

POSITION PAPER

Committee: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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

Country: Japan

Delegate: Archit Joshi

Introduction

Japan recognizes that secure digital infrastructure, responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI), and universal connectivity are fundamental to achieving sustainable development and global prosperity.

As highlighted by the Executive Board's Background Guide, while nearly **6 billion people** are connected to the internet, **2.2 billion people remain offline**, with the majority residing in developing countries. This digital divide, along with rising cyber threats and the fast-paced development of AI, underscores the urgent necessity for concerted international efforts. Japan believes innovation must be paired with security, transparency and inclusive governance.

Japan's Position

As one of the world's leading technological nations, Japan has consistently promoted **human-centered AI**, emphasizing that technological advancement should always benefit society while respecting human rights, privacy, and accountability.

Through its **Society 5.0** initiative, Japan integrates AI, robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), and big data to improve healthcare, disaster management, transportation, education, public services, etc.

Recent developments illustrate why stronger international standards are necessary. In **2023**, a ransomware attack disrupted operations at the **Port of Nagoya**, one of Japan's busiest commercial ports, exposing how cyberattacks on critical digital infrastructure can affect national economies and global supply chains.

Likewise, the rapid rise of generative AI has brought about unprecedented opportunities but also raised concerns about misinformation, deepfakes, algorithmic bias and data privacy. Japan believes that these challenges cannot be tackled by individual countries alone, and need to be addressed through coordinated international governance under institutions such as the ITU.

Proposed Solutions

Japan proposes a cooperative and forward-looking framework based on four key priorities:

- Develop globally accepted principles for AI governance that prioritize transparency, accountability, fairness, human oversight and ethical innovation, while supporting responsible technological development
- Strengthen international cybersecurity cooperation by developing common technical standards, enhancing information-sharing mechanisms, and supporting cyber capacity-building for developing countries.
- Expand investments in resilient digital infrastructure (broadband networks, secure data centers, submarine cables, satellite connectivity, etc.), using public-private partnerships and global finance.
- Promote universal connectivity by supporting affordable internet access, digital literacy, and technical assistance for emerging economies, ensuring that no nation is excluded from the benefits of the digital revolution.

Conclusion

Japan firmly believes that secure digital infrastructure, trustworthy AI, and universal connectivity are mutually reinforcing pillars of a brighter digital future. Japan calls on all Members to work towards stronger multilateral cooperation, harmonised global standards, and bridging the digital divide through inclusive innovation and shared responsibility. By working together, the international community can ensure that technological progress advances peace, prosperity, and sustainable development for all.