

G7 TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL
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Tech7 Statement

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FOREWORD

The Tech7 welcomes the G7's effort to organize a Ministerial meeting on Technology and Digital. We believe that the exceptionally fast pace of AI development justifies the global governance effort that the G7 is putting in place. With this statement, we aim to reaffirm our priorities and deep commitment to supporting this governance process

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OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE FUTURE OF THE HIROSHIMA AI PROCESS

As stated in our April Joint Declaration, we believe that the potential regulatory framework regarding AI must be pro innovation and risk based, aimed at permitting AI to deliver its full potential to people. This can be done via international collaboration, transparency and alignment around AI governance. AI is developed across a global ecosystem, including a significant open-source component, with value chains that are integrated around the world. No single nation can tackle the challenges and opportunities presented by AI in isolation.

Building upon the groundwork laid by initiatives like the G7 Hiroshima AI Process (HAIP), strengthening dialogue with industry stakeholders is essential to ensure the practical applicability and feasibility of proposed frameworks.

We believe that the HAIP was a significant first step to fostering consensus on a set of baselines guiding principles important to consider in the context of the most advanced AI systems. However, we also believe the G7 can continue to take steps to update, refine, when needed, and raise awareness on the guiding principles and encourage their implementation, both within the G7 across industry and research institutions, and potentially beyond.

Most importantly, the HAIP should facilitate common understandings between countries, including developing countries and emerging economies, of key terms and concepts, to ensure compatibility and, as much as possible, alignment between the growing number of regional and national frameworks for AI governance. It is important to pursue a common understanding across nations of key definitions and shared taxonomies, such as the concept of 'advanced AI systems,' and foundational issues to effective governance such as risk thresholds, evaluation, benchmarks, fairness and bias and privacy.

To support this common understanding, international standards play a vital role in defining and clarifying key terms, practices, and taxonomies in actionable ways for businesses everywhere, helping support the goal that governance approaches should be interoperable. To that end, any national governance approach should be based on international standards where they exist, in line with WTO principles.

Continuing dialogue and partnership with industry and with multilateral organizations like the OECD will be crucial to achieve these objectives. Moreover, the principles must be tailored to each stakeholder's role in the complex AI value chain. Tailoring the application of principles based on specific roles and responsibilities will enhance their effectiveness in promoting responsible AI governance and innovation.

The HAIP Code of Conduct will help with a practical implementation of these guiding principles. In our view, the only way to achieve effective and beneficial AI governance is through co-design with the global Tech Industry, who acts at the forefront of AI development and deployment. To this end,

G7 governments should continue working with industry to promote the application of the Code of Conduct and its voluntary adoption across countries. . We therefore call for the widest possible industry consultation and co-design process for the next stages of the HAIP development. By bridging the gap between regulatory goals and industry expertise, we can create a governance framework to which companies – stemming from MSMEs and Start-ups to Large Enterprises – can easily comply with, and, at the same time can both address potential risks and promote innovation and AI advancement.

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT AND AI DEPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: THE ROAD AHEAD

We commend the G7's commitment to advancing digital government, recognizing its potential to transform public administration, enhance service delivery, and foster greater citizen engagement.

In this regard we appreciate the focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), an emerging policy trend in several key forums, including the G20 and the United Nations. Governments seek to harness DPI to reshape their digital economies and drive progress on Sustainable Development Goals, including financial and digital inclusion.

Rising interest in DPI has also highlighted the importance of developing strong safeguards to curb government overreach, protect consumers and citizens, and enable private sector innovation and competitive markets. Absent safeguards, the rollout of DPI potentially risks crowding out private sector players and could generate new privacy risks to citizens.

With the G20 recognizing the need for safeguards and the United Nations leading a DPI safeguards initiative, the G7 has a unique opportunity to shape the debate by forming its own high-level position on DPI safeguards, which should emphasize strong principles that preserve good governance and market disciplines.

In parallel we applaud the effort that this G7 presidency is putting on the concept of Digital Identity. The tech industry firmly believes that advanced Digital Identity is a key enabler of secure, efficient and evolved digital public services.

The tech industry's commitment to advancing a more comprehensive concept of digital citizenship aligns closely with these G7 presidency efforts, aiming to create an environment where digital technologies provide tangible value to people.

We support the initiative to develop a toolkit for AI implementation in the public sector. While we believe this could have benefited from more consistent input from the industry, we are eager to contribute our insights to further enhance this important work.

As a major contractor for the global tech industry, the public sector holds a unique position. We believe this G7 presidency's work can foster new public-private partnerships, laying the groundwork for principles and policies that allow public administrations to access industry expertise, fostering a spirit of mutual cooperation and shared goals.

In this regard we want to reaffirm that privacy protection, respect for fundamental rights, and technological innovation are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary goals. However, it is also crucial to establish a regulatory environment where companies, especially startups and SMEs, can operate under proportionate, easily interpretable, and internationally interoperable rules. The

G7 can play a pivotal role in fostering such an environment, promoting consistency across jurisdictions.

By embracing these principles, we can harness the full potential of Digital Public Services and AI, ensuring that digital transformation benefits all sectors of society while maintaining strong safeguards and fostering a competitive, innovative marketplace.

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CYBERSECURITY AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

This applies to cybersecurity as well. Regulatory fragmentation complicates the protection of systems, delays and diverts time and energy away from incident response. Here too, the G7 can be instrumental to address these challenges, for instance facilitating mutual recognition agreements among like-minded countries, adopting and promoting internationally recognized cybersecurity standards, integrating cybersecurity considerations into every stage of regulatory development and implementation, and harmonizing regulations.

A thriving digital economy depends on trusted digital infrastructure that drives the digitalization of all industry sectors. The accelerated deployment and adoption of 5G is a crucial step towards 5G Advanced and, eventually, 6G, once the standards are fully consolidated. G7 countries should aim for global leadership in 6G technology and have already initiated national programs that can be leveraged through coordinated international cooperation.

TRADE COOPERATION

Digital trade and trade in technology products affects almost every business and its customers. Therefore, it is crucial for governments to adopt trade-enabling policies and to cooperate with other governments. Trade cooperation in the sector underpins future innovation and economic growth, and is essential to access the technologies addressed in this statement. G7 countries should deepen cooperation to advance digital trade and trade in technology products by working towards new international agreements and collectively addressing barriers to trade in third markets. In particular, G7 countries should pursue outcomes in the World Trade Organization, including through agreement on a robust and meaningful outcome in the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce.