

Digital Public Goods for an Inclusive Digital Future: A Roadmap Towards 2030

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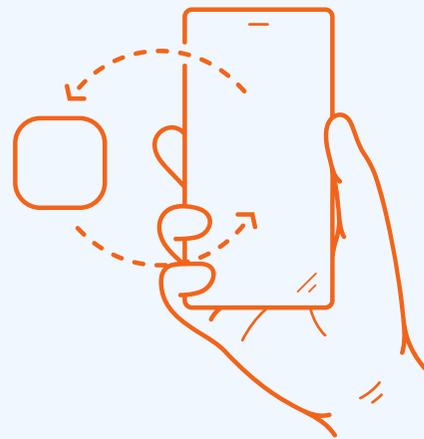
What are Digital Public Goods?



The UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation defines digital public goods (DPGs) as “open source software, open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards, and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable international and domestic laws, standards and best practices, and do no harm”.

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DPGs can serve as the common rails of innovation that give impetus to the growth of the economy.



How do DPGs help?

They also undergird an efficient transition to digitalised governance, mitigating prohibitive costs and vendor lock-in challenges of proprietary e-governance solutions, especially for developing countries.

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A stocktaking of DPG governance

In 2021, the **Digital Public Goods Alliance** announced a five-year strategy for effectively promoting and supporting the adoption of DPGs to address critical development needs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The strategy needs strengthening in order to address the following issues.

Issue 1. Monopolistic capture of DPGs by powerful private actors taking advantage of their performative openness for free-riding and foul-dealing



Issue 2. Lack of a binding framework for the enforcement of foundational human rights and public interest norms in multistakeholder communities governing DPGs

Recommendations for designing a Digital Public Goods Roadmap for an Inclusive Digital Future



UN Actions

- Establishment of a new technology facilitation mechanism work program on DPGs
- Revitalized technical cooperation for DPG-enabled innovation.
- Inter-governmental assessments and analysis of frontier data and AI governance challenges

Government Actions

- Strategic vision and roadmap for deployment of DPGs towards inclusive and rights-based development
- Guard-rails for DPG ecosystems to prevent capture of public value

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Private Sector Actions

- Responsible business conduct in R&D.
- New licensing approaches for open digital innovation ecosystems

CSO Actions

- Vigilance about human rights and public interest
- Catalyzing context-appropriate digital innovations

Read IT for Change's policy brief,
*Digital Public Goods for an Inclusive Digital Future:
A Roadmap Towards 2030*
for more!