

## Digital Cooperation: Action Today for Future Generations

- Date: Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Time: 10:00am-2:00pm EST
- Virtual Platform/Publicly broadcasted

### Overview

In June 2020, the United Nations Secretary-General launched his landmark *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*. In it he makes clear that managing rapid technological change is a defining challenge of our generation, *especially towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. Today we find ourselves at an inflection point: we cannot reap the full benefits of the digital age without mobilizing the global cooperation needed to mitigate its potential harms.

We must thus ask how we can collectively steer the path forward in this unprecedented digital age. Given current challenges like COVID19, how will we maintain the global development agenda, including by ensuring that all are connected to digital technologies? How will we safeguard human wellbeing? How will we make sure that children are better educated and protected by digital means? How will digital technologies shape the future of our planet? These questions of the 21st century will require common understanding, a shared vision of the future, and most importantly, joint action. The voices of those most profoundly impacted by the actions of the present – the youth – are particularly important.

***“Future generations will judge whether the present generation seized the opportunities presented by the age of digital interdependence. The time to act is now.” -Antonio Guterres***

### Programme

In conjunction with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations, UNICEF and Generation Unlimited, the International Telecommunication Union, UNDP, and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, on Digital Cooperation, working together with other UN partners will convene a High-Level Digital Cooperation event, focused on concrete actions to safeguard the technological era for future generations. It is our global shared responsibility to find a path forward and to build back better digitally.

The event will feature three multistakeholder dialogues focused thematically on the need to connect, respect, and protect all people in the digital age. To ensure impactful and engaging discussions, these dialogues will not be presentations of prepared statements, but rather a dynamic conversation between the high-level speakers, facilitated actively by a moderator, interspersed with inspiring visual real-life stories.

The Summit will have a special focus on youth voices by profiling youth speakers that will deliver a short “scene setter” video interventions to open each session, thus framing the issue and theme for discussion. Moderators and panelists will also be asked to consider the youth aspect of digital cooperation challenges and opportunities, including aspects such as ensuring affordability of digital literacy, connectivity for schools, digital solutions for education, digital opportunities and employment for youth.

## Programme

### Opening Segment

- United Nations Secretary-General
- Executive Director of UNICEF
- Guest Speaker (Artist/Poet/Writer)

### Connect — Achieving Universal Connectivity for the world by 2030

Youth Scene Setter Video: A youth speaker to detail connectivity challenges for vulnerable communities/developing countries.

#### High-level Multistakeholder Dialogue

- Heads of State/Government
- CEOs of Technology Company
- Leaders of Civil Society
- International Organization(s)

**Statements of Commitments to Connect** (2 min statements by HOS/HOG, CEOs) – 6-8min

### Respect — Realizing human rights and empowerment in the digital age

Youth Scene Setter Video: A youth speaker will convey the human rights challenges in the technological era (e.g. privacy, freedom of expression, online harassment, hate speech, countering extremist narratives) and the potential of digital solutions to empower youth.

#### High-level Multistakeholder Dialogue

- Heads of State/Government
- CEOs of Technology Company
- Leaders of Civil Society
- International Organization(s)

**Statements of Commitments to Respect** (2 min statements by HOS/HOG, CEOs) – 6-8min

### Protect—Combatting cyber threats and harms for the most vulnerable, including for children

Youth Scene Setter Video: A youth speaker will discuss the growing threats to the digital environment and their impact on key societal functions and sustainable development for future generations; and the serious danger posed by online harms, such as child online protection risks.

#### High-level Multistakeholder Dialogue

- Heads of State/Government
- CEOs of Technology Company
- Leaders of Civil Society
- International Organization(s)

**Statements of Commitments to Protect** (2 min statements by HOS/HOG, CEOs) – 6-8min

### Concluding Segment

- Fabrizio Hochschild, Under-Secretary-General & Special Advisor
- Other speaker (tbd)

### Ending Video