

# Position Paper

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**Committee:** International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Agenda:** Strengthening Global Standards for Secure Digital Infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence Governance, and Universal Connectivity in Emerging Economies

## Introduction

The rapid expansion of digital technologies has transformed economies, societies, and governance systems worldwide. However, this growth has also increased vulnerabilities related to cybersecurity, unequal access to digital infrastructure, and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Addressing these challenges requires coordinated international action and the development of robust global standards. The delegation of India recognizes that secure digital infrastructure is fundamental to sustainable economic growth and national security.

## Background

Cyber threats continue to evolve in complexity, making international cooperation and information-sharing essential. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) plays a critical role in developing global standards for digital technologies. Millions of people, especially in emerging economies, continue to lack reliable internet access, limiting educational, economic, and social opportunities. India, as a rapidly digitizing nation, has firsthand experience with both the opportunities and challenges of digital transformation.

## India's Position

India strongly supports the development of transparent, accountable, and human-centric governance mechanisms for digital technologies. Our country has made significant progress through initiatives such as **Digital India**, **BharatNet**, **UPI**, and **Aadhaar**. India has also been actively contributing to ITU forums and advocates for inclusive digital growth that bridges the digital divide.

India emphasizes the importance of: - Protecting national sovereignty while promoting global cooperation - Ensuring data privacy and security (as seen in the Digital Personal Data Protection Act) - Promoting ethical AI development that respects human rights and prevents misuse

## Proposed Solutions

The delegation of India proposes the following measures under the ITU framework:

1. **Establishment of Global Cybersecurity Standards:** Develop internationally agreed protocols for sharing threat intelligence while respecting national data sovereignty.
2. **Increased Investment in Digital Infrastructure:** Encourage public-private partnerships and provide technical assistance to emerging economies for building secure and affordable digital networks.
3. **Ethical AI Governance Principles:** Create globally accepted guidelines for responsible AI development, including transparency, accountability, and bias mitigation.
4. **Universal Connectivity Programs:** Launch targeted initiatives to expand broadband access in underserved areas, with a focus on digital literacy and skill development.
5. **Capacity Building:** Organize training programs and knowledge-sharing platforms for developing nations to strengthen their digital capabilities.

## Conclusion

India believes that through collaborative efforts under the ITU, we can build a more inclusive, secure, and resilient digital future. We look forward to working with other member states to strengthen global standards that promote innovation while protecting the interests of all nations, particularly emerging economies.

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