

Digital Public Goods Charter

The way technologies are designed, developed, and governed matters. And while digitalization has the potential to advance a safer and more equitable world, increased digitalization – especially at the most [foundational layers of digital public infrastructure](#) (DPI) – brings with it the risk of exacerbating inequalities while reducing trust, access, and control.

[Digital public goods](#) (DPGs) offer an approach to unlocking the potential of digital transformation while protecting against many of the risks inherent to technologies. DPGs utilize open-source technologies to create and open opportunities for countries to meaningfully harness technological advances to support their populations and overcome challenges. But, national governments, civil society, UN agencies, and public and private institutions must prioritize and support these solutions in order to enable countries to build safe, trusted, and inclusive digital public infrastructure at scale, improving outcomes for people everywhere.

That's why we need a charter for digital public goods.

The DPG Charter (the Digital Public Goods Charter) represents a commitment to advancing the use of digital public goods which can enable countries to build safe, trusted, and inclusive digital public infrastructure at scale. When done well, digitalization is proving to underpin and enable solutions that address urgent global challenges such as hunger, pandemics, and climate change. The DPG Charter is an opportunity for the public and private sectors, including the United Nations, to work on this together.

DPG Charter Process

Throughout 2022, the DPG Charter process will use a combination of consultations, signatures, and pledges to achieve this vision.



Consultation. A consultative process will seek input from a geographically diverse set of stakeholders through outreach and events to develop the DPG Charter language.



Signatures. Stakeholders will be invited to sign the DPG Charter, indicating alignment with the shared vision and articulating the need for digital public goods.



Pledges. Those signing up to the DPG Charter will also be invited to provide pledges outlining concrete actions they will take in support of advancing this joint vision based on how they can best contribute. Pledges will operationalize the DPG Charter and must be relevant to the DPG Charter vision, future-focused, and measurable.

Signatures and pledges will be solicited from the following stakeholder types: governments; private sector companies; philanthropic foundations; UN, development banks and other multilateral institutions; non-governmental organizations, academia, media and other civil society organizations. This process will contribute to growing global discussions, including the UN Global Compact, around the digital future that we want.

The DPG Charter will begin accepting signatures and pledges beginning on June 1, 2022, and a method for expressing interest in the process will open in April, 2022.



The Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) and the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) are co-leading the DPG Charter process alongside a broad set of stakeholders including: United States Agency for International Development (USAID); German Development cooperation, represented by BMZ - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit; The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO); the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad); the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the Rockefeller Foundation; and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).