

**SENT ON AUGUST 1, 2022. 12:30 UTC**

His Excellency, Amandeep Singh Gill  
Under Secretary-General  
United Nations Technology Envoy  
The United Nations

August 1st, 2022

Your Excellency,

Congratulations on your appointment as the United Nations Technology Envoy (U.N. Tech Envoy). We welcome the value your high-level role as U.N. Tech Envoy brings to the broader U.N. system as “an advocate and focal point for digital cooperation” worldwide.

Civil society organizations and many other non-state actors have actively engaged in the U.N.’s efforts to promote Digital Cooperation from the establishment of the High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation in 2018 and we cannot underestimate how the experience and expertise of these extended groups of stakeholders remain essential in bringing more diverse voices and perspectives to such discussions. As part of this continued engagement, the undersigned organizations therefore express our formal commitment to working with you and your office to advance human rights-based digital cooperation worldwide.

In your previous roles as the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR), and Executive Director and Co-Lead of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, you already worked with some of our organizations in an open, collaborative and inclusive manner. Your deep knowledge and expertise of the Digital Cooperation agenda, of regulating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in lethal autonomous weapon systems, and of digital health and AI will prove very important in your current mandate. We are hopeful that having been India’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, you will be able to build the necessary multistakeholder bridges needed to drive the Global Digital Compact.

The Roadmap for Digital Cooperation sets the role of the U.N. Tech Envoy to ensure greater coordination between U.N. agencies, to advise the senior leadership of the U.N.

on key trends in technology, and to serve as an advocate and focal point for digital cooperation. As you may be aware:

1. The undersigned organizations have been collaborating on the Digital Cooperation agenda for four years
2. We organized a [non-state stakeholder position paper on the role of the U.N. Tech Envoy](#) through open consultation and public advocacy efforts
3. We have worked constructively with your Office on common initiatives such as:
  - a. Internet Governance Forums;
  - b. RightsCon;
  - c. World Telecommunication Development Conference;
  - d. President of General Assembly (PGA) Consultations on the Common Agenda; and
  - e. Constituents of the working groups of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.
4. We are actively engaged in citizen dialogues, global and regional community consultations, civic and town hall meetings and thematic working groups towards the draft of the Global Digital Compact

We are encouraged to see the continued commitment of your office to “the multistakeholder, open and inclusive method of work” nurtured in the digital cooperation process. We believe all stakeholders must commit to open, inclusive, transparent and meaningful dialogues, as reflected in [formal declarations](#), and work together to improve regional participation — particularly from the Global South — to advance digital cooperation worldwide. We also believe that all participating actors should commit to an open, globally connected, inclusive and interoperable Internet. We are therefore delighted to see your plan to “reach out to Member States, the private sector, civil society partners (new and old) to collaboratively shape a vision for the Office of the United Nations Envoy on Technology” as this aligns with our advocacy efforts summarized in our paper. As you preside over the matters in your new role, as the U.N. Tech Envoy, we invite you, and your office, to [review our position paper](#) and to engage in meaningful dialogues with us.

We want to specifically emphasize the important position the U.N. Tech Envoy has in relation to private-sector actors, particularly information communication technology (ICT) companies and their engagement with the U.N. via public-private partnerships. Currently, the U.N. has no dedicated office or Special Representative to govern and monitor such partnerships, yet such a representative is imperative to ensure increased consultation with various stakeholders and scrutiny around both the process and

content of any private-public partnership the U.N. enters. You and your office could therefore potentially serve, if not as a gatekeeper, at least as a minder and expectation-setter, to ensure each new private-public partnership the U.N. enters into is transparent and provides a positive precedent for future digital cooperation between international organizations and ICT companies.

As we continue the process of the Global Digital Compact, we are encouraged by your Office's ongoing public call for inputs through its website, as this is important to an open and inclusive approach. We hope that your office will actively ensure that a multistakeholder approach is implemented throughout the development of the Compact, and that civil society stakeholders are opportunely informed about the modalities of the negotiation and drafting process. We firmly support a model that enables truly multistakeholder cooperation in all phases of the process, including the drafting, and are willing to bring our experience and expertise to it. Further, we urge your Office to engage digital cooperation stakeholders in the preparations for the Summit for the Future. This could take the form of thematic consultations with stakeholders, for example. As [recommended](#) *"this entails ensuring that the intergovernmental negotiations welcome and deliberate on substantive inputs provided by nongovernmental organizations; opening formal negotiations to public observation; supporting national, regional and global forums in the run-up to the summit; and encouraging the involvement of civil society in the national delegations preparing for the summit."*

We send you this congratulatory note on assuming your office and express our commitment to continue working with you and other stakeholders, and to supporting an inclusive, multistakeholder, rights-based and transparent process as we collaboratively implement the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Our Common Agenda.

