

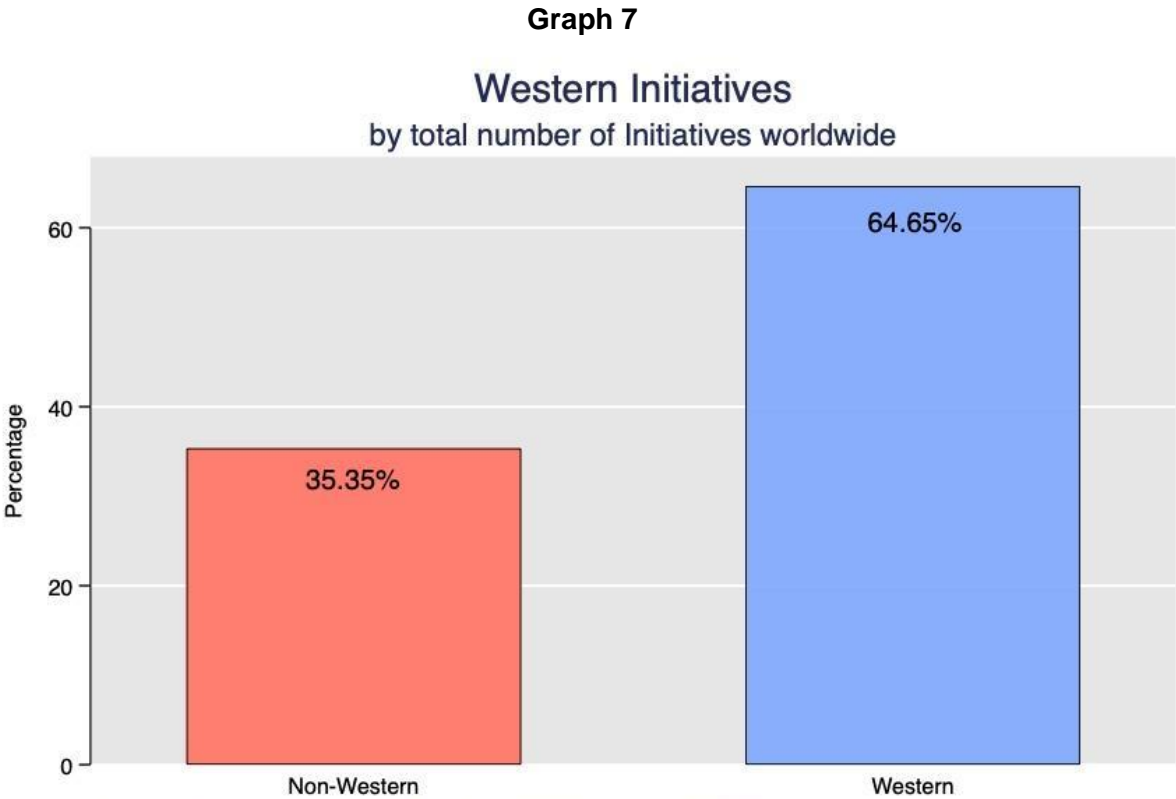
**Graph 5**  
Number of Initiatives by Approval Mechanism



The Graphs 5 records how the initiatives are approved by their membership, and reveals that most of the initiatives do not have a clear approval mechanism, while only three are approved by majority.



Graph 6 records the objective of the initiatives towards their members, and reveals that most initiatives are aspirational in nature, while only eight are enforceable.



Source: Graphs prepared by authors from mapping survey of initiative

Graph 7 identifies whether the founding members of the initiatives have a Western or Non-Western background. It clearly shows that until now an overwhelming majority of the initiatives are Western led.



## Part 3: Sectoral Initiatives: Key Findings

The mapping, as aforementioned, is divided into four primary categories: i) private sector, ii) government sector, iii) civil society/NGO, and iv) multi-stakeholder. The graphs as seen in Part 2 begin to illuminate trends prevalent in the mapping. This section builds upon the information within the graphs to provide an in-depth two-pronged analysis of all 99 initiatives.

### 3.1: A Comprehensive Analysis: Decoding Sectoral Trends

The first part of the analysis offers a breakdown of each individual sector's key findings, which encompass a wide range of trends. From provision of expertise exhibited across private sector initiatives to a focus on digital economy and trade in the government sector, trends are varied in scope and depth. The purpose of individualized sector analysis is two-fold. First, it exists to both identify and highlight the unique prioritizations of each sector in regard to digital governance (i.e. what topics dominate and appear most frequently). Second, it also offers a roadmap to navigate the themes and areas of expertise that each stakeholder is uniquely positioned to provide in a potential multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The second part of the sectoral analysis highlights the five key topics that are of priority across the board. In our consultations, there was a clear desire to understand the areas of digital governance that may be "quick wins." Thus, the objective was to identify the shared characteristics between the various sectors' respective global governance initiatives in an effort to improve the general understanding of overlapping topics and ideas.

#### 3.1.1 Private Sector

- **Multifaceted Cybersecurity:** "Strategic cyber security and stability"<sup>13</sup> remains a constant and integral theme of industry-led digital governance initiatives. Two years in a row, "cyber-attacks" and "massive data fraud and threat" ranked among the top five global risks. More than 80 percent of the experts consulted in the World Economic Forum's latest annual survey expected the risks of "cyber-attacks: theft of data/money" and

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<sup>13</sup> "What We Do", Cyber Peace Institute, <https://cyberpeaceinstitute.org/what-we-do>

“cyber-attacks: disruption of operations and infrastructure” to increase yearly.<sup>14</sup> The scope of threats is growing to encompass concepts of collective cyber defense (Cybersecurity Tech Accord), terrorism mobilized through digital technologies (Global Internet Forum on Counter-Terrorism), to critical infrastructure protection (African Technology Policy Studies Network). That said, it is clear that private sector-led initiatives skew toward a larger membership base due to a “strength in numbers” mentality. When more members subscribe to cyber security protocols, the network of protection increases to create a “robust cybersecurity ecosystem.”<sup>15</sup>

- Provision of Expertise: The privatization of the Internet and telecommunication industries fostered the role of private companies and the private sector as technical experts. Private companies are uniquely positioned to lend their expertise to advise and assist public officials on the maintenance and extension of a free and open Internet, to keep the “Internet as a place of limitless possibility.”<sup>16</sup> There is a clear indication through the analysis of initiatives mandates that the private sector seeks to contribute their technical expertise to inform their respective governments on holistic digital governance, such as the Cybersecurity Coalition, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and Asia Internet Coalition. The emphasis on the protection of its consumers is a central node of private sector initiatives. As identified in the UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, “...the role of the private sector in human rights is becoming increasingly pronounced. As digital technologies and digital services reach scale so quickly, decisions taken by private companies are increasingly affecting millions of people across national borders.”<sup>17</sup> Thus, data protection, privacy standards, and protection of children online are of particular concern for the private sector. The rights of children require acute attention. Children go online at ever younger ages, and children under the age of 18 make up one-third of all Internet users.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> “Global Findex Database 2017”, The World Bank, <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org>

<sup>15</sup> “Mission”, The Cybersecurity Coalition, <https://www.cybersecuritycoalition.org/>

<sup>16</sup> “About”, InternetWorks, <https://www.theinternet.works/about-2/>

<sup>17</sup> United Nations. (2019) The Age of Digital Interdependence - Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

<sup>18</sup> “The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World”, UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/media/48601/file>

- Inherently Global: The global permutation of companies, such as Microsoft, Google, Snapchat, Meta, and TikTok, has altered the regional implications of governance initiatives. Due to the inherently global nature of these companies, their adoption of governance principles has wider implications than the region in which their companies are headquartered. In particular, the prevalence of tech giants, such as Google, Microsoft, and Meta, as leaders in a wide variety of governance initiatives lends itself as an incentive for smaller companies to join.
- Western-Centrism: Private sector initiatives often seek to influence and inform future national legislation and policy creation. A prevalent trend is that much of the foundational legislation and policies originates in Western countries, more specifically: the United States and the European Union. *Internet Works*, a freedom of speech online initiative, anchors its mandate to Title 47, Section 230 of the United State Code enacted as a part of the United States Communications Decency Act.<sup>19</sup> Similarly, *The Consumer Technology Association* is global in scope with 1500 members but seeks to “educate U.S. policymakers to ensure the innovation economy is protected from laws and regulations that delay, restrict or ban the development of technologies in all sectors.”<sup>20</sup> The emphasis on the U.S. or European based legal structures has implications on the formulation and activity of both Western-based companies and smaller companies seeking to adopt interoperable business models.

### 3.1.2 Government

- Cybersecurity/Cybercrime: Cybersecurity and cybercrime are key issues identified in government-led digital governance initiatives. In contrast to the private sector’s viewpoint on the topic, the emphasis from governments is the creation of hard law. *The General Data Protection Regulation* (GDPR) was implemented by the European Union (EU) in 2018. Since then, it’s become known as the “toughest privacy and security law” on data.<sup>21</sup> Government sector cybersecurity initiatives tackle a wide breadth of topics. The impact of cyber incidents to disrupt or destroy critical infrastructure, as seen in Stuxnet, has placed critical infrastructure protection at the forefront. Finally, artificial intelligence

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<sup>19</sup> InternetWorks, <https://www.theinternet.works/about-2>

<sup>20</sup> The Consumer Technology Association, <https://www.cta.tech/who-we-are>

<sup>21</sup> “What is GDPR”, The General Data Protection Regulation, <https://gdpr.eu/what-is-gdpr/>

(AI) is a central node that is widely identified to be harnessed as a tool for good, but also the inherent risk prevalent therein. The public sector—and, in particular, the UN—is more likely to achieve noteworthy memberships from participants. However, as the membership list grows, the more aspirational the missions become. This is because any decree that is enforceable may become invasive to a member's sovereignty. Regardless of how aspirational the government sector missions become, upholding accountability within the government sector involving cyber security and cybercrime remains a challenge. Therefore, the government sector may aspire to have more concrete and enforceable missions to ensure equitable digital practices.

