

Beijing Declaration on Global Governance in the Digital Economy Ecosystem, 2023

We, academics, practitioners, and other professionals, have gathered in Beijing, in-person and online, to discuss the future of Governance in the Global Digital Economy on 7th of July 2023.

We emphasize, the ever-increasing rate of human dependence on the digital economy; We highlight its numerous overreaching adverse and disruptive impacts in the fundamental areas of cybersecurity, privacy, security, trust, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, virtual reality, metaverse, cryptocurrency, blockchain, and data management and governance.

Consequently, we point attention to the overwhelming amount of legal and regulatory challenges necessary for the safety and protection of people, resources, assets and finances, around the world, as we observe governments and international organisations struggle to adapt with their sustaining mitigation efforts, despite recent ongoing global efforts.

We acknowledge that the digital economy is all encompassing and converging towards becoming the single most important and critical factor for global economic development and human welfare, in the 21st Century, and beyond.

We realize that to attain and sustain a healthy level of human welfare across the world, an inclusive, fair, and equitable worldwide participation is essential to shape an adequate healthy global digital economy ecosystem, which can be achieved via novel global governance mechanisms, and honest human-centric international cooperation.

In response, we make the following unified statements (associated with the Global Governance Goals, GGG), for all decision-makers to consider:

1. *We call on* all governments to establish an independent Global Leadership joint mechanism, GL20, to deal with the Global Digital Economy governance challenges.

GGG 1: Conducive domestic growth, global digital harmonization, and reinforcement of diverse cultural characteristics.

2. *We urge all* governments to significantly ramp up their digital economy initiatives and innovate to strengthen their multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral tools.

GGG 2: Engage and invest in global trade forums to eliminate barriers and facilitate digital trade and e-commerce, focusing on common interests, and shared values.

3. *We recommend* that governments coordinate and disseminate data, information, knowledge, and guidance materials targeting different stakeholders in both private and public sectors, and in relation to global policies for emerging technologies and digital innovations.

GGG 3: Mitigate and manage risks of associated global disruptions, enhance trust, and improve safety, security, and privacy protection.

4. *We recommend* that governments develop and adopt strategies and policies to encourage, support, and empower Micro-Small-Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), since they play a central role in the global digital transformation while they maintain, conserve, and sustain national identities.

GGG 4: Provide digital skills programs to cultural and community artisans to digitalize their trade so that country or culture-specific goods can be marketed internationally.

5. *We stress* the importance of international solidarity for bridging the digital gap and achieving common prosperity in view of the existing digital global fragmentation and inequity. Social innovation in this arena must be encouraged and must take place.

GGG 5: Provide aid, funds, and international technical assistance.

Considering the above, *we implore* all states to make every possible effort and endeavour to wisely manage disputes and strive to resolve them amicably through adequate tools such as UNCITRAL, ICDPASO. Only in doing so will the digital economy serve human wellbeing.