



TASK FORCE - 2 —————

**OUR COMMON DIGITAL
FUTURE**

**AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE
AND INCLUSIVE DIGITAL
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

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WORKSTREAMS

- AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
- DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
- INTEROPERABILITY OF DIGITAL SERVICES AND STANDARD SETTING
- DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, SKILLS, AND JOBS

ABOUT THE TASKFORCE ---

This Task Force will discuss how the G20 countries can incubate a framework for a global digital commons. It will ideate how technology can be made affordable and accessible, and work towards an interoperable system for payments, lending, and entrepreneurship. It will also look at ways that Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How can DPI be made inclusive, trustworthy, and serve the global good? The Task Force will consider the importance of open-source and open APIs for accountable and equitable digital evolution across various, rapidly digitalising sectors. It will discuss how to ensure that supply chains supporting global digital commons are uninterrupted, resilient, and decentralised; and how to promote inclusive entrepreneurship, jobs, and livelihoods in the digital domain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ---

This Task Force Statement collates the primary ideas and recommendations of the Task Force members, shared over the course of the year through meetings, convenings, and working groups. The Task Force comprises 21 members from 21 institutions.



PREAMBLE



This Task Force has undertaken the responsibility of deliberating on how the G20 countries can collaboratively incubate a governance framework that promotes financial inclusion, digital skilling and entrepreneurship, and responsible technologies for social good, and ensures that the benefits of digital technologies are accessible to all, particularly through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DPI is an emerging concept and is considered to be a powerful and practical approach for enabling an open, competitive, fair, and equitable digital society. The G20 nations can take the lead in recognising the application areas for DPI, its contextual nature, and principles for its governance.

The Task Force has deliberated on these issues from interdisciplinary and multistakeholder perspectives to provide a comprehensive overview and emphasises that the design, development, and deployment of digital innovations will be a priority for all the G20 countries. By prioritising these areas, it is possible to collectively harness the transformative power of digital technologies to achieve the SDGs and build a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Affordable and Accessible Digital Public Infrastructure

1. DPI ecosystems could be developed using public-private partnership (PPP) models which are innovation-friendly, scalable, open-access, and extend the benefits of shared infrastructure built on such DPIs to all interested players.
2. DPI involves techno-legal¹ approaches and data-protection principles in a technology stack. Governing structures for digital innovation must be agile, responsive to the needs of the ecosystem, account for a broad range of

¹ Techno-legal regulation is actionised when public technology and public policy act in concert to deliver effective regulation of technologies. Its foundation is based in strong, principle-based laws, and compliance with the regulation is ensured through protocol-based technology guardrails. This ensures that compliance happens in real-time, irregularities are not rectified post facto, and regulatory measures are proactively developed and adjusted to align with the advancements in technology, rather than constantly trying to catch up or react to them.

stakeholders, and not be controlled by a single entity, and should further involve an effective congruence between public policy and public technology.

3. Research must be promoted in areas like key design principles for digital innovations, governance and regulation of key digital ecosystems, and the social and economic impact of digital services, among others, for which new research centres and projects, including at existing facilities like universities and think tanks, need to be set up.
4. DPI innovation should be accompanied by privacy-by-design, harm-minimisation controls, data protection laws, interoperable protocols, and technical standards. Governance of DPIs should include considerations around checks and balances, prioritise the rights of all human beings, and account for their safety and security.
5. Digital innovation approaches instituted by the G20 should encourage competition, prevent monopolies, and not place undue barriers to entry for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Digital Financial Inclusion and Social Protection

1. The G20 countries must leverage DPI to rapidly advance financial inclusion and productivity gains through a well-designed digital financial ecosystem in a bid to achieve the three-fold objective of access, usage, and quality of financial services for individuals and micro, small and medium-sized businesses, particularly the vulnerable and underserved.
2. Sustainable financing and funding models for DPIs that are guided by the principles of public interest and do not involve any lock-ins should be explored, evolved, and expanded.

3. In the design, development, and application of digital innovations, the G20 must provide particular attention and requisite support to vulnerable and marginalised populations to avoid widening the digital divides stemming from gender, language and ethnicity, education levels, and disability, among other variables.

Interoperability of Digital Services and Standard Setting

1. The G20 countries should institute frameworks to ensure the interoperability of digital services based on publicly developed open standards from a 'rule of law' point of view. Publicly owned and regulated technology frameworks and open Application Programming Interface (APIs) which are accessible to entrepreneurs and problem-solvers should be prioritised in an organised manner.
2. Effective governance of DPI should involve multistakeholder governance processes, possibly consisting of independent DPI steward institutions that can help ensure that DPI can adapt and evolve over time to meet the changing needs of the ecosystem.

Digital Entrepreneurship, Skills, and Jobs

1. Policy frameworks for DPI should provide for the design and implementation of mechanisms for sensitising and educating people on the benefits and responsible uses of DPI.
2. Every effort must be made to align the curricula of academic and training institutions more closely with evolving industry needs. Targeted programmes to skill, upskill, and reskill people should accordingly be put in place.

3. Pursuant to the broad goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, digital transformation and entrepreneurship should reduce the energy intensity of the development of technologies and their associated ecosystems.

Conclusion

DPIs offer a way for the G20 countries to develop governance frameworks that promote the use of technologies for public interest, including for financial inclusion and digital literacy and skills development. This Task Force outlines the following key recommendations:

1. Governing structures for digital innovation should be agile, responsive, and accountable to a broad range of stakeholders through a techno-legal approach.
2. Interoperability of digital systems and services is essential.
3. DPI innovation should respect individual rights (data protection and privacy) and adopt appropriate checks and balances to protect safety and security.
4. DPIs should seek to reduce the energy intensity of their technologies and associated ecosystems.
5. DPIs should be inclusive to avoid exacerbating digital divides that work against the interest and welfare of vulnerable and marginalised populations.



ACTION POINTS



1. DPI is a key to building open, competitive, fair, and equitable digital societies. This Task Force recommends the creation of a G20 Working Group on Digital Public Infrastructure in the Sherpa Track to work together on developing and sharing models for sustainable, inclusive, interoperable, and agile DPI. This group would broadly work on the following issues:
 - a. Formulating a comprehensive plan for the governance of DPI (including concrete tasks such as developing common minimum principles, infrastructure prioritisation, investment promotion, market regulation, and privacy guidelines).
 - b. Coordinating the development of international standards, regulations, principles, and policies across hard and soft technology and infrastructure development.
 - c. Monitoring the implementation of principles of equity and sustainability and harmonised standards, and policy integration across the domains of technology, innovation, commerce, trade, and finance.
 - d. Assessing vulnerabilities and risks arising during the accelerated implementation of DPI as suited to national development requirements, and enhancing bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation as and when required.
 - e. Disseminating best practices that could be implemented at the sectoral, national, and sub-regional levels, and ensuring that relevant G20 bodies such as Business20, Science20, and Civil Society20, among others, are part of DPI discussions.
 - f. Proposing action plans on digital skilling, especially including vulnerable and excluded population groups.
2. The G20 should mandate further work on artificial intelligence in the coming year and should include consideration of the critical role of digital public infrastructure in making the diffusion of new AI applications more inclusive globally.



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