- Digital Economy and Trade: The digital economy presents a new challenge surrounding taxation/tariffs, trade, and consumer protections. The development of an inclusive digital economy requires comprehensive strategies, national frameworks, and international agreements. According to the World Bank's Global Findex 2017 report, 69 percent of adults have an account with a financial institution (up by seven percentage points since 2014).<sup>22</sup> Thus, over half a billion adults gained access to digital financial instruments in three years. Still, much of the population is left behind in this new form of digital economy, which remains central to this cluster of digital governance initiatives. An initiative seeking to bolster the ease of digital trade is *The Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)*. DEPA, established in 2020, "...is a first of its kind agreement that establishes new approaches and collaborations in digital trade issues..."<sup>23</sup>
- Societal Digital Transformation Strategy: A key commonality in government-led digital governance initiatives is the emphasis on a comprehensive "digital transformation" strategy. This includes not only the positive implications of digital transformation on society, but the inherent risks associated with it. Interestingly, these society-wide digital transformation strategies are tackled by a variety of government actors. It ranges from the *G20 Smart Cities Alliances*, to *The OCED Going Digital*, to *The African Digital Transformation Strategy*. The emphasis on digital transformation can be seen in the *OCED Going Digital* mandate where, "Since 2017, the project has supported policy makers in the quest to better understand digital transformation and the effects of digital

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<sup>22</sup> "Global Findex Database 2017", The World Bank, <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org>

<sup>23</sup> The Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Improving-Trade/Digital-Economy-Agreements/The-Digital-Economy-Partnership-Agreement>

technologies on our economies and societies, in an effort to shape a positive digital future.”<sup>24</sup> More broadly, there is an observable trend that identifies the goal of “building back better”<sup>25</sup> by using digital technologies steeped in democratic principles and values.

- Great Variability in Spectrum of Mandate and Accountability Structure: Where civil society and the private sector appear more targeted toward a single specified challenge, the government sector seeks to have comprehensive mandates. It could pertain to child protection, online infrastructure issues, and cybersecurity. Future iterations of this report may find it useful to dig deeper into the intentional ways in which mandates are worded, as well as the trends and patterns that come from having either a comprehensive mandate or a broad, non-specific mandate. In terms of accountability, the government sector possesses the widest range of measures. As will be discussed further, many initiatives are voluntary and aspirational, meaning there is no way to enforce adherence. Although, through a variety of state structures, penalties can be administered. For example, the *GDPR* has a two-tier penalty system. A lower tier of €10 million or for more serious violations of a maximum of €20 million.<sup>26</sup>

### 3.1.3 Civil Society

- Greater Leniency Towards Implementation Strategies: The great majority of non-governmental organizations and think tanks focus on research and academia, as well as establishing good practices, monitoring and evaluation of digital technologies capacities with governments, multi-stakeholder and private sector. As a result, civil society initiatives tend to provide solutions and policy analysis recommendations rather than setting norms in the international arena.
- Financial Dominance by Western Countries: When it comes to the global nature of the Internet and digital interdependence, civil society initiatives followed suit. Many focus their attention on global efforts to increase both local and regional governance initiatives. A noteworthy finding is that though mandates are equipped with global aspirations,

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<sup>24</sup> The OECD Going Digital, <https://www.oecd.org/digital/going-digital-project/>

<sup>25</sup> “2021 G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Declaration” G7 Digital and Technology Ministers, <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/ict/2021-digital-tech-declaration.html>

<sup>26</sup> “What is GDPR, the EU’s New Data Protection Law”, GDPR, <https://gdpr.eu/what-is-gdpr/>

Western companies, foundations and charities tend to be the financial supporters, partners or members of NGOs and think tanks. Financial support can promote the advancement of digital cooperation within the Global South, but it can also be counterintuitive to development, as the agenda setting may address different interests in the region.

- Awareness Spreading Through Advocacy: Civil society acts through soft-law initiatives to promote a better understanding of technology and the respective responsibilities for states, multi-stakeholder, and private entities. The goal of these efforts are mainly to spread awareness and advocate central issues that surround digital governance via informative documents, such as white papers. Even if governance is a strategy to facilitate advocacy, the large fragmentation of initiatives—in addition to the amount of production of documents—can be counterproductive. As discussed in the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel for Digital Cooperation report, governance in the context of the overlap of numerous global initiatives had become "complex, but not necessarily effective."<sup>27</sup>
- Education, Training and Research: An important actor in the civil society sector is academia, often participating through the establishment of think tanks. The role and impact of academia in civil society has resulted in emphasis on digital education, training and research. Here, education and training follow two patterns: First, the use of digital technologies to provide education and training, utilizing its inherently connective nature to overcome educational barriers. Second, the need to increase education and training for digital literacy remains a priority for civil society actors. For example, the Internet Society, as a part of an overarching mandate, "...supports education in developing countries specifically, and wherever the need exists" and "...promotes professional development and builds community to foster participation."<sup>28</sup> The research component of academia has led to the development of databases as well as the desire to produce repositories of knowledge to be used by decision makers. The latter also works to enable evidence-based informed decisions. For example, George Washington University's *Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub* aims "...to provide policymakers,

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<sup>27</sup> United Nations. (2019). "UN Secretary General's High-level Panel for Digital Cooperation". p. 23.

<sup>28</sup> Internet Society, <https://www.internetsociety.org/mission/>

the press, and the public with a greater understanding of these complex digital trade and data governance issues in order to improve trust and efficiency in our systems.”<sup>29</sup>

### 3.1.4 Multi-stakeholder

- Cyber Capacity Building: Multi-stakeholderism provides a unique nexus between the private sector, government, and civil society-led initiatives. Each sector comes equipped with a unique set of skills, as well as a unique purview into various priorities in which to build cyber capacity. According to the UN Group of Governmental Experts (UN GGE) 2015 Report, cyber capacity building encompasses the following three features: i) a means to secure the cyber ecosystem directly (i.e. through technical means or policies), ii) a means to action or realize cyber norms and confidence building measures, iii) a means to enable participation in cybersecurity discussions.<sup>30</sup> Cyber capacity building often results in a forum/discussion medium to address gaps and weaknesses in particular areas of digital knowledge. These forums are often spearheaded by the private sector, who possess the technical skills required, such as encryption or cyber awareness strategies.
- Global Standardization as a Necessity: As multi-stakeholder initiatives involve a diverse group of participants, there is a trend on the importance of global standardization to achieve interoperability. This includes technical standards such as the Domain Name System (DNS) stewarded by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Digital participation among the private sector, governments and civil society seeks to improve transparency and quality in the development of all digital technologies and its operational counterparts. While many best practices and standards exist, they often address only narrow parts of a vast and diverse universe that ranges from talking toys to industrial control systems. As digital technologies and the Internet continue to become an immutable part of everyday life, there must be an undertaking to ensure all present and future technological developments are unified in a global technical standard.

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<sup>29</sup> The Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub, <https://datagovhub.elliott.gwu.edu/about/>

<sup>30</sup> “2015: Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Development in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security”, UN Group of Governmental Experts, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/228/35/PDF/N1522835.pdf?OpenElement>

- Digital Rights as Human Rights: Digital rights—also referred to as human rights online—is a core tenant throughout the multi-stakeholder initiatives. Notably, the multi-stakeholder approach allows for multiple lenses in which to look at digital rights (as opposed to solely through the consumer/customer perspective in the private sector). For example, the *Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network* seeks to develop standards and solutions to “pressing legal challenges at the intersection of the global digital economy, human rights, and security,”<sup>31</sup> whereas the *African Declaration on Internet Rights & Freedoms* seeks to uphold and promote human rights online through the specific context of multi-stakeholder social and economic development in Africa.<sup>32</sup> The variability and diversity of multi-stakeholder initiatives allows for unique perspectives, and thus, approaches to the realization of digital rights.
- Diverse in Focus and Scope, Accompanied by Targeted Goals: Multi-stakeholder initiatives have a robust and diverse membership roster due to the inherent variability of stakeholders. The mandates and objectives for multi-stakeholder initiatives were able to expand into less-traditional digital governance foci. While not diminishing from specificity and targeted goals, greater diversity in mission statements and mandate focus was more evident compared to that of the private, government and civil society sectors. For example, the Open Smart Register Platform (Open SRP), focusing on the healthcare industry, calls on “data-driven decision making within the health care system, however, it is an open-source, mobile-first platform, built to enable data-driven decision making at all levels of the health system. It was designed to address the problem with existing technology solutions that are fragmented, unscalable, functionally limited, and not interoperable with national-level information systems.”<sup>33</sup>

### 3.2 Overarching Trends Across All Sectors

Each sector—private, government, civil society, and multi-stakeholder—presents a unique and valuable offering of digital governance prioritization and perspective. Still, within the diverse mandates and objectives of separate sectors, governance initiatives demonstrate pervasive trends. The commonalities found therein are as follows: i) Western-centrism, ii) aspirational, not

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<sup>31</sup> The Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network, <https://www.internetjurisdiction.net/about/mission>

<sup>32</sup> The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, <https://africaninternetrights.org/en/about>

<sup>33</sup> Open Smart Register Platform (Open SRP) <https://smartregister.org/about/>



enforceable, iii) continuation of voluntary agreement, iv) increased focus on digital accessibility, and v) promotion of digital rights.

- Western-Centrism: Through the analysis of all initiatives, it is observable that the United States and Europe are the major protagonists in global digital governance. These countries, defined herein as “Western,” are often responsible for setting norms, leading the initiatives, and operationalizing new parameters worldwide. There is a clear discrepancy in leadership opportunities for and participation of developing countries that are engaged in the international arena.

While this report addresses the Western-centrism—primarily with the US and EU acting as thought leaders and key enforcers of global digital governance policies—it should be noted that China is a key player in the global digital governance landscape. Since 2015, the country has been implementing Made in China 2025, a national strategy to secure a "position in the global powerhouse in high-tech industries" by reducing the dependence on technology from the West and investing in its own innovation mechanisms with the goal to increase the competitiveness of Chinese companies by 2025.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, in 2014, China launched (and still hosts) the World Internet Conference, a state-funded event that attracts global tech leaders such as from Apple to participate in discussions about global digital governance policies. In 2019, 600 companies participated.<sup>35</sup>

- Aspirational, Not Enforceable: The majority of initiatives—53 out of 99—are aspirational. Still, there is a clear goal of transcending the collective information sharing and the use of voluntary international forums. The unified objective is to find an actionable digital governance structure to hold all participants accountable. A positive finding, this trend sees that governments in particular are also becoming less willing to accept a lenient regulatory approach. As discussed in the UN High-Level Panel for Digital Cooperation,

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<sup>34</sup> "China Innovation Project: A Guide to Understanding China's Next Wave of Innovation". Harvard University Newsletter. <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/innovation/made-china-2025-explained>

<sup>35</sup> Yujie Xue and Minghe Hu. "China's state-run World Internet Conference sees 'quietest' year ever amid coronavirus pandemic". *South Morning China Post*. Nov 24, 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/tech/policy/article/3111154/chinas-state-run-world-internet-conference-sees-quietest-year-ever-amid>

for example, in the United Kingdom, legislators are exploring how existing legal principles, such as "duty of care" could be applied to social media firms.<sup>36</sup>

