UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

OSPO++

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United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology

OSPOs for Good 2024 Conference

Open Source Networks as Enablers of Global Digital Cooperation

July 9 & 10, 2024 – UN Headquarters, New York City, New York

Concept Note

In his Policy Brief "A Global Digital Compact — an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All," and his "Roadmap for Digital Cooperation," the UN Secretary-General recognizes the key role of Open Source solutions for the SDGs. Owing to its ability to overcome collective action related frictions and serving as a platform for governments, the United Nations is uniquely positioned to foster the better use of Open Source through governments.

Open source serves as a powerful equalizer in the global landscape, ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits of innovation, regardless of economic status. This inclusivity not only reduces costs but also fosters local innovation and skill development, enabling countries at all levels of development to build tailored solutions to meet their specific needs.

To facilitate the global adoption of Open Source solutions, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology co-organized the one-day conference 'Open Source Programme Offices (OSPOs) for Good 2023: Building & Designing Cooperative Digital Infrastructure', as well as an associated conference report. The *second edition* of the OSPOs for Good action symposium is set to be a multi-day conference held on 9th and 10th July 2024, with a richer global presence of diverse open source thinkers, with bigger ambitions and strides for championing OSPOs as a global network for good.

By building on the success of last year's event, the goal of the 2024 conference is to be 'bigger and better' in every way. This action symposium aims to serve as a high-level coming out party for open source in the UN system, delivering high-level thematic tracks that address key areas of open source policy, as well as highlighting emerging examples of 'open source for good' from across the globe. It will prominently highlight the theme of 'open source networks as enablers of global cooperation'.

Through thematic tracks organized around keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive sessions – as well as breakout tracks on Day 2 featuring talks, workshops, and networking

sessions – the conference will promote the concept of embracing open source technology, particularly Digital Public Goods, to achieve the SDGs. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about how open source is being used by governments to advance the public good, as well as learn more about how national-level policymaking is being influenced by current events and global discourse. These outputs will feed into a high-level conference report.

Objective of the Event

While the 2024 conference will of course focus on the role of Open Source Programme Offices (OSPOs) like last year's event, this conference will expand the scope to focus on how the conversation around OSPOs are enabling new forms of global cooperation around open source for good in countries. In particular, the objectives will be to:

1. **Highlight** the role of OSPOs in connecting and enabling the innovation ecosystem for open source in UN Member States, looking at key policy topics (e.g., AI policy, digital government, innovation, etc)where open source is influencing cooperation between national, subnational, and global open source ecosystems.
2. **Demonstrate** how global cooperation around policymaking and innovation through open source networks can enable countries to deliver on the promise of open source for good, as well highlight concrete examples of where change is already happening.
3. **Capture** insights around key themes in global policymaking and cooperation around open source and how they are driving a conversation about achieving the SDGs and delivering positive outcomes for society (to be captured in a conference report).

Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda features five (5) thematic tracks – including keynotes, high-level panels, and interactive discussions – as well as three (3) spotlight panels, breakout devrooms, plenaries, informational sessions, and networking opportunities, covering various topics related to open source networks as enablers for global digital cooperation.

Day 1 Events	
08:00-09:00	*Registration & Welcome*
09:00-09:30	Opening Plenary: Embracing Open Source Technology to Achieve the SDGs
09:30-11:00	**Thematic Track #1: AI and Open Source**
11:00-11:30	*Coffee Break*

11:30-12:30	**Spotlight Panel: Open Source in the Global South**
12:30-13:30	*Lunch Break*
13:30-15:00	**Thematic Track #2: Open Source at the UN**
15:00-15:30	Presentation: Reboot the Earth
15:30-16:00	*Coffee Break*
16:00-17:30	**Thematic Track #3: Open Source and Governments**
17:30 onwards	Free Time / Networking and Social Event (Day 1)
Day 2 Events	
08:00-09:00	*Registration & Welcome*
09:00-10:30	**Thematic Track #4: Open Source at Work in the World**
10:30-11:00	*Coffee Break*
11:00-12:00	**Devrooms: Open Source at Work in the World**
12:00-13:00	*Lunch Break*
13:00-14:00	**Spotlight Panel: Youth and Open Source**
14:00-15:30	**Thematic Track #5: Open Source Networked Cities**
15:30-16:00	*Coffee Break*
16:00-17:00	**Spotlight Panel: Open Source and Civil Society**
17:00-17:30	**Closing Plenary – The Next Decade: Envisioning the Future of Open Source**
17:30 onwards	Free Time / Networking and Social Event (Day 2)