

IGF 2023 Open Forum Proposal

1. Title:

Enhancing inclusive, secure, resilient, and green digital infrastructure: what is the role of Governments and public sectors for its deployment?

2. Abstract:

Digital technologies are essential for economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, and access to services, and digital connectivity is a foundation for digital economy.

Regardless of many efforts of many governments, World Bank and other entities on enhancing digital connectivity, there are still 2.7 billion people who have no access to the Internet. This is partly because current digital infrastructure does not cover the areas, such as rural or sparsely populated areas, where the services are unprofitable.

The development of digital technologies brings new possibilities of improving connectivity, and the new/emerging technology provides and complement existing digital infrastructure, with desirable speed, coherent and efficient services. We recognize the importance of initiatives to use data and technology to promote digital inclusion and address challenges in urban development, and with this regard, inclusive connectivity is indispensable for bringing new initiatives.

Furthermore, based on the digital infrastructure as an inclusive connectivity, it should be secure and resilient. Many incidents, including cyberattack and natural disasters, would suspend the connectivity, which greatly affects our society, and the digital infrastructure should be ready for these impacts.

Finally, the broader expands global connectivity, the deeper consideration is needed on its effect of energy usage. The expanding deployment of digital infrastructure is leading to the huge use of energy/electricity, which would impact the energy balance and the climate change. For keeping the digital infrastructure sustainable, eco-friendly and coexistent with other industries, it is significant that the digitalization encourages the society to be green, through using ecological digital devices (green digital) and optimizing business process in a sustainable way (greening by digital).

The Internet is the foundational infrastructure for all individual citizens for their social and economic lives, and the Internet access is a part of basic human rights that need to be guaranteed inclusively for everyone.

In order to promote inclusivity of the Internet, it's now the time to consider with all stakeholders how to take actions to realize the inclusive, secure, resilient, and green digital infrastructure. What role will the governments be expected to play? What would the implication of enhancing the digital infrastructure? What is the impact of the inclusiveness of digital infrastructure in the global society? How could we incentivize investment in digital infrastructure? How should Multilateral Development Banks contribute to achieving inclusive, secure, resilient, and green digital infrastructure through multi-stakeholders' initiatives?

The session will discuss how multi-stakeholders' initiatives could lead efforts for promoting inclusive Global Cooperation including developing countries, and how the governments can contribute to such initiatives.

3. Possible Agenda Items:

- Impacts of digitalization and the role on inclusive digital infrastructure
- Ongoing efforts and initiatives to enhance digital infrastructure, with security, resiliency and greening
- Promotion of secure, resilient, and green digital infrastructure

4. Potential panelists

- Government official from developed country
- Government official from developing country (Asia Pacific or Africa)
- Tech representative from ICANN/ISOC etc.
- Civil society member or representative from underrepresented group (youth/women etc.)
- Global platformer or business community