

Summit on Digital Diplomacy and Governance

The Future of Diplomacy:
From Geopolitics to Emerging Technologies

18-19 November 2022 | Malta

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DRAFT PROGRAMME (as at 20 Sep. 2022)

Day 1 – Friday, 18th November 2022

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome coffee and registration

09:00 – 09:45 High-level opening

09:45 – 10:15 Setting the scene: The three pillars of digital diplomacy

The role of diplomacy in the digital era is changing: from geopolitical and societal changes in the environment where diplomacy operates, to new issues on diplomatic agendas, to new digital tools aiding the work of diplomats. This session will set the scene: In light of fast technological advancements, what does the future hold for diplomacy?

10:15 – 10:45 Conference photo and coffee break

10:45 – 12:30 Digital governance and cooperation: Towards a Global Digital Compact

Digital governance topics – from privacy and cybersecurity, to e-commerce and data and AI – are firmly prominent on the agendas of the UN, G7, G20, and other diplomatic meetings.

One of the main UN processes relates to the **Global Digital Compact**, an initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2021, which will outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all, and which will be agreed at the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

The session will be an important open consultation on the Compact, which will be facilitated by the UN Tech Envoy. It will reflect on the issues and shared principles which should be addressed by the Compact, and how the diplomatic community can address them.

Round-table consultations:

- Connectivity and accessibility: Two sides of the same coin?
- Governing data: Are trusted data spaces an answer to fostering trust, and what guidelines should be in place?
- AI and other emerging technologies: Innovation or regulation?
- Future generations: How can we protect their rights?
- Building capacities and skills: How can a culture of capacity development be incorporated into institutions' work?
- Values and principles: What other issues should the Compact address?

12:30 – 13:30 Networking lunch (outdoors weather-permitting)

13:30 – 15:00 Diplomatic processes: The state of play in negotiations

Digital policy topics are negotiated in multiple digital governance processes. For instance, cybersecurity is tackled at the UN and other multilateral working groups. E-commerce negotiations at multilateral and plurilateral fora are often a reflection of what is negotiated in agreements on a regional level. The development of AI principles are often initiated by the private sector. This session will reflect on the latest policy processes and their current state of play.

Break-out sessions:

- [Room 1] Cybersecurity: What's happening at the UN General Assembly's First and Third Committees, the Open-ended Working Group, and the Programme of Action?
- [Room 2] E-commerce and trade: How is the landscape of trade agreements changing?
- [Room 3] Digital diplomacy in the EU: How is the EU's digital and cyber diplomacy carried out, and which are the main fora?

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break (outdoors weather-permitting)

15:30 – 17:00 Emerging technologies: New issues on diplomatic agendas

Advanced technologies are developing fast, fuelling unprecedented opportunities and creating risks. They are also bringing to light old and new issues that will affect their future development, and the impact of technology on society and future generations.

The session will be dedicated to emerging issues, their impact on humanity, and how actors need to approach the fast developments in technology.

Round-tables:

- The metaverse: Old wine in new bottles?
- Enabling safety, security and accountability: What are the trade-offs?
- Ethics and values: How are emerging technologies redefining the core social and ethical pillars of humanity?
- Cryptocurrencies and fintech: What can governments do to prepare for the digitalisation of the global economy? Are we crypto-ready?
- Children and technology: Which emerging policy gaps need to be addressed?
- Getting ready for quantum computing: Innovation or regulation?

19:00 – 21:00 Dinner

Day 2 – Saturday, 19th November 2022

08:45 – 09:30 Departure to Valletta

09:30 – 09:45 High-level Address

09:45 – 10:30 Panel: How can we prepare diplomats for 2032 and beyond?

Today's diplomats will act substantively differently in 2032. There are many 'known unknowns' of 2032. It is certain that AI will automate many 'white collar' jobs. The session will focus on various questions on the topic, including:

- Which diplomatic functions will survive automation? Can we expect to be negotiating with 'robot diplomats' in the near future?
- Will consular services be fully automated? What role will other technologies and applications – virtual reality, metaverse, etc. – play in the conduct of diplomacy?
- Ultimately, what should we teach today's students and young diplomats in order to prepare them for the uncertainties of the world after 2030?

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Walking tour of Valletta

12:00 – 12:30 Departure from Valletta

12:30 – 14:00 Seated lunch at the conference venue

14:00 – 14:15 Plenary session preceding three-pillar How-to sessions

14:15 – 14:45 How-to sessions – Part I

Break-out sessions:

- [Room 1] **Digital geopolitics:** How can we identify strategic trends in technological developments while avoiding pitfalls and hype?
- [Room 2] **Digital topics:** How are countries and the private sector continuing to react to the spread of disinformation in light of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war?
- [Room 3] **Digital tools:** How can we ensure effective use of social media, and other emerging online spaces such as the metaverse, in diplomacy?

14:45 – 15:15 How-to sessions – Part II

Break-out sessions:

- [Room 1] **Digital geopolitics:** How can we deal with risks in the fast-changing world?
- [Room 2] **Digital topics:** How can diplomatic negotiations contribute to speeding up the Agenda 2030?
- [Room 3] **Digital tools:** How can we organise, manage, and chair hybrid meetings more effectively?

15:15 – 15:45 How-to sessions – Part III

Break-out sessions:

- [Room 1] **Digital geopolitics:** How can small and developing countries navigate the emerging digital ‘bipolar world’?
- [Room 2] **Digital topics:** How should we negotiate digital commons and public goods?
- [Room 3] **Digital tools:** How is data and AI being used for strategic planning, simulation, diplomatic foresight, and education and training?

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 16:45 Plenary wrap-up and final messages

19:00 – 19:30 Departure for anniversary reception venue

19:30 – 21:30 Anniversary reception

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