## **Yours in Digital Cooperation,**

1. <A+> Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms
2. [Access Now](#)
3. [Access Partnership](#)
4. [Accur8Africa](#)
5. [Advocacy Initiative for Development \(AID\)](#)
6. [Afghanistan Democracy and Development Organization \(ADDO\)](#)
7. Africa Foundation for Community Development (AFCOD-Uganda)
8. [Africa Freedom of Information Centre](#)
9. [African Centre for Citizens Orientation](#)
10. [African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms Coalition](#)
11. [African Freedom of Expression Exchange \(AFEX\)](#)
12. [Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation \(AODIRF\)](#)
13. [AFRIX](#)
14. [AfroLeadership](#)
15. [Afrotribune](#)
16. [Alliance for Affordable Internet - A4AI](#)
17. [Article 19](#)
18. Asociación Colombiana de Usuarios de Internet
19. [Asociación TEDIC](#)
20. [Association for Progressive Communications - APC](#)
21. [Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication](#)
22. [Bareedo Platform](#), Somalia
23. Bloggers of Zambia
24. CCAOI, India
25. [Center for Youth Empowerment and Leadership \(CYEL\)](#)
26. Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
27. [Centre for Information Technology and Development \(CITAD\)](#)
28. [Centre for Multilateral Affairs \(CfMA\)](#)
29. [Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa - CIPESA](#)
30. [Community Development Initiative \(CDI\)](#), Kano, Nigeria
31. [CyberPeace Institute](#)
32. [Data2X](#)
33. [Datalat](#), Quito (Ecuador)
34. [Derechos Digitales](#)
35. [Digital Agenda for Tanzania Initiative \(DA4TI\)](#)
36. [Digital Peace Now](#)
37. [Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum \(DRIF\)](#)
38. [Digital Rights Foundation \(DRF\)](#)
39. DigitalSENSE Africa
40. Environmental Development Initiative
41. [European Center for Not-for-profit Law Stichting](#)
42. [Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa \(FIFAfrica\)](#)

43. Free Expression Myanmar (FEM)
44. Front Page International (FPI)
45. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)
46. Global Partners Digital
47. Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
48. HOUSE OF AFRICA, Ndjamen, Chad
49. iamtheCODE
50. ICT Association of Malawi
51. Impact4News, UK
52. Instituto Nupef
53. Internet Governance Caucus
54. Internet Society - ISOC
55. Inventario Nacional de Calidad del Agua, INCA.
56. Jade Propuestas Sociales y Alternativas al Desarrollo, A.C. (JADE SOCIALES), Yucatán, México
57. Jokkolabs Banjul
58. Keeping It Real (KIR) Foundation
59. Kinango Coalition for Human Rights Defenders
60. League for Societal Protection Against Drug Abuse (LESPADA)
61. Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)
62. Media Institute of Southern Africa-Zimbabwe Chapter
63. Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD)
64. Media Rights Agenda (MRA)
65. Missions Publiques
66. OISTE
67. Open Data Watch
68. Organization of the Justice Campaign
69. Ovillage, Côte d'Ivoire
70. PACKS Africa
71. Paradigm Initiative
72. Policy Alert - Nigeria
73. Population and Development Initiative, Tanzania
74. PROTEGE QV
75. Rainier Communications
76. Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales (R3D)
77. RNW Media
78. SDSN TReNDS group
79. Simply Secure
80. Social Media Exchange (SMEX)
81. Somali Youth Development Foundation (SYDF).
82. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression (SafeNet)
83. Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Initiative (SEEDi)
84. Tanzania Health Care and Environmental Conservation Organisation
85. Taraaz

86. TechSocietal
87. TechSoup
88. The Bachchao Project
89. The Empathy Business
90. Ubunteam
91. UCSF Global Programs, Kenya
92. WikiRate
93. Wikimedians of the Caribbean (WikiCari)
94. Wisekey SA
95. Women at the Table
96. Women in Crisis Response
97. World Wide Web Foundation
98. YESAID Kenya
99. Youth Coalition on Internet Governance
100. ZeroToOne Foundation