- Continuation of Voluntary Agreement: The aspirational nature of the majority of initiatives can likely be attributed to the overarching voluntary nature of most regional and/or international agreements. This signatory tendency is not unique solely to digital governance, but rather is a much larger conversation about international law and accountability. With the increasing omnipresence of digital technologies, the challenge will increasingly surround the incorporation of actors who do not freely subscribe to the proposed principles, values and standards.
- Increased Focus on Digital Accessibility: Positively noted, it is a universal feature across all sector initiatives as to the importance of increasing and promoting digital accessibility. As Tim Berners-Lee, Director of World Wide Web Consortium and inventor of the World Wide Web once stated, "The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect."<sup>37</sup> Accessibility—or lack thereof—may take many forms, albeit through physical disability and unadaptable technology, or through the lack of technology or Internet infrastructure. Thus, it is important to remain cognizant of the variability of causes surrounding inaccessibility.
- Digital Rights as Human Rights: Many of the documents that codify human rights were written well before the digital age. This includes the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. That said, in many cases, it is not clear how human rights laws and treaties implemented in the pre-digital era should be applied in the digital age. There is an urgent need, as demonstrated in many of the mission statements of digital governance initiatives, to examine how human rights frameworks and conventions should pilot digital cooperation and technology. The discussion largely surrounds uncertainty of

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<sup>36</sup> United Nations. (2019). The Age of Digital Interdependence: Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

<sup>37</sup> "Accessibility", World Wide Web Consortium, <https://www.w3.org/WAI/EO/Drafts/4betaW3org/accessibility-new-w3c200908131a>

establishing a new human rights framework targeting digital technologies or finding the appropriate way in which to extend pre-existing human rights into the digital space. This is a new frontier of human rights application that requires inclusive multi-stakeholder participation to identify the norms and shared values to be applied to digital technologies, including issues like privacy, freedom of speech and security.

## Part 4: Next Steps: Preparing for an Inclusive Digital Future

Based on an analysis of the sectoral initiatives, and the key findings noted in the previous section, this section proposes a series of recommendations to facilitate pathways to prepare for a more cooperative and inclusive digital future.

### 4.1 An Inclusive Approach to Norm-Setting

The US and EU maintain a primary leadership role in the digital technologies field, thus perpetuating a Western-centric approach to norm-setting. Within this approach, China's World Internet Conference notwithstanding, the visibility of Global South led initiatives can be undermined and deemed irrelevant. Historically, this is due to the power, and investment imbalance in non-Western states relative to that in Western states. Regional arrangements in non-Western areas, especially through civil society organizations, have been protagonists in addressing the challenges and fast-paced nature of digital technologies.<sup>38</sup> For example, over the last ten years, Brazilian think tank Instituto Igarapé shaped new approaches on how governments can use digital technologies, as it "developed new technologies used by governments such as CopCast, a body-worn camera tested in Brazil, South Africa and the US. Other tools include the CrimeRadar, the ISPGeo and the Paraty Violence Prevention Observatory. Instituto Igarapé is also involved in developing a range of innovative civic apps to support marginalized communities, including the Child Security Index and OKA.<sup>39</sup>

On a micro-level, the discussion of a Western-centric approach also needs to address the marginalization of certain groups of people in the process of overcoming the digital divide. The consultation with local level and marginalized communities is essential to provide universal accessibility, truly inclusive collaboration, with human rights at the center.

### Recommendations

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<sup>38</sup> "New Technologies". Igarapé Institute. <https://igarape.org.br/en/congrats-igarape/>

<sup>39</sup> OKA is "a Compass of Public Services is an Android and iOS mobile phone app for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as internally displaced persons in Brazil". <https://igarape.org.br/en/oka/>

- To improve participation and inclusion from the Global South and to put forth their own initiatives to the forefront of the discussion, it is recommended that South America, Africa, Middle East, and Asia initiatives be able to participate equally in the global digital governance discussions. In other words, we recommend improving participation in global digital technologies through facilitating discussions with the Global South to enhance regional initiatives and bring them to the decision-making process. This can also be possible through local and regional grass-roots organizations. In this way, it is possible to understand the nuances of each region and how a Western-centric approach may not fulfill the needs when it comes to rights, trends, and accessibility.
- On a micro-level, the inclusive approach should be accompanied by group representation from marginalized communities (women, LGBTQ+ people, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities) when working through discussions with the wider global leaders. It is proposed that this effort would enforce inclusivity amongst stakeholders when discussing the implementation of sensitive issues revolving around digital technologies.

## 4.2 Where Digital Rights Meet National Responsibilities

The conversation regarding digital rights is more timely, and important, than ever before. From freedom of expression to access to the Internet, digital rights encompasses various levels of digital responsibilities for states. The debate is not homogenous and often follows national regulations. However, globalization enabled the debate to transcend countries' geographical borders. Finding commonalities are necessary to promote a minimum set of digital responsibilities for all the countries, such as child protection protocols for Internet use. The commonalities will be important to open the states' debate on how digital technologies can affect future generations.

In our consultations, as "digital technologies increasingly cut across areas in which policies are shaped by separate institutions,"<sup>40</sup> the discussions about digital rights cannot fall under the premise of tech exceptionalism, or tech fragmentation. The Internet is interconnected with all the other sectors, so the states should address the connectivity, and openness of digital technologies in the discussions as a common topic transcending different fields.

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<sup>40</sup> United Nations. (2019). "UN Secretary General's High-level Panel for Digital Cooperation". p. 23.

## Recommendations:

- Observed throughout our research was the askew application of human rights in the digital space. As aforementioned, the majority of human rights declarations and treaties were established in a pre-digital era. Therefore, it is recommended that a full survey of human rights declarations and treaties be conducted to gain a greater understanding of the true applicability of human rights in the post-COVID-19 digital era. The private sector, governments, and civil society should be actively involved leveraging their unique expertise and perspective on how to apply existing human rights instruments to ensure full realization of digital rights.
- To ensure long term sustainability for human rights, it is proposed that there be a global standard that is agreed upon by all states. This would supersede states' private regulations and laws. With this base global standard, future generations are protected from the vast changes and implementations of the Internet. This would also challenge the fact that technology evolves and changes on a daily basis, as the global standard would not be affected.

### 4.3 A Case for Multi-stakeholderism as a Priority to Effectiveness

Meaningful digital cooperation requires that multi-stakeholderism, despite its challenges, be implemented and strengthened. Given the wide spectrum of issues, each stakeholder will be required to leverage their unique position in digital governance; some initiatives may be led by the private sector or civil society rather than government or international organizations. A multi-stakeholder digital governance approach should seek to increase interaction and coordination between the public sector and private entities to help mold approaches to economic, cultural and geographic contexts. Further, as identified in The Report of the Secretary-General, *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*, special considerations must be taken, given that "...global discussions and processes are often not inclusive enough. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of a common entry point into the global digital architecture, which makes it especially hard for developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises, marginalized groups and other stakeholders with limited budgets and expertise to make their voices heard."<sup>41</sup> This must be

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<sup>41</sup> United Nations. (2020). Report of the Secretary-General: Road map for digital cooperation.

considered and acted on to increase the validity and effectiveness of true multi-stakeholder participation.

The UN is a custodian of global peace and security, human rights and development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The collaborative nature of the UN uniquely positions the organization to highlight issues emerging in the digital age. In the consultations that supported this research, concerns about the UN's state-centric structure were addressed. The UN has begun to engage the private sector and tech community much more directly. Here, it is important to highlight the establishment of Microsoft's UN Affairs Office, which seeks to "deepen our [Microsoft's] support for the UN's mission and work by advancing global multi-stakeholder action on key technology, environmental, humanitarian, development, and security goals, as well as by helping advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."<sup>42</sup> However, working with stakeholders, such as the private sector and civil society, is still not an inherent feature of the UN. Therefore, more should be done to promote effective and consistent multi-stakeholder participation.

The UN retains a unique role and convening power to bring stakeholders together to continue meaningful discussions on global digital governance. As identified in the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the UN has the opportunity to i) be a convener, ii) provide space for debating values and norms, iii) standard-setting, iv) multi-stakeholder or bilateral initiatives on specific issues, v) develop the capacity of member states, vi) ranking, mapping and measuring, vii) arbitration and dispute resolution.

### Recommendations:

- The UN could initiate, possibly with academic or private-sector partners, Track 1.5 and Track 2 meetings with all relevant stakeholders. These meetings should target a consensus of principles and values in preparation for the Summit of the Future and the subsequent Global Digital Compact.
- In our consultations, a universal uncertainty arose surrounding the role of each stakeholder in the multi-stakeholder approach. Therefore, we recommend for there to be additional Track 1.5 meetings to bring forward the leaders in the private sector,

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<sup>42</sup> "Microsoft at the UN" Microsoft Office of UN Affairs, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/united-nations>

government, and civil society to begin discussions surrounding the equitable implementation of a multi-stakeholder approach to global digital governance.

#### 4.4 Further Research via a Subsequent Practicum

Considering the ubiquitous nature of digital in the future, further research is needed. First, the mapping in this report considered initiatives established until April 2022. As a natural consequence of the rapid development of emerging technologies, it is very likely that new initiatives will emerge to cope with and combat possible consequences of innovation.

Second, the initiatives analyzed are focused at a multilateral scale, in which only initiatives with three or more governments, private sector, and civil society actors were considered. Even if the common trend relates to global approach, local and national initiatives may be positively impacting the accessibility of digital technologies and promotion of human rights.

Third, there is no official data or evidence on the number of initiatives established worldwide. The lack of reliable data can reflect on assumptions on digital policy and global economy investments in digital technologies, affecting analysis-trend, and initiatives responses. Moreover, it also affects more heavily developing countries, as a reflection of low capacity and investments to map and collect data.

#### Recommendations:

- To increase productivity and accessibility, it is recommended to build an interactive website, possibly at a university or think-tank, to house the mapping. Here, the mapping may be easily updated that translates directly to a user interface that is easy to use for all. An example of a potential outcome can be found in the *Digital Trade & Data Governance Hub*.
- Finally, we strongly recommend a subsequent practicum that can pick up the proverbial baton and move towards an expansion of global digital governance initiatives, conduct further analysis, evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives and ultimately stay abreast of the developments of the Global Digital Compact.



