



Topic B: International Digital Cooperation and Connectivity

General Assembly



OLINMUN

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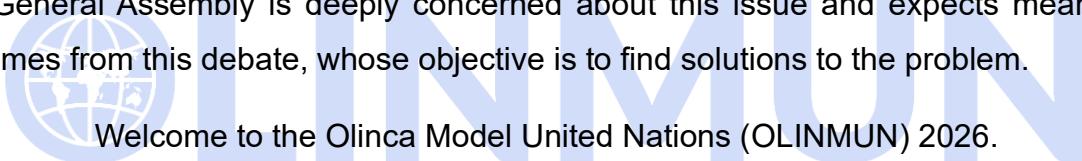
I. INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA),

During this debate, you will discuss the current topic: **International Digital Cooperation and Connectivity.**

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and deepened the global digital divide 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 inequality, 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.

The General Assembly is deeply concerned about this issue and expects meaningful outcomes from this debate, whose objective is to find solutions to the problem.



Yours sincerely,

Regina Guzmán García

Head of Committee of GA

Sofía Díaz de León Herrera

Chair of GA

Andrea Álvarez Baltierra

Moderator of GA

Gabriela Reyes Ríos

Deputy Chair of GA

NOTE: We highly recommend you thoroughly read the following document and the Conference Handbooks since they will provide an overview of the topics discussed and will allow you to acquire crucial information about the rules of procedure.

II. OVERVIEW

A. COMMITTEE'S BACKGROUND

The General Assembly is the flagship of the United Nations, as it is composed of all member states under the principle of one seat, one vote. The International Digital Cooperation and Connectivity will be considered under the scope of the GA's 2nd Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues. This committee debates on topics such as the improvement of the status of women, the protection of children, issues facing indigenous communities, refugees, the promotion of basic freedoms through the abolishment of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

The main functions and powers of the General Assembly are:

- Analyze and accept the UN budget and financial ratings of member states.
- Elect non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of other councils of the Nations.
- Review and prepare recommendations on the general ideas of cooperation for the keeping of international peace and security.
- Debate any situation related to international peace and security, except where a discussion or problem is under debate in the Security Council.
- Assume studies and make recommendations to encourage international political partnership, international evolution and order, the understanding of human rights, basic rights and cooperation with the international group in the economic, cultural, humanitarian, educational and health fields.
- Make suggestions for the peaceful settlement of any matter which might harm cordial relations between countries.
- Study the reports of the Security Council.

B. COMMITTEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its creation, the General Assembly of the United Nations has made important changes and has found resolutions to the variety of problems that have been discussed in its chambers. For example, this UN organ has achieved the first ever UN youth strategy, which is dedicated to giving young people opportunities to determine their future. Similarly, the first high level meeting on tuberculosis took place in its chambers. This disease was responsible for 1.6 million deaths in 2017, and this fact made global leaders act on the matter and join efforts towards fund-raising.

In the same way, it has achieved the development of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They are set for 2030 and were created with the purpose of improving human rights, such as access to good nutrition, water, and education. In addition, the Secretary General launched an action plan for a peacekeeping initiative which seeks to revitalize harmony by increasing the participation of women and strengthened partnerships with governments.



Likewise, various countries have invested in “Data to End Hunger,” a coalition of donors who pledged to seek significant funding for agricultural improvements and more targeted solutions to hunger challenges. As for the invasion of Ukraine, the General Assembly of the United Nations acted and held Russia accountable for violating international law by invading Ukraine’s territory. This resolution was finalized in November of 2022 and demanded that Russia pay “reparations for widespread damage to the country and for Ukrainians killed and injured during the war” (Lederer, 2022). This enlightens the Assembly’s point of view of the conflict and the need for a mechanism which can provide compensation for damage, injury, and loss.

III. GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE

The world is rapidly advancing towards digitalization. This shift has brought significant changes and many advantages for societies, but it has also created inequalities in its access between nations. Despite progress in global technological connectivity, a large portion of the world's population remains offline. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in 2024, 2.6 billion people lacked internet access, representing 32% of the world's population (ITU, 2024). This data highlights how achieving worldwide connectivity is still a major global challenge.

Although there have been notable improvements in global technological cooperation, there is still a huge digital gap between countries. In economically developed countries, an estimated 93% of the population has access to the internet; in contrast, only 27% of people in economically developing countries have access to the internet. For instance, in 2023, China had an access rate of 91% while Nigeria only had a lower rate of approximately 39% (ITU, 2024).



The rapid growth of technology in many countries has failed to be distributed equally among their populations, as access to connectivity is largely determined by geographic location. Globally, internet access is concentrated in urban areas, with an estimated 76%, compared with rural areas, where the estimate is as low as 39% (ITU, 2021). The challenge of extending connectivity to rural areas lies from expensive infrastructure, affordability issues and technological limitations.

There is also a significant concentration of power among a small number of technology corporations. These companies often dominate the digital market, making it extremely difficult for new local companies to compete. This lack of competition can lead to higher prices in technological tools. As an example of this behavior, Google, a U.S based company, was fined by the European Union for using restrictive clauses and self-preferencing within its services to limit competition and effectively prevent rivals from reaching consumers.

As national public services and government operations become increasingly reliant on digital systems, they are also exposed to cyber-attacks from other countries or even from individuals. Every country's data is vulnerable to such threats. A notable example occurred in the United States in 2021, when the Colonial Pipeline was targeted to the shutdown of a major fuel supply.

In conclusion, the disparities of access between nations represent a challenge to global equality, highlighting how connectivity is essential for societies. While there have been many international efforts to achieve this objective, progress is constantly threatened by issues such as market concentration and cybersecurity. International cooperation is essential to overcome these obstacles and secure and equal access to the Internet for all nations.

IV. KEY POINTS FOR DEBATE

The logo for OLINMUN features a stylized globe icon on the left, composed of blue and white segments. To the right of the globe, the letters "LINMUN" are written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. The "L" is partially obscured by the globe icon.

1. The Internet as a human right
 - a. Recognizing the internet as a tool to exercise human rights.
2. Benefits of the internet among the population.
 - a. Areas of opportunity and development.
 - b. Protection against monopolies and attacks.
3. Reducing the digital gap
 - a. The gap between developed and developing nations.
 - b. International cooperation in favor of developing countries.
4. Affordability of the internet.
 - a. Specific technology companies that have dominated the digital market.
 - b. Limited fair competition because of monopolies.
5. Connectivity contrast between rural and urban societies.
 - a. Urban territories are more digitally developed than rural areas.

- b. Expanding digital infrastructure to these areas is crucial to getting equal access.
- 6. Infrastructure, technology and innovation.
 - a. Can more affordable strategies be used to expand internet usage?
 - b. Are there new developments and technologies in internet infrastructure?
 - c. Updating outdated and weak systems.

IV. ANNEXES

A. LIST OF COUNTRIES

- 1. Argentina
- 2. Australia
- 3. Belgium
- 4. Brazil
- 5. Canada
- 6. China
- 7. Colombia
- 8. Costa Rica
- 9. Finland
- 10. France
- 11. Germany
- 12. India
- 13. Italy
- 14. Japan
- 15. Kenya
- 16. Mexico
- 17. Netherlands
- 18. Russian Federation
- 19. Singapore
- 20. South Africa
- 21. South Korea



22. Spain
23. United Arab Emirates
24. United Kingdom
25. United States of America
26. Uruguay

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