International Digital Dialogues Conference

Description of thematic tracks

The conference offers four different thematic tracks. Each track will come together in a moderated working group led by experts of the field. The goal is to work on concrete initiatives to tackle the challenges of the topic.

1. Sustaining and promoting the free internet together

The years 2024 and 2025 are crucial for the future of internet governance, gaining significant momentum through the Global Digital Compact and its adoption at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. Against the backdrop of the global rise of authoritarian forces, the pressing question is what role a free and unfragmented internet will play. Which strategies, initiatives and formats do we now need to promote the use of a free internet? You will have the opportunity to discuss how the unfragmented internet can be preserved. Countries such as Kenya, Brazil and Germany have already set the tone with their digital strategies and others are joining the discussions. We invite you to do so, too.

2. Digital public infrastructure for social inclusion

Digital public infrastructure (DPI) offers basic functions and services for society through digital platforms. These include, but are not limited to: digital identification, digital payment transactions, data exchange or information systems. In some countries, these platforms also simplify the exchange of information between public and private stakeholders. However, the rollout of such digital services differs worldwide. Common challenges are a lack of internet access, low public acceptance and trust and mostly lack of interoperability between providers. You will have the opportunity to discuss best practices and challenges with world leaders in DPI and work on a concrete initiative on how DPI can become more inclusive.

3. Digital economy and promotion of startups

The startup scenes in the International Digital Dialogues' countries are thriving, as are the introduction of promising instruments such as start-up acts, which have been promoted by many governments in recent years, particularly on the African continent. The focus of this topic's working group will be on how states and stakeholders can build and support a connected startup scene in the field of digitalisation. You will redefine how the International Digital Dialogues can connect start-ups internationally with new investors and markets and which instruments of start-up promotion can be scaled within the International Digital Dialogues.

4. Disinformation and AI in the super election year 2024

In November 2024, we want to look back at the super election year 2024 with 73 elections worldwide. Under this topic, you will discuss how to deal with disinformation and artificial intelligence in elections, review its impact on the 2024 elections and hear about best practices firsthand from private and public sector. We will examine the influence of leading tech companies on elections but also speak about possible cooperations. Finally, we will look at how the partners of the Digital Dialogues are positioning themselves on this topic and what approaches they are pursuing.