## Part 5: Conclusion

Digital technologies are an increasingly inextricable feature of contemporary society. The connectivity it provides has boundless potential to fuel positive change, but—in contrast—it also maintains the potential to exacerbate existing fault lines and worsen economic and other inequalities (as seen through the digital divide). On the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, close to 87 percent of individuals in developed countries used the Internet, compared with only 19 percent in the least developed countries.<sup>43</sup> Accessibility to digital technologies, reliable Internet, and coherent digital governance policies proved to be a defining feature of the COVID-19 pandemic survival and recovery. What was unveiled during the COVID-19 pandemic was the irrefutable need for a comprehensive, equitable, universal digital access, connectivity, as well as stable governance to bring the remaining 2.9 billion people online.<sup>44</sup> Today, online violations can lead to real-world violations; the Internet cannot continue as an ungoverned or detrimentally fragmented space. It must embody an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach to governance in order to keep up with the rapid evolution of emerging technologies.

The dynamic nature of digital technologies has proven to be a challenge for the global community, including national governments, private entities, and civil society. The speed and scale of change of emerging technologies is only increasing. Therefore, the swiftness, responsiveness and scope of digital global governance must improve to meet the moment. More fruitful forms of cooperation, collaboration and discussion are required to ensure that digital governance becomes an effective, implementable feature of the digital age. Most pressing, those who advise on the future of global digital governance must take into account the reality that digital rights are intertwined with human rights. In a digital-first era, global digital governance must lead with the knowledge that technologies are created for universal connectedness. It is our hope that the approach to its governance encompasses shared values and principles rooted in egalitarianism to ensure an equitable digital future for all.

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<sup>43</sup> International Telecommunications Unions (ITU), Measuring Digital Development. Facts and figures 2019 (Geneva, 2019).

<sup>44</sup> United Nations. “Achieving Universal Meaningful Digital Connectivity: Setting a Baseline and Targets for 2030. *United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology and International Telecommunications Union*. [https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/04/UniversalMeaningfulDigitalConnectivityTargets2030\\_BackgroundPaper.pdf](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/04/UniversalMeaningfulDigitalConnectivityTargets2030_BackgroundPaper.pdf)

## Appendix: List of Initiatives

### Private Sector-Led Initiatives (TOTAL: 10)

#### 1. Initiative Name: Digital Services Coalition

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To bring innovation and agility to government IT contracting. By working together, we can accelerate the government's ability to implement services that focus on good usability, reliable technology, and accessibility for all—while also benefiting the individuals and firms that are part of the community.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Cooperation and Tech Innovation
- **Members:** 28 members including Agilesix, All Women Leadership, and Wheelhouse Group
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Majority
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** Digital Services Playbook
- **Source:** <https://digitalservicescoalition.org/#/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Private expertise to assist Public sector efficiency
- **Notes:** N/A

#### 2. Initiative Name: CyberSecurity Tech Accord

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To promote a safer online world by fostering collaboration among global technology companies committed to protecting their customers and users and helping them defend against malicious threats. By combining the resources and expertise of the global technology industry, the Cybersecurity Tech Accord creates a starting point for dialogue, discovery and decisive action.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 150 members including Dell, Meta, and Microsoft
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory

- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://cybertechaccord.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Lack of coordination
- **Notes:** N/A

3. **Initiative Name:** Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)

- **Date Established:** 2017
- **Mandate:** To prevent terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms. Founded by Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, and YouTube in 2017, the Forum was established to foster technical collaboration among member companies, advance relevant research, and share knowledge with smaller platforms.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 18 Members including Zoom, Airbnb, and Amazon
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** Christchurch Call to Action & UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- **Source:** <https://gifct.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

4. **Initiative Name:** CyberSecurity Coalition

- **Date Established:** 2016
- **Mandate:** To bring together leading companies to help policymakers develop consensus-driven policy solutions that: Promote a vibrant and robust cybersecurity ecosystem, support the development and adoption of cybersecurity innovations, and encourage organizations of all sizes to take steps to improve their cybersecurity.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 21 Members including Google, Microsoft, and Microsoft
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global

- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** NIST
- **Source:** <https://www.cybersecuritycoalition.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The CyberSecurity Coalition bridges the gap between technology companies' expertise and policymakers.
- **Notes:** N/A

5. **Initiative Name:** Consumer Technology Association

- **Date Established:** 2015
- **Mandate:** To ensure the innovation economy is protected from laws and regulations that delay, restrict, or ban the development of technologies in all our sectors.
- **Focus Area:** Tech Innovation and Policy Making
- **Members:** 1500 Members including Alibaba Group, Google, and Logitech
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.cta.tech/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Advocating for tech companies to influence legislation
- **Notes:** Members must pay membership fees.

6. **Initiative Name:** ICT Coalition for Children Online

- **Date Established:** 2012
- **Mandate:** To help younger internet users across Europe to make the most of the online world and deal with any potential challenges and risks. With the internet now one of the most important sources of information, education and entertainment for many people, it is vital that industry, government, schools and other relevant organizations work together to help children and young people use the internet in a safe and responsible way.
- **Focus Area:** Child Safety
- **Members:** 14 Members including Disney, T-Mobile, Google, and TikTok
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global

- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** The Principles for the Safer Use of Connected Devices and Online Services by Children and Young People in the EU
- **Source:** <https://www.ictcoalition.eu/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

7. **Initiative Name:** Asia Internet Coalition

- **Date Established:** 2010
- **Mandate:** To promote the understanding and resolution of Internet policy issues in the Asia Pacific region. Asia Internet Coalition's mission is to represent the Internet industry and participate and promote stakeholder dialogue between the public and private sectors, sharing best practices and ideas on Internet technology and the digital economy.
- **Focus Area:** Policy Making and Digital Cooperation
- **Members:** 17 Members including Google, Apple and Twitter
- **Geographical Coverage:** Asia
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://aicasia.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Lack of awareness in Internet policy issues in Asia Pacific
- **Notes:** N/A

8. **Initiative Name:** The Tech Coalition

- **Date Established:** 2005
- **Mandate:** To drive critical advances in technology and the adoption of best practices for keeping children safe online. We convene and align the global tech industry, pool their knowledge and expertise, to help our members better prevent, detect, report, and remove online child sexual abuse content.
- **Focus Area:** Child Safety
- **Members:** 26 Members including Google, Microsoft, and Meta
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global

- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.technologycoalition.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

9. **Initiative Name:** Internet Works

- **Date Established:** 1996
- **Mandate:** To ensure our diverse collection of users is represented in important policy conversations and preserve the Internet as a place of limitless possibility.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights
- **Members:** 21 Members including Etsy, Glassdoor, and Reddit
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** Section 230
- **Source:** <https://www.theinternet.works/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

10. **Initiative Name:** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

- **Date Established:** 1963
- **Mandate:** To foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE will be essential to the global technical community and to technical professionals everywhere, and be universally recognized for the contributions of technology and of technical professionals in improving global conditions.
- **Focus Area:** Technology for Good
- **Members:** 409,000 Undisclosed Members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A

- **Source:** <https://www.ieee.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Members must pay membership fees.

## Government-Led Initiatives (TOTAL: 24)

### 1. Initiative Name: The Declaration for the Future of the Internet

- **Date Established:** 2022
- **Mandate:** To advance a positive vision for the Internet and digital technologies. It reclaims the promise of the Internet in the face of the global opportunities and challenges presented by the 21st century. It also reaffirms and recommits its partners to a single global Internet – one that is truly open and fosters competition, privacy, and respect for human rights.
- **Focus Area:** Policy Making
- **Members:** 60 members including Canada, United States, and Ukraine
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.state.gov/declaration-for-the-future-of-the-internet#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20United%20States%20with,the%20Internet%20and%20digital%20technologies.>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

### 2. Initiative Name: G7 Digital and Technology Ministers

- **Date Established:** 2021
- **Mandate:** To place the needs of open, democratic societies at the centre of the technology debate and to work together towards a trusted, values-driven digital ecosystem. The G7 believes that such ecosystems must enhance prosperity in a way that is sustainable, inclusive and human-centric and has affirmed its opposition to measures which may undermine these democratic values, such as government-imposed Internet shutdowns and network restrictions.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Cooperation and Digital Access

- **Members:** G-7 Member States
  - **Geographical Coverage:** Global
  - **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
  - **Accountability:** Aspirational
  - **Legacy:** N/A
  - **Source:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-digital-and-technology-ministerial-declaration>
  - **Gaps Identified:** The mandate is housed within the UK government's official website, it does not have a dedicated page.
  - **Notes:** This mandate does not seem to have an enforceable structure.
3. **Initiative Name:** UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- **Date Established:** 2021
  - **Mandate:** To address ethical issues related to the domain of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the extent that they are within the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) mandate.
  - **Focus Area:** AI and Technology for Good
  - **Members:** UN Member States
  - **Geographical Coverage:** Global
  - **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
  - **Accountability:** Aspirational
  - **Legacy:** The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - **Source:** <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377897>
  - **Gaps Identified:** N/A
  - **Notes:** N/A
4. **Initiative Name:** Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)
- **Date Established:** 2020
  - **Mandate:** To drive greater collaboration and cooperation across entrepreneurship, innovation, business growth and employment in a shared digital economy. By promoting common interests and collaborative digital transformation, the DCO's mission is to enable members to empower women, youth and entrepreneurs to accelerate growth across the digital economy, and



achieve greater prosperity by promoting common interests and collaborative digital transformation.

- **Focus Area:** Digital Economy
- **Members:** 8 members including Bahrain, Jordan, and Rwanda
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://dco.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The website states that DCO has partners within the following fields: private companies, international organisations, NGOs academia, funds, and civil societies. The website is, however, unclear which organizations and where they are located.
- **Notes:** N/A

5. **Initiative Name:** Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To establish new approaches and collaborations in digital trade issues, promote interoperability between different regimes, and address new issues brought about by digitalisation.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Economy, Data Protection, AI, and Digital Inclusion
- **Members:** Singapore, Chile, and New Zealand
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Majority
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Improving-Trade/Digital-Economy-Agreements/The-Digital-Economy-Partnership-Agreement>
- **Gaps Identified:** DEPA does not have its own website - it is housed in Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry site.
- **Notes:** China applied to become a member of DEPA.

6. **Initiative Name:** Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa

- **Date Established:** 2020

- **Mandate:** To harness digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive economic growth, stimulate job creation, break the digital divide, and eradicate poverty for the continent's socio-economic development and ensure Africa's ownership of modern tools of digital management.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Inclusion, Digital Access, and Digital Economy
- **Members:** African Union Members States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the African Union Financial Institutions
- **Source:** <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-dts-english.pdf>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

7. **Initiative Name:** Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. GPAI brings together engaged minds and expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organizations and academia to foster international cooperation.
- **Focus Area:** AI
- **Members:** 25 members including Australia, Brazil, and India
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** OECD Going Digital project
- **Source:** <https://gpai.ai/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** GPAI is the materialization of an idea developed within the G7.

