

Committee: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Country: United States of America

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

The United States recognizes that the security of global digital infrastructure is fundamental to economic growth, national security, and international cooperation. The rapid expansion of digital technologies has increased dependence on critical digital infrastructure, including government networks, healthcare systems, financial services, and communication infrastructure. However, this increased connectivity has also created new cybersecurity risks, including cybercrime, data breaches, and attacks on essential systems.

The United Nations Cybercrime Convention highlights the importance of protecting ICT systems and electronic data by strengthening national laws and international cooperation. The United States recognizes that cybersecurity is essential for maintaining trust in the digital world and supports global cooperation, secure digital infrastructure standards, and capacity-building programs to help nations protect their critical systems.

The United States has established a National Cyber Strategy focused on protecting critical infrastructure and promoting responsible behavior in cyberspace. Through CISA's Cybersecurity Strategic Plan, the USA emphasizes addressing immediate cyber threats, strengthening resilience, and building security into digital systems. Additionally, the National Strategy to Secure 5G highlights the importance of developing secure and reliable communication networks through global cybersecurity standards

.

To strengthen trust in global telecommunications infrastructure, the United States proposes the following measure: Partnership for Global Inclusivity on AI (PGIAI). This initiative brings together the Department of State, Amazon, Anthropic, Google, IBM, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and OpenAI. Together, they commit more than \$100 million, leveraging their combined expertise, resources, and networks to unlock AI's potential as a powerful tool for sustainable development and improved quality of life in developing countries, while maintaining an unwavering commitment to safety, security, and trustworthiness in AI systems. This effort recognizes that effective and equitable AI solutions must be rooted in an understanding and respect for the diverse cultures, languages, and traditions of the communities they serve.

To this end, the PGIAI will focus on three areas:

Compute: Increasing access to AI models, compute credits, and other AI tools.

Capacity: Building human technical capacity.

Context: Expanding local datasets.

The Department of State intends to provide \$10 million in foreign assistance, subject to the availability of funds, to close the AI access gap and promote the objectives of the Partnership, including access to compute credits.

The Department of State plans to provide an additional \$23 million in funding, working with Congress, to promote the responsible use and governance of AI globally. Among other objectives, this includes programs that leverage AI tools to help countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Examples include:

Over \$12 million for programs using AI as a tool to advance democracy, promote human and labor rights, and foster justice and accountability.

Approximately \$5 million in Education and Cultural Exchanges funding for programs that contribute to AI capacity building. These include academic programs, professional and cultural exchanges, private-sector exchanges, as well as policy, monitoring, evaluation, learning, and innovation activities.

Over \$3 million for programs that employ AI to identify misinformation and disinformation and prevent online hate from spreading to offline violence against members of religious minority communities.

A \$1.2 million project to develop a Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI Policy Framework and Ecosystem in member states of the Organization of American States.

\$1.3 million to launch USAID's Responsible AI funding to conduct AI-related programs through the Digital Forward mechanism.

The United States is therefore ready to work with other member states, private-sector innovators, and civil society. Together, we can expand and strengthen our multistakeholder model, collaborating with international organizations to build a more secure and inclusive digital future.