

Position Paper

Committee: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Country: Arab Republic of Egypt

Delegate: Ashmita Pal

Development as State Capacity

The Arab Republic of Egypt believes that digital development is no longer a purely technological issue. In the modern world, communications infrastructure shapes economic opportunity, administrative capacity, and national resilience. States that possess robust digital systems are better able to provide services, attract investment, and participate effectively in international affairs. Egypt therefore approaches questions of telecommunications, cybersecurity, and digital governance through the interconnected principles of development, security, and sovereignty.

Egypt views digital transformation as a strategic component of national development. Historically, advances in communication technologies have altered the distribution of economic and political influence. Countries that successfully integrated new technologies strengthened their ability to coordinate economic activity, expand public services, and improve governance. For this reason, Egypt has invested in digital transformation initiatives aimed at modernizing public administration, expanding e-government services, and developing a digitally skilled workforce. These efforts are intended not only to improve efficiency but also to strengthen state capacity and promote inclusive development.

Telecommunications and the Distribution of Opportunity

The delegation of Egypt further emphasizes that telecommunications infrastructure constitutes the foundation of any digital society. Access to communications networks increasingly determines access to education, employment, financial services, and public institutions. Consequently, unequal connectivity risks reproducing existing developmental disparities. Egypt therefore supports international efforts to expand affordable and reliable telecommunications infrastructure, particularly in developing countries where infrastructure gaps continue to constrain economic growth and social mobility.

At the same time, Egypt maintains that digital inclusion must extend beyond

physical connectivity. The benefits of technological progress cannot be fully realized if populations lack the skills and resources necessary to participate in the digital economy. Egypt therefore advocates policies that combine infrastructure expansion with digital literacy, technical education, and capacity-building initiatives. Such measures ensure that technological advancement broadens opportunity rather than concentrating its benefits among already advantaged groups.

The delegation of Egypt strongly supports the role of the International Telecommunication Union as a platform for technical cooperation and equitable digital development. Egypt believes that international institutions can play an important role in facilitating standards, encouraging capacity-building, and promoting cooperation among member states. Nevertheless, such cooperation should empower states rather than create new forms of dependency. Developing countries must be equipped with the expertise, infrastructure, and resources necessary to pursue their own digital development strategies.

Cybersecurity and National Resilience

Cybersecurity remains another priority for the Arab Republic of Egypt. In an interconnected world, vulnerabilities in digital systems can undermine economic stability, public confidence, and national security. Egypt supports international cooperation against cybercrime and other transnational digital threats. However, Egypt also maintains that cybersecurity strategies must respect the sovereign authority of states to protect their own infrastructure and formulate policies appropriate to their national circumstances. Effective cooperation should strengthen domestic resilience, facilitate technical assistance, and encourage knowledge-sharing while preserving national decision-making authority.

Sovereignty in Digital Governance

Egypt's position ultimately rests upon the principle that technological development and sovereignty are complementary rather than contradictory objectives. Digital openness, innovation, and international cooperation are essential for progress, but they must be balanced with national security, regulatory autonomy, and the sovereign equality of states. Egypt therefore supports a model of digital governance that promotes connectivity, strengthens cybersecurity, expands opportunity, and respects the right of all nations to determine their own digital futures.

The Arab Republic of Egypt looks forward to working constructively with fellow member states to advance secure, inclusive, and sustainable digital development through the framework of the International Telecommunication Union.