8. **Initiative Name:** The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To create a more balanced, reciprocal trade supporting high-paying jobs for Americans and grow the North American economy. The USMCA proposes new chapters covering digital trade, anti corruption, and good regulatory practices.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Economy
- **Members:** Canada, Mexico, and U.S.
- **Geographical Coverage:** North America
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- **Source:** <https://ustr.gov/usmca>
- **Gaps Identified:** Replaces NAFTA
- **Notes:** N/A

9. **Initiative Name:** African Union Cybersecurity Expert Group (AUCSEG)

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To promote and strengthen the ongoing digital transformation in Africa by facilitating the coordination and information sharing among African countries & regions and different stakeholders, identifying cybersecurity areas where resources are needed, and advising on national, regional and continental strategies and initiatives that should be prioritized.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** African Union Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The African Union Commission (AUC)
- **Source:** [https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/37873-pr-press\\_release-\\_african\\_union\\_cybersecurity\\_expert\\_group\\_holds\\_its\\_first\\_inaugural\\_meeting.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/37873-pr-press_release-_african_union_cybersecurity_expert_group_holds_its_first_inaugural_meeting.pdf)
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

#### 10. Initiative Name: OECD AI Policy Observatory

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To facilitate dialogue between stakeholders while providing multidisciplinary, evidence-based policy analysis in the areas where AI has the most impact.
- **Focus Area:** AI
- **Members:** OECD Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The OECD AI Policy Observatory is Phase II of the OECD Going Digital Project
- **Source:** <https://oecd.ai/en/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Although OECD is a global organization, its members comprise wealthier nations in the Americas and Europe. There are no official African member countries.
- **Notes:** N/A

#### 11. Initiative Name: Cities Coalition for Digital Rights

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To promote and defend digital rights in the urban context through city action, to resolve common digital challenges and work towards legal, ethical and operational frameworks to advance human rights in digital environments.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights and Technology for Good
- **Members:** 53 cities including Amman, NYC, and Sydney
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** Internet Rights and Principles Coalition
- **Source:** <https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/home>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

## 12. Initiative Name: European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To impose privacy and security standards onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection
- **Members:** All EU (27) member countries and the United Kingdom. The GDPR applies to any entity/organization that processes the personal data of EU citizens or residents, or offers goods or services to such people, even if the entity/organization is not located in the EU.
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Majority
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the European Data Protection Directive (1995)
- **Source:** <https://gdpr.eu/>
- **Gaps Identified:** A common grievance by entities/companies operating in the EU is that the GDPR is vague and hard to interpret and that there's a lack of harmony among the member states in enforcing the GDPR.
- **Notes:** There are two tiers of penalties, which max out at €20 million or 4% of revenue (whichever is higher), if an entity violates the GDPR. The GDPR defines personal data as any information that relates to an individual who can be directly or indirectly identified. (Names, email addresses, location information, ethnicity, gender, biometric data, religious beliefs, web cookies, and political opinions, etc.)

## 13. Initiative Name: Global Data Access Framework (GDAF)

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To use the power of big data and artificial intelligence (AI) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Focus Area:** AI and Digital Access
- **Members:** European Union Member States and the United Kingdom
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Majority
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** The 2018 AI for Good Global Summit

- **Source:** <https://www.unglobalpulse.org/policy/global-data-access-framework/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

#### 14. Initiative Name: OECD Going Digital Project

- **Date Established:** 2017
- **Mandate:** To help policy makers better understand the digital transformation that is underway and to develop appropriate policies to help shape a positive digital future. Since 2017, the project has supported policy makers in the quest to better understand digital transformation and the effects of digital technologies on our economies and societies, in an effort to shape a positive digital future.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance, AI, and Policy Making
- **Members:** OECD Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.oecd.org/digital/going-digital-project/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Although OECD is a global organization, its members comprise wealthier nations in the Americas and Europe. There are no official African member countries.
- **Notes:** Phase I of the project concluded in 2019 with the Going Digital Summit and the release of two reports Going Digital: Shaping Policies, Improving Lives and Measuring the Digital Transformation: A Roadmap for the Future. Phase II launched the OECD.AI Policy Observatory in 2020. Phase III is focusing on data governance for growth and well-being and will conclude in 2022. The OECD Going Digital project has also launched the Going Digital Integrated Policy Framework and the OECD Going Digital Toolkit to frame all of the OECD's work on digital transformation.

#### 15. Initiative Name: G20 Digital Economy Development and Cooperation Initiative (DECI)

- **Date Established:** 2016

- **Mandate:** To collectively leverage digital opportunities, cope with challenges, and promote the digital economy to drive inclusive economic growth and development.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Digital Economy
- **Members:** G20 Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000185874.pdf>
- **Gaps Identified:** DECI does not have a formal website and is confusing to follow. There are no clearly outlined activities that the member countries are undertaking.
- **Notes:** N/A

**16. Initiative Name:** African Declaration on Internet Governance

- **Date Established:** 2014
- **Mandate:** To promote sustainable human development, build inclusive societies and improve the free information, ideas and opinions' flow around the globe.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Digital Inclusion
- **Members:** African Union Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Vision of the African Union expressed in its Agenda 2063
- **Source:** [https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33025-wd-african\\_declaration\\_on\\_internet\\_governance\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/33025-wd-african_declaration_on_internet_governance_en_0.pdf)
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**17. Initiative Name:** The World Internet Conference

- **Date Established:** 2014

- **Mandate:** To help build a cyberspace community with a consensual shared destiny and an ethic of respecting differences.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 11 members including Cyberspace Administration of China, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and Economy and Information Technology Department of Zhejiang Province
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.wuzhenwic.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Government-led forum that includes multi-stakeholder participation. This includes Nokia, Tesla and Qihoo 360 Technology.

**18. Initiative Name:** SMART Africa

- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the African continent, ushering the continent into a knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communications Technologies.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Inclusion, Digital Economy, and Digital Access
- **Members:** African Union Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The Transform Africa Summit
- **Source:** <https://smartafrica.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**19. Initiative Name:** The European Cybercrime Centre (EC3)

- **Date Established:** 2013



- **Mandate:** To offer operational, strategic, analytical and forensic support to EU Member States' cybercrime investigations. Cybercrimes include cyber-dependent crime, child sexual exploitation, and payment fraud.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity, Internet Security, and Child Safety
- **Members:** EU Member States and European citizens
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** Europol
- **Source:** <https://www.europol.europa.eu/about-europol/european-cybercrime-centre-ec3>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**20. Initiative Name:** Freedom Online Coalition

- **Date Established:** 2011
- **Mandate:** To be a proactive coalition that ensures Internet freedom issues are on the international policy agenda as a way to drive concrete policy changes and outcomes.
- **Focus Area:** Policy Making, Digital Governance, and Digital Rights
- **Members:** 34 members including Argentina, Mongolia, and the United Kingdom
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**21. Initiative Name:** Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)

- **Date Established:** 2009
- **Mandate:** To promote digital security.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity, Internet Security, and Digital Governance
- **Members:** All UN Member and Observer States

- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** UN Human Rights Council
- **Source:** <https://www.un.org/disarmament/open-ended-working-group/#:~:text=Through%20resolution%2073%2F27%2C%20the,the%20General%20Assembly%20in%202020>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**22. Initiative Name:** Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)

- **Date Established:** 2004
- **Mandate:** To advance responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity, Digital Governance, and Internet Security
- **Members:** Rotating UN Member State
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, UN General Assembly
- **Source:** <https://www.un.org/disarmament/group-of-governmental-experts/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Also important website: <https://dig.watch/processes/un-gge>. Since 2004, there have been six GGE meetings.

**23. Initiative Name:** Information Technology Agreement (ITA)

- **Date Established:** 1996
- **Mandate:** To eliminate tariffs on IT products covered by the agreement.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Economy and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 82 members including China, the European Union, and the U.S.
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A

- **Source:** [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/inftec\\_e/inftec\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/inftec_e/inftec_e.htm)
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**24. Initiative Name:** World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- **Date Established:** 1967
- **Mandate:** To lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.
- **Focus Area:** Tech Innovation and Digital Economy
- **Members:** UN Member States
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.wipo.int/portal/en/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**Civil Society-Led Initiatives (TOTAL: 23)**

**1. Initiative Name:** Non-Profit Cyber

- **Date Established:** 2022
- **Mandate:** To build awareness of the work of cybersecurity nonprofits globally and align their work to achieve the greatest effect. Envisioned as a “collaboration-of-equals,” each member organization has committed to work in coordination to better serve Internet users globally.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 22 members including Anti-Phishing Working Group, the Center for Internet Security, and the Global Cyber Alliance
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A

- **Source:** <https://nonprofitcyber.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The mechanism was recently created so that is not enough information on its accomplishments.
- **Notes:** N/A

2. **Initiative Name:** Democracy and Tech Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2021
- **Mandate:** To create policy practices that align global stakeholders toward tech and governance that reinforce, rather than undermine, open societies. The Initiative builds on the DFRLab's established track record and leadership in the open-source field, empowering global communities to promote transparency and accountability online and around the world. The Initiative examines how the tech that connects and informs people is funded, built, and governed, and how that affects the viability of rights-respecting and democratic societies around the world.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity, Policy Making, Human Rights, and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 22 individual experts, fellows and scholars
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/programs/digital-forensic-research-lab/democracy-and-tech-initiative/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

3. **Initiative Name:** ForHumanity

- **Date Established:** 2021
- **Mandate:** To examine and analyze the downside risks associated with the ubiquitous advance of AI & Automation, to engage in risk mitigation and ensure the optimal outcome... ForHumanity.
- **Focus Area:** AI

- **Members:** 700 individual members and contributors from 68 countries, including Australia, Brazil, and the U.S.
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://forhumanity.center/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

4. **Initiative Name:** Reset Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To build a global network of public service partners to help restore the critical connection between media and democracy.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Cooperation and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 23 individual technologists, analysts, researchers, advocates, and policy experts
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.reset.tech/about/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** The Reset Initiative collaborates with other donors to attract long-term funding for civil society organisations engaged in the democracy and technology problem. In addition to the Initiative's core Staff members, they also have an Advisory Council (whose members broadly guide, inform, and advance our network) as well as a Network Investment Council.

5. **Initiative Name:** Africa Cybersecurity and Digital Rights Organization

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To promote cybersecurity awareness, capacity building, capacity development. and training within the Africa continent and beyond.

