



## Topic B: International Digital Cooperation and Connectivity

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and deepened the global digital division between those with internet access and those without. As of 2021, 2.9 billion people still lacked internet connectivity, 96% of whom lived in developing countries. Recognizing this disparity, the United Nations has issued multiple reports and resolutions affirming that access to the internet is essential for the exercise of human rights. It is directly linked to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression through any form of media.

Digital cooperation, however, extends beyond freedom of expression. Reliable connectivity also enables access to education, information, and opportunities for social and economic inclusion. This places a shared responsibility on UN Member States to ensure universal and affordable internet access for their citizens. Various UN bodies have begun advancing initiatives that promote digital transformation and equitable access to technology by 2030, seeking to close the connectivity gap and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.