Open Letter To: His Excellency Volkan Bozkir, President, United Nations General Assembly

We - the undersigned - call on the United Nations to promote and safeguard the digital technologies that now underpin society. As the world faces a historic challenge it is now more critical than ever that technology is both available to all as a matter of social and economic justice but also used in the right way and in pursuit of common good.

The UN General Assembly—representing the collective conscience and will of the international community—has a responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure the digital domain is universal, safe, meaningful and trustworthy so it can promote social and economic progress for all.

As you usher in the historic 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, we urge you to make digital trust and security a central pillar of your presidency. We commend the historic achievement of the ***[Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations](#)***. For the first time, all member states committed to improve **digital cooperation** and ensure safe and affordable digital access for all citizens. Progress must not stop there. At a time of crisis it is essential that the world steps up efforts in this space, not least to support the development and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, an endeavour on which the role of digital technology is fundamental.

We call on your leadership therefore to advance the digital agenda, and we call on all member states to reinforce and expand upon these commitments in a **global statement on digital trust and security** as called for by the Secretary-General in his Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.   Our daily lives, economic prosperity, security, and social progress hinge on a safe and secure digital environment that is affordable, accessible, and reliable. ICTs increasingly underpin access to nearly all essential services, including food, water, energy, and healthcare, as well as critical government functions, such as issuing identification and conducting elections. This statement would send a clear signal that world leaders in government, industry, and civil society are committed to closing the trust deficit in the digital age, bridging the digital divides, promoting digital rights and equality and securing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prioritizing digital trust and security will provide more visibility and energy to the UN processes already underway aimed at advancing a rules-based digital order, including the Group of Governmental Experts in the Field of Information and Telecommunications and the Open-Ended Working Group. We eagerly await the results of their work and hope to support their efforts to advance global cyber norms. As those and other processes advance, we encourage leadership at the United Nations to abide by the language in the 75th anniversary declaration to **"provide a platform for all stakeholders to participate in such deliberations."**

We must learn from the lessons of history not to let one crisis breed another. Progress towards a safe, open, and secure cyberspace is needed now more than ever to meet and surmount the challenges we face. Civil society, technical communities, Think tanks, industry and eminent digital personalities have found common ground on the need for global action on digital trust and security. Surely governments can join our call, endorse a global statement, and ensure a safe and secure digital future for everybody.

In his **Roadmap for Digital Cooperation**, the Secretary General makes clear that, "future generations will judge whether the present generation seized the opportunities presented by the age of digital interdependence." The undersigned organizations stand willing to join governments and other stakeholders to advance this global imperative. Together, we can deliver a digital future that is safe, secure, and inclusive.

Endorsements here: https://forms.gle/Es5Ps2f5oKyRH4TH6

Will be added on web site at the end of each day.

1	President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil
2	President Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile
3	Secretary Madeleine Albright, Former Secretary of State, United States
4	Daniel Mitov, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria
5	Susana Malcorra, Former Foreign Minister of Argentina
6	Ambassador Wendy Sherman, Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, United States
7	Carl Bildt, Co-Chair European Council on Foreign Relations
8	Hina Jilani, The Elders
9	Margaret Chan, Former Director-General, World Health Organization
10	Julian King, former EU Commissioner for the Security Union
11	Edson Prestes - Member, HLP on Digital Cooperation - Brazil
12	Marina Kaljurand - Member, HLP on Digital Cooperation - Estonia
13	Akaliza Keza Ntwari - Member, HLP on Digital Cooperation - Rwanda
14	Andrus Ansip - Member, European Parliament

1	Access Smart, LLC	Global, North America
2	Advocacy Initiative for Development (AID)	Africa
3	African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms Coalition (AfDec)	Africa
4	AfricTivistes	Africa
5	Afrotribune	Africa
6	Alliance for Affordable Internet	Global
7	Alliance for Peacebuilding	Global
8	Association for Progressive Communications - APC	Global
9	Association of European Journalists-Belgium vzw	Europe

10	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio & Communication(BNNRC)	Asia
11	Campaign for Human Rights and Development International CHRDI, in Sierra Leone	Africa
12	Carnegie UK Trust	Europe
13	CCAOI	Asia
14	Centre for Digital Development	Global
15	Centre for Multilateral Affairs (CfMA)	Africa
16	CloudFactors LLC	North America
17	Convene North	North America
18	CREOpoint	Europe, North America
19	Cyber Policy Institute	Global
20	CyberPeace Institute	Global
21	Cybersecurity Tech Accord	Global
22	Digital Peace Now	Global
23	EastWest Institute	Global
24	Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center	North America
25	Emonyo Yefwe International.	Africa
26	F-Secure Corporation	Europe
27	Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul	South America
28	Finnish Information Security Cluster (FISC)	Europe
29	Foundlings with Living Parents Foundation	Africa
30	Free Expression Myanmar (FEM)	Asia
31	Free Media Movement	Asia
32	Future of Life Institute	Global
33	GitHub	Global
34	Global Cyber Alliance	Global
35	Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)	Global
36	Global Open Data initiative for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)	Global

37	Global Partners Digital	Global
38	Inidev International	Africa
39	Instituto Nupef	South America
40	Internet Protection Society	Europe
41	JONCTION	Africa
42	L'Association Francophone pour les Droits de l'Homme	Global
43	LEADx Change	Europe, North America
44	League for Societal protection against drug abuse (LESPADA)	Africa
45	Liberia Information Technology Student Union	Africa
46	Media Institute of Southern Africa-Zimbabwe Chapter	Africa
47	Media Rights Agenda	Africa
48	Microsoft	Global
49	Netfreedom Pioneers	Global
50	Nigeria Network of NGOs	Africa
51	Northwave	Europe
52	Organization of the Justice Campaign	Asia
53	Paradigm Initiative	Africa
54	Rainier Communications	North America
55	Red Dot Foundation	Asia
56	Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet)	Asia
57	TdChix	Africa
58	The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise Foundation	Global
59	UBUNTEAM	Africa
60	WISeKey SA	Global
61	Women in Crisis Response	Global
62	World Wide Web Foundation	Global