- **Focus Area:** AI, Cybersecurity, Child Safety, Digital Governance, Data Protection, Digital Rights, and Human Rights
- **Members:** Media Foundation for Western Africa, Global Partners Digital, and Parad Initiati
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <http://acdro.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** It was not possible to find any reports on their work.
- **Notes:** It promotes online courses training to train a workforce to manage Africa's cybersecurity threats and mitigate risk to business shutdowns from cyber-attacks.

6. **Initiative Name:** Data Trade and Global Governance Hub (GWU)

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To help stakeholders and policymakers understand digital trade and data governance issues through conducting evidence-based-research, connect stakeholders to experts, serve as a resource and build an understanding of data governance and trade issues in the US and abroad.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection, Digital Economy, Digital Governance, and Policy Making
- **Members:** 4 members including Charles Koch Foundation, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Georgetown University Institute for Data, Governance and Politics
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://datagovhub.elliott.gwu.edu/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** They are developing a Global Data Governance Mapping with more than 50 countries so far (<https://datagovhub.letsnod.com/>)

7. **Initiative Name:** Americas Institute for Cybersecurity Leadership (AICL)

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To impact global cybersecurity challenges, provide strategic insights and foster cybersecurity leadership for a safer digital society.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Internet Security
- **Members:** 4 members including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Stop.Think.Connect., and Girls Who Code
- **Geographical Coverage:** North America and South America
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://americacybersecurity.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** It is difficult to find information regarding main partners in the website or even through Google research. It is unclear if there are more members apart from the U.S. national mechanisms.
- **Notes:** It had focus in the Americas region but the main partners are all from the United States.

8. **Initiative Name:** Machine Intelligence Research Institute

- **Date Established:** 2015
- **Mandate:** To develop formal tools for the clean design and analysis of general-purpose AI systems, with the intent of making such systems safer and more reliable when they are developed.
- **Focus Area:** AI
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://intelligence.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

9. **Initiative Name:** Allen Institute for AI

- **Date Established:** 2014
- **Mandate:** To conduct high-impact AI research and engineering in service of the common good.
- **Focus Area:** AI and Technology for Good
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://allenai.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** The Institute has a board of directors (7) alongside a scientific advisory board (8)

**10. Initiative Name:** Global Partners Digital

- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To bring laws and policies relating to the digital environment more in line with international human rights standards, monitor and analyze trends, build stakeholder capacity, foster alliances and coordinate action, and advocate.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 25 members including the Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (Argentina), the Freedom Online Coalition, and the Global Network Initiative
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights ([https://www.gp-digital.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OHCHR-UNGPs-and-Tech-Companies-Consultation\\_GPD-Submission.pdf](https://www.gp-digital.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OHCHR-UNGPs-and-Tech-Companies-Consultation_GPD-Submission.pdf)) Actively engage in the discussions in the UN First Committee's Open-Ended Working Group on ICTs.
- **Source:** <https://www.gp-digital.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**11. Initiative Name:** The GovLab (NYU)



- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To strengthen the ability of institutions – including but not limited to governments – and people to work more openly, collaboratively, effectively and legitimately to make better decisions and solve public problems through the use of data.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 55 members including Agence Francaise De Developpement, Bertelsmann Foundation, and Democracy Fund
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** UNICEF collaboration on Data Collaboratives to Improve Children's Lives
- **Source:** <https://thegovlab.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**12. Initiative Name:** Global Catastrophic Risk Institute

- **Date Established:** 2011
- **Mandate:** To develop best ways to confront humanity's gravest threats that could significantly harm or even destroy human civilization at the global scale.
- **Focus Area:** AI
- **Members:** Unclear
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://gcrinstitute.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**13. Initiative Name:** Instituto Igarapé

- **Date Established:** 2011

- **Mandate:** To serve as a channel that facilitates the integration of security, climate and technology agendas and, at the same time, acts as a bridge of dialogue between decision makers and civil society, and between the global and local spheres.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Digital Governance
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** North America, South America, and Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Summary of the We the Peoples Digital Consultation and the UN Common Agenda
- **Source:** <https://igarape.org.br/en>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Over 70 partners including Instituto Betty e A. Jacob Lafer (Brazil), International Peace Institute (IPI) (USA), and Jigsaw- Google Ideas (USA)

#### 14. Initiative Name: C-Minds

- **Date Established:** 2009
- **Mandate:** To future-proof communities, governments, and companies in light of the accelerated digital transformation by contributing to more inclusive and human-centered public policy and advancing the debate around ethical tech.
- **Focus Area:** AI, Digital Inclusion, and Human Rights
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** South America
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.cminds.co/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** 7 partners including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Open Data Institute, and the Tecnológico de Monterrey

#### 15. Initiative Name: Centre for Internet and Society

- **Date Established:** 2008

- **Mandate:** To conduct research on Internet and digital technologies from policy and academic perspectives
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Policy Making
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://cis-india.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**16. Initiative Name:** Social Media Exchange (SMEX)

- **Date Established:** 2008
- **Mandate:** To advance digital rights in Lebanon and the Arab region through research, campaigns, and advocacy that encourages users to engage critically with digital technologies, media, and networks.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://smex.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** The website does not provide a lot of information about the members or supporters.

**17. Initiative Name:** Red Clara

- **Date Established:** 2004
- **Mandate:** To strengthen the development of science, education, culture and innovation in Latin America through the innovative use of advanced networks.
- **Focus Area:** Tech Innovation and Digital Access

- **Members:** 9 members including REUNA (Chile), Corporación Ecuatoriana para el Desarrollo de la Investigación y la Academia (Ecuador), and Ragie (Guatemala)
- **Geographical Coverage:** South America
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.redclara.net/index.php/en/>
- **Gaps Identified:** It is largely focused on academia and enabling network access.
- **Notes:** N/A

**18. Initiative Name:** Centre for International Governance Innovation

- **Date Established:** 2001
- **Mandate:** To build bridges from knowledge to power by conducting world-leading research and analysis to offer innovative policy solutions for the digital era.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Internet Security
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** North America
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.cigionline.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Focus on academic research
- **Notes:** Founding supporters include the City of Waterloo, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Ontario. Partners include the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA), Council of Councils (CoC), Forum on Information and Democracy, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Economics Association (IEA) and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)

**19. Initiative Name:** The Geneva Internet Platform's Digital Watch Observatory

- **Date Established:** 1997
- **Mandate:** To provide a neutral one-stop shop for the latest cybersecurity developments, overviews, events, actors, instruments, and other resources. The

observatory is part of the Geneva Internet Platform, an initiative of the Swiss authorities, operated by DiploFoundation.

- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Human Rights
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** An Introduction to Internet Governance by Dr Jovan Kurbalija (book)
- **Source:** <https://dig.watch/topics>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** 30 individual experts

**20. Initiative Name:** Internet Society

- **Date Established:** 1992
- **Mandate:** To empower people to keep the Internet a force for good: open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Access and Technology for Good
- **Members:** 87 unspecified organization members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.internetsociety.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**21. Initiative Name:** Association for Progressive Communications

- **Date Established:** 1990
- **Mandate:** To create a just and sustainable world by harnessing the collective power of activists, organizations, excluded groups, communities and social movements, to challenge existing power structures and ensure that the Internet is developed and governed as a global public good.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights, Digital Access, and Human Rights

- **Members:** 65 members including the Arid Lands Information Network (Kenya), the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) (India), and Colnodo (Colombia)
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.apc.org/en/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**22. Initiative Name:** Electronic Frontier Foundation

- **Date Established:** 1990
- **Mandate:** To create a global digital environment that upholds both human rights and constitutional rights, and take on cutting-edge legal cases to win victories for user rights.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection and Human Rights
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.eff.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**23. Initiative Name:** Privacy International (PI)

- **Date Established:** 1990
- **Mandate:** To protect democracy, defend people's dignity, and demand accountability from institutions who breach public trust.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection and Digital Access
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational

- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://privacyinternational.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Privacy International's governing body is the Board of Trustees. The primary responsibility of the Board is to provide strategic leadership by formulating and reviewing Privacy International's strategic aims in consultation with staff, setting overall policy, regularly evaluating the charity's performance, and ensuring compliance with UK law. The board meets up to four times a year. New Trustees are recruited through an open application process. Appointments are made not only on the basis of individual merit, but also taking into consideration the existing expertise and experience of the Trustees, as well as PI's equal opportunities policy.

## Multi-stakeholder-Led Initiatives (TOTAL: 42)

### 1. Initiative Name: The Datasphere Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2021
- **Mandate:** To responsibly unlock the value of data for all through bringing a new, holistic and positive approach to the governance of the datasphere, improve coordination and accelerate the adoption of concrete proposals to overcome the current tensions and polarization around data.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 25 members including the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Government of Germany Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), and Microsoft
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Mapping on data governance organizations ecosystem
- **Source:** <https://www.thedatasphere.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The mechanism was recently created so that is not enough information on its accomplishments.

- **Notes:** The mechanism is calling for more partnerships (<https://www.thedatasphere.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Datasphere-Initiative-Partnerships-brochure-2022.pdf>)

## 2. Initiative Name: Prosperity Collaborative

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** Developing new technologies to improve how tax administrations work, improving local capacity, and advocating open source technology governance models that promote transparency and interoperability.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 5 members including the World Bank Group, MIT Connection Science, and EY
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/taxes-and-government-revenue/brief/prosperity-collaborative>
- **Gaps Identified:** There is only one World Bank website explaining the mechanism. It was not possible to find other information.
- **Notes:** N/A

## 3. Initiative Name: Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To build an inclusive digital economy and society, develop human and institutional capacity, protect human rights and human agency, promote digital trust, security and stability, and foster global digital cooperation.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Inclusion, Digital Economy, and Digital Cooperation
- **Members:** UN Member States and over 300 companies, organizations and governments including Facebook, Internet Society, and Digital Impact Alliance
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** The UN Secretary General



- **Source:** [https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap\\_for\\_Digital\\_Cooperation\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/assets/pdf/Roadmap_for_Digital_Cooperation_EN.pdf)
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** In July 2018, the Secretary-General convened a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation to advance proposals to strengthen cooperation in the digital space among Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, academic institutions, the technical community and other relevant stakeholders. Co-chaired by Melinda Gates and Jack Ma, the 20 members of the Panel served in their personal capacities, representing an unprecedented mix of disciplines and sectors and geographic, gender and age diversity. In follow-up to the report, eight virtual Roundtable groups involving numerous governments, companies and organizations were convened to discuss if and how the recommendations can be advanced.

4. **Initiative Name:** The Global Encryption Coalition (GEC)

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To promote and defend encryption in key countries and multilateral fora where it is under threat. The GEC also supports efforts by companies to offer encrypted services to their users.
- **Focus Area:** Internet Security
- **Members:** 200 members in addition to the Center for Democracy & Technology, Global Partners Digital, and the Internet Society
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.globalencryption.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

5. **Initiative Name:** Trust Over IP (ToIP) Foundation

- **Date Established:** 2020
- **Mandate:** To work on issues related to digital identity, verifiable credential, blockchain technology, and secure communications spaces.

- **Focus Area:** Policy Making and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 20 Members including Accenture, The Government of British Columbia, and GS1 US
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://trustoverip.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

6. **Initiative Name:** Digital Public Goods Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To accelerate the attainment of the sustainable development goals in low- and middle-income countries by facilitating the discovery, development, use of, and investment in digital public goods.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance, Technology for Good, and Digital Economy
- **Members:** 7 Members including German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), iSPIRT, and UNICEF
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Within its partners, the mechanism launched Digital Public Goods Alliance 5 Year Strategy (2021-2026), available at [https://digitalpublicgoods.net/DPGA\\_Strategy\\_2021-2026.pdf](https://digitalpublicgoods.net/DPGA_Strategy_2021-2026.pdf)
- **Source:** <https://digitalpublicgoods.net/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** It created a Digital Public Goods Alliance Roadmap, a public visualization of the core, coordinated and aligned activities undertaken by other organizations working to advance digital public goods. (<https://digitalpublicgoods.net/roadmap/>)

7. **Initiative Name:** Content Authenticity Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2019

- **Mandate:** To promote and provide an open, cross-industry approach to media transparency so people across the Internet can better evaluate content provenance.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection
- **Members:** 400 members including the European Commission, Microsoft, and World Wildlife Fund
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://contentauthenticity.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The initiative is aspirational but works with The Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA), which is a formal coalition dedicated exclusively to drafting technical standards and specifications as a foundation for universal content provenance. The C2PA is a mutually governed standards development organization (SDO) under the structure of the Linux Foundation's Joint Development Foundation.
- **Notes:** NA

8. **Initiative Name:** Cyber Peace Institute

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To reduce the frequency, impact and scale of cyberattacks, and to hold actors accountable for the harm they cause. The Institute also delivers support to Humanitarian NGOs and the healthcare sector, as well as engages in multilateral fora to raise awareness of the risks of cyberattacks for people, and call for respect of their rights and laws.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 17 members including the GFCE, Ostrom Workshop, and the Trust Valley
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** Position Paper submitted to the 'Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context

of International Security’ and the ‘Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security. They developed a guide to understand the UN Cybersecurity process (<https://cyberpeaceinstitute.org/united-nations-cybersecurity-process-explained/>)

- **Source:** <https://cyberpeaceinstitute.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** When the CyberPeace Institute was founded in 2019, it received initial funding from several corporate donors and foundations. Initial donors were the Hewlett Foundation, Mastercard, Microsoft, the Ford Foundation and Facebook.

#### 9. Initiative Name: Digital Reach

- **Date Established:** 2019
- **Mandate:** To safeguard digital rights and internet freedom in Southeast Asia. Digital Reach’s work revolves around three core strategies which include research and monitoring, advocacy, and community building and empowerment.
- **Focus Area:** Human Rights and Digital Rights
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Asia
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://digitalreach.asia/about/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Created a subsidiary in 2021 - the Southeast Asian Coalition On Tech Accountability (SEACT). Their advocacy work involves stakeholders at the national, regional, and international level. Their approach is based on the local context for maximize the impact of our work. They look at possibilities to work with local partners, engage in the regional human rights mechanism particularly at ASEAN, and address the issues of digital rights in Southeast Asia with international stakeholders.

#### 10. Initiative Name: G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance

- **Date Established:** 2019

- **Mandate:** To unite municipal, regional and national governments, private-sector partners and cities' residents around a shared set of principles for the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies.
- **Focus Area:** Technology for Good
- **Members:** More than 200,000 members including World Economic Forum, Salesforce, and Cities for All
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The World Economic Forum and the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation
- **Source:** <https://globalsmartcitiesalliance.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**11. Initiative Name:** Charter of Trust

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To lead global companies and organizations who seek to work together in making the digital world of tomorrow safer.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 27 Members including Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik, IBM, and CyberPeace Institute
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** Munich Security Conference
- **Source:** <https://www.charteroftrust.com/about/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**12. Initiative Name:** The Africa Digital Rights' Hub (ADRH)

- **Date Established:** 2018

- **Mandate:** To bring together regulators, academic researchers, stakeholders, policy makers, regional, industry experts, and international bodies to address data protection and privacy issues on the Continent.
- **Focus Area:** Capacity Building and Data Protection
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://dataprotectionafrica.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** This is a summit, held yearly since 2018.
- **Notes:** Partners include Facebook, Nsiah Akuetteh, and Co. and Hewlett Foundation

### 13. Initiative Name: The Digital ASEAN Initiative

- **Date Established:** 2018
- **Mandate:** To work on the issues that will underpin a regional digital economy in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) so that the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution can be fully unlocked and become a force for regional economic inclusion.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Digital Economy
- **Members:** 10 members including the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines, Tokopedia, and the World Economic Forum
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The World Economic Forum
- **Source:** <https://www.weforum.org/projects/digital-asean>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

### 14. Initiative Name: Algorithm Watch

- **Date Established:** 2017

- **Mandate:** To evaluate and shed light on algorithmic decision making processes that have a social relevance, meaning they are used either to predict or prescribe human action or to make decisions automatically.
- **Focus Area:** AI and Policy Making
- **Members:** 9 members including the European AI Fund, Civitates, and the Hans Böckler Stiftung
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://algorithmwatch.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Focuses on academic research
- **Notes:** N/A

15. **Initiative Name:** Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL)

- **Date Established:** 2016
- **Mandate:** To overcome the systemic barriers preventing digital solutions from going to scale. DIAL produces, curates and disseminates evidence-based products packaged with easy-to-understand guidance so that country governments, technology companies, the development community and other implementers can quickly use them to inform ongoing efforts to fund, design and deploy digital services to more people.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Tech Innovation
- **Members:** 4 members including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://digitalimpactalliance.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Housed within the United Nations Foundation

**16. Initiative Name:** CyberSec - European Cybersecurity Forum (CYBERSEC)

- **Date Established:** 2015
- **Mandate:** To deliver a platform for a high-level, multi-stakeholder, cross-sectional and inclusive debate on the most pressing challenges and potential opportunities for the global digital ecosystem, fostering cooperation among like-minded partners across the globe.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity
- **Members:** 21 Members including the CYBERSEC Forum, European Commission, and NATO
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://cybersecforum.eu>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**17. Initiative Name:** Digital Square

- **Date Established:** 2015
- **Mandate:** To strengthen country efforts in developing national digital health infrastructures.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Policy Making
- **Members:** 63 members including UNICEF, Apelon Inc. and Harvard University
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** UNICEF/WHO Digital Health Center of Excellence (DICE), Digital Square, and the newly formed UNICEF/WHO Digital Health Center of Excellence (DICE)
- **Source:** <https://digitalsquare.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The decision-making is unclear – if it is through the Board members or through mechanisms involved.
- **Notes:** N/A



**18. Initiative Name:** Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)

- **Date Established:** 2015
- **Mandate:** To strengthen cyber capacity and expertise globally. The GFCE endeavors to be a pragmatic, action-orientated, and flexible platform for international collaboration, reducing overlap and duplication of efforts in the cyber capacity building ecosystem to ensure an open, free, peaceful and secure digital world.
- **Focus Area:** Capacity Building
- **Members:** 41 members including the Dutch Government and other high-level representatives from business and international organizations
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** 2015 Global Conference on Cyber Space in the Hague
- **Source:** <https://thegfce.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The full list of members is not identified.
- **Notes:** The GFCE is also a platform for high-level discussion, organizing biannual meetings to assess progress and hold policy discussions on ways and means of responding to emerging challenges in the cyber capacity building domain. Multi-stakeholder GFCE events contribute to the development of best practices and therefore have added value for the wider cyber capacity building community globally. The GFCE intends to hold inaugural regional meetings across five continents in 2021, improving the platform's regional coordination and presence.

**19. Initiative Name:** Cyber Policy Institute (CPI)

- **Date Established:** 2014
- **Mandate:** To facilitate cybersecurity dialogue between governments, industry and the civil society. Standing for an inclusive and balanced discourse on international cyber peace and security as well as national development, CPI seeks to contribute to all and any efforts to maintain and design information and communication technologies in a safe, open and transparent manner that for us is a prerequisite of international peace and security, economic prosperity as well as societal and individual empowerment.

- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity, Digital Rights, Internet Security, and Policy Making
- **Members:** 4 members including ICT for Peace Foundation, Government of Estonia, and Tallinn University of Technology
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** UNGGE
- **Source:** <https://cpi.ee/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No private sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

20. **Initiative Name:** NETmundial – Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance

- **Date Established:** 2014
- **Mandate:** To gather international entities of the various stakeholders involved with Internet governance in a meeting to elaborate on the principles of Internet governance and create a proposal for a roadmap for the future development of this ecosystem.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Digital Cooperation
- **Members:** 15 members including 1Net, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the European Commission
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://netmundial.br/>
- **Gaps Identified:** This conference only took place in 2014.
- **Notes:** N/A

21. **Initiative Name:** Open Smart Register Platform

- **Date Established:** 2014
- **Mandate:** To enable data-driven decision making at all levels of the health system.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Inclusion

- **Members:** 36 members including the GAVI, Johnson & Johnson, the World Health Organization
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** THRIVE (Technologies for Health Registers, Information, and Vital Events) Study
- **Source:** <https://smartregister.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

22. **Initiative Name:** African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms (AfDec)

- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To promote human rights standards and principles of openness in Internet policy formulation and implementation on the African continent. The Declaration is intended to elaborate on the principles which are necessary to uphold human and people's rights on the Internet, and to cultivate an Internet environment that can best meet Africa's social and economic development needs and goals.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights and Human Rights
- **Members:** 25 members including the Africa Center for Media Excellence, CIVICUS, and Adamu & Co.
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981), Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press (1991), African Charter on Broadcasting (2001), Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa (2002), African Platform on Access to Information Declaration (2011)
- **Source:** <https://africaninternetrights.org/en>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**23. Initiative Name:** African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG)

- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To develop a pipeline of leading Africans from diverse sectors, backgrounds and ages with the skills to participate in local and international Internet governance structures, and shape the future of the Internet landscape for Africa's development.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Cooperation and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 20 members including the African Union, Facebook, and the Ford Foundation
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://afrisig.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**24. Initiative Name:** Digital Due Process

- **Date Established:** 2013
- **Mandate:** To modernize surveillance laws for the Internet age.
- **Focus Area:** Internet Security and Policy Making
- **Members:** 140 members including the Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Airbnb, and the Internet Association
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://digitaldueprocess.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**25. Initiative Name:** Africa Internet Summit (AIS)

- **Date Established:** 2012

- **Mandate:** To share Information and Communications Technology (ICT) knowledge within the African region by bringing the ICT business and technical community in Africa together under one roof to discuss ICT issues and challenges. AIS is an annual, regional, multi-stakeholder ICT conference. It is the pinnacle educational and business ICT event in Africa where key players in the Internet industry can interact with the global Internet community.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 17 members including ICANN, Internet Society, and AfricaCert
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.internetsummit.africa/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

#### 26. Initiative Name: ATPS

- **Date Established:** 2012
- **Mandate:** To improve the quality of science, technology and innovation systems research and policy making in Africa by strengthening capacity for science and technology knowledge generation, communication and dissemination, use and mastery for sustainable development in Africa.
- **Focus Area:** Tech Innovation and Policy Making
- **Members:** 1500 unspecified members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://atpsnet.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** ATPS has over 1,500 members and 3000 stakeholders in over 51 countries in 5 continents with institutional partnerships worldwide. They implement their programs through members in national chapters established in

30 countries (27 in Africa and 3 Diaspora chapters in Australia, United States of America, and United Kingdom) with its secretariat in Nairobi Kenya

**27. Initiative Name:** Better than Cash Alliance

- **Date Established:** 2012
- **Mandate:** To accelerate the transition from cash to responsible digital payments in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Economy
- **Members:** 80 members including the Bill and Gates Foundation, Chemonics, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** No Objection
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** The Digital Wages Summit convened by the Alliance
- **Source:** <https://www.betterthancash.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** Based in the United Nations

**28. Initiative Name:** Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network (I&JPN)

- **Date Established:** 2012
- **Mandate:** To develop policy standards and operational solutions to pressing legal challenges at the intersection of the global digital economy, human rights and security.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 27 members including the European Commission, ICANN, and Google
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** UN SG High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation Report
- **Source:** <https://www.internetjurisdiction.net/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** The work of the organization has been presented to and recognized by key international processes, including the UN Internet Governance Forum, the

UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, G7, G20 or the Paris Peace Forum, and covered in top media outlets such as The Economist, New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, Politico or Fortune.

**29. Initiative Name:** Fight for the Future

- **Date Established:** 2012
- **Mandate:** To harness the power of the Internet to channel outrage into action, defending our most basic rights in the digital age. We fight to ensure that technology is a force for empowerment, free expression, and liberation rather than tyranny, corruption, and structural inequality.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights
- **Members:** Unclear
- **Geographical Coverage:** Unclear
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.fightforthefuture.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The website does not define much information regarding the initiative's structure.
- **Notes:** N/A

**30. Initiative Name:** Access Now

- **Date Established:** 2009
- **Mandate:** To defend and extend the digital rights of users at risk around the world by providing helplines, policy recommendations, advocacy, grants, rightscon, and legal support.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Rights, Internet Security, and Policy Making
- **Members:** 12 members including the Coalition Against Unlawful Surveillance Exports, Save the Internet – E.U., ShareAction, and Stop Watching Us
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.accessnow.org/about-us/>

- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**31. Initiative Name:** EastWest Institute - Global Cooperation in Cyberspace

- **Date Established:** 2009
- **Mandate:** To reduce conflict, crime and other disruptions in cyberspace and promote stability, innovation and inclusion.
- **Focus Area:** Cybersecurity and Digital Inclusion
- **Members:** 10 members including Microsoft, Huawei Technologies, and the Munich Security Conference
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.eastwest.ngo/pillars/global-cooperation-cyberspace>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**32. Initiative Name:** NetMission.Asia

- **Date Established:** 2009
- **Mandate:** To engage and empower youth on Internet governance discourse with the aim of enhancing youth mobility and creating impact in Asia. NetMission.Asia is an academy that covers a wide range of Internet governance topics that provide youth the basic understanding about the current issues at stake with an emphasis on the multi-stakeholder approach. Upon completion, fellows of the Academy will be awarded an e-certificate and be listed on our website with the class year.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Asia
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Unclear
- **Legacy:** DotAsia Organization and the Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum



- **Source:** <https://netmission.asia/about-us/what-is-netmission-asia/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Regional collaboration rather than membership model, subsidiary of DotAsia Organization
- **Notes:** N/A

**33. Initiative Name:** European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)

- **Date Established:** 2008
- **Mandate:** To foster dialogue and collaboration with the Internet community on public policy for the Internet – culminating in an annual conference that takes place in a different European city every year.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance and Policy Making
- **Members:** 10 members including the European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO), Geneva Internet Platform, and Internet Society (ISOC)
- **Geographical Coverage:** Europe
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
- **Source:** <https://www.eurodig.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No private sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**34. Initiative Name:** Future of Privacy Forum (FPF)

- **Date Established:** 2008
- **Mandate:** To bring together industry, academics, consumer advocates, and other thought leaders to explore the challenges posed by technological innovation and develop privacy protections, ethical norms, and workable business practices. Through research, publications, educational meetings, expert testimony, and other related activities, FPF works with organizations and governments to shape best practices and policies, in the United States and globally.
- **Focus Area:** AI, Data Protection, and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 200 members including Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- **Geographical Coverage:** North America, Europe, and Asia
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear

- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** Comments to United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Special Rapporteur
- **Source:** <https://fpf.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** The mechanism is largely focused on the academia results. No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**35. Initiative Name:** The Global Network Initiative (GNI)

- **Date Established:** 2008
- **Mandate:** To protect and advance freedom of expression and privacy rights in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry by setting a global standard for responsible company decision making and serving as a multi-stakeholder voice in the face of government restrictions and demands.
- **Focus Area:** Internet Security
- **Members:** 72 members including the George Washington Law, Global Forum for Media Development, Google, and Internet Freedom Foundation
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** None
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://globalnetworkinitiative.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**36. Initiative Name:** Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

- **Date Established:** 2006
- **Mandate:** To focus on a host of critical issues at the intersection of technological innovation and public policy—including economic issues related to innovation, productivity, and competitiveness, technology issues in the areas of information technology and data, broadband telecommunications, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, agricultural biotechnology, and clean energy, and overarching policy tools related to public investment, regulation, taxes, and trade.
- **Focus Area:** AI, Digital Access, Digital Governance, and Digital Rights

- **Members:** 50 members including Adobe, Association for American Railroads (AAR), and the Walt Disney Company
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://globalnetworkinitiative.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No government sector members.
- **Notes:** N/A

**37. Initiative Name:** Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

- **Date Established:** 2006
- **Mandate:** To bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet. While there is no negotiated outcome, the IGF informs and inspires those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors.
- **Focus Area:** Capacity Building, Digital Governance, and Policy Making
- **Members:** The UN Secretary-General appoints a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) yearly
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/>
- **Gaps Identified:** No enforceable structure.
- **Notes:** IGF is funded through its own trust fund. The nature of the Trust Fund is such that it is voluntary and multi-donor driven, with varying contributions from Governments and non-governmental organisations from the technical community, the private sector and the civil society. The IGF Trust Fund covers the administrative and operational costs of the IGF Secretariat including personnel, fellowships, and meeting costs (venues, interpretation, logistical costs, etc.), and funds the travel costs of MAG Members from developing countries.

**38. Initiative Name:** The AFRINIC Government Working Group (AfGWG)

- **Date Established:** 2004
- **Mandate:** To strengthen the collaboration between AFRINIC and African governments and regulators to promote sustainable and secure Internet development in Africa. To address collaboratively the general Internet governance challenges faced within the region, particularly those related to Internet number resources.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance
- **Members:** 2,000 members including Africa on Cloud, the African Development Bank - AFDB, and Egypt
- **Geographical Coverage:** Africa
- **Approval Mechanism:** Consensus
- **Accountability:** Aspirational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://afrinic.net/>
- **Gaps Identified:** Largely focused on Internet service resources.
- **Notes:** N/A

**39. Initiative Name:** ICT4Peace

- **Date Established:** 2003
- **Mandate:** To save lives and protect human dignity through Information and Communication Technology. Since 2003 ICT4Peace explores and champions the use of ICTs and new media for peaceful purposes, including for peacebuilding, crisis management and humanitarian operations. Since 2007 ICT4Peace promotes cybersecurity and a peaceful cyberspace through inter alia international negotiations with governments, international organisations, companies and non-state actors.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Governance, Digital Rights, Human Rights, and Policy Making
- **Members:** 50 members including the African Union, the Cairo Regional Center for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA), and Google
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory

- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://ict4peace.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**40. Initiative Name:** Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

- **Date Established:** 1998
- **Mandate:** To keep the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. Through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it has an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.
- **Focus Area:** Digital Cooperation and Tech Innovation
- **Members:** No members
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Majority
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.icann.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** ICANN follows a multi-stakeholder model in which individuals, non-commercial stakeholder groups, industry, and governments play important roles in its community-based, consensus-driven, policy-making approach.

**41. Initiative Name:** World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

- **Date Established:** 1994
- **Mandate:** To develop Web standards and lead the Web to its full potential.
- **Focus Area:** Data Protection, Digital Access, and Internet Security
- **Members:** 462 members including Amazon, Benetech, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and the Center for Democracy and Technology
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Unclear
- **Accountability:** Operational
- **Legacy:** N/A

- **Source:** <https://www.w3.org/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** N/A

**42. Initiative Name:** Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization

- **Date Established:** 1967
- **Mandate:** To enable regulatory environments in key areas such as licensing, spectrum management, quality of service and over-the-top operators, promote affordable universal and high-quality broadband connectivity via enabling policies and regulatory measures that facilitate the rapid rollout of broadband infrastructure, promote a culture of cybersecurity and effective cyber governance through the establishment of cybersecurity frameworks, standards and guidelines, promote the development and use of ICT applications for socio-economic development e.g. e-governance, e-health, e-education and e-agriculture, among others, and ensure effective coordination of Commonwealth countries at international ICT conferences and meetings.
- **Focus Area:** Policy Making and Digital Governance
- **Members:** 60 members including the Digital Bridge Institute, Facebook. And the United Kingdom
- **Geographical Coverage:** Global
- **Approval Mechanism:** Signatory
- **Accountability:** Enforceable
- **Legacy:** N/A
- **Source:** <https://www.cto.int/>
- **Gaps Identified:** N/A
- **Notes:** It is a treaty.

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