G7 FRANCE BIARRITZ 2019

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BUILDING DIGITAL TRUST TOGETHER

Chair's Summary

The G7 Ministers responsible for digital issues convened in Paris on May 15th under the overarching theme *Building Digital Trust Together*. This meeting took place in a renewed format gathering, in addition to G7 members (Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union):

- other democracies, to include participants from different continents: Australia, Chile, India and New Zealand;
- international organisations with a prominent role in the fields of information, communication technology and the digital economy: ITU, OECD and UNESCO;
- and representatives from civil society and the private sector, including online platforms, who attended the working lunch on fighting online harms.

The results of the meeting will help prepare the Biarritz summit of August 24th - 26th, which may dedicate a specific session to the topic of *Freedoms in a Digital World*.

The Ministers held very fruitful discussions on the three following topics: (i) strengthening international cooperation on a human-centric artificial intelligence and its use in reducing inequalities; (ii) how to effectively fight online harms; and (iii) building trust in data-driven technologies and digital infrastructures.

I. Strengthening international cooperation on a human-centric artificial intelligence and its use in reducing inequalities

Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are bringing about radical transformation of our societies and economies, providing innovative solutions for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and tackling key global challenges in the fields of health, the environment, democracy, industry and many others. Yet they might also present a risk of perpetuating or increasing inequalities, firstly in terms of access to these technologies, but also as a consequence of the biaises that can appear in their development and use. Due to the cross-border nature of AI, there is a common responsibility to build consensus on values guiding the development of AI, in order to harness their full benefits and to mitigate the potential risks.

Participants had a very productive discussion on their national initiatives and policies. They discussed how AI can contribute to the reduction of inequalities, not only by taking into account inclusion in AI design and development and in selecting data sets, but also by

developing innovative AI applications on inclusion-related issues. It was noted that particular attention should be given to fostering inclusion for women and girls, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Participants also acknowledged the need to strengthen international cooperation on AI in order to achieve these goals. They welcomed the various international initiatives in the field of AI, including the work undertaken by the G7 presidencies of Japan, Italy and Canada, and the OECD *Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence*. They discussed the work undertaken by the 2019 G20 Presidency, the European Commission's Communication on *Building Trust in Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence*, the annual ITU-led *AI for Good Global Summit* and UNESCO's ongoing reflections and work on the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence. Building on these achievements, they discussed the Franco-Canadian initiative on an *International Panel on Artificial Intelligence* (IPAI), its objectives and the means which could be put in place to achieve them.

France and Canada received expressions of interest on IPAI from Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, New-Zealand, India and the European Union, and will continue discussions with interested participants on the design of the Panel.

Participants discussed international cooperation on AI and IPAI, and the G7 Presidency plans to continue these discussions on IPAI in the Sherpa track until the Biarritz summit.

II.   How to effectively fight online harms?

Social networks and related digital platforms have become essential to enable freedom of expression throughout the world: they play a pivotal role in the social and democratic lives of our countries, as public places where citizens can debate, share and access information. Yet at the same time, the growing prevalence on these platforms of online harms such as hate speech, child sexual abuse and exploitation material, terrorist and violent extremist content or online harassment, raises concerns. We should continue to uphold the universal values on which our democracies are based, in accordance with international human rights law, such as respect for human rights, human dignity and the rule of law. While substantial work is already being undertaken by platforms, governments, international organizations and civil society groups to counter this situation, including in the G7 and many other multilateral fora, more could be done to enhance accountability and transparency while respecting human rights, including the right to freedom of expression.

Participants underlined the importance of enhancing the transparency and accountability of online platforms as well as encouraging the sharing of best practices, in order to build an effective cross-industry response in accordance with international standards on freedom of expression. Participants discussed a range of approaches, including smart and agile frameworks. Participants also highlighted the need for voluntary industry procedures for effectively assessing, detecting, and promptly removing illegal content online, while offering robust safeguards against removal of legal content, including effective transparency. Participants took note of early discussions regarding a draft *Charter for an open, free and safe Internet* based on the principles of respect for human rights, transparency and cooperation. The discussion on these issues will continue in the G7 Sherpa track until the Biarritz summit.

III.   Building trust in data-driven technologies and digital infrastructures together

The development and diffusion of data-driven technologies and digital infrastructures, such as 5G, can yield great benefits, creating outstanding new opportunities for our economies

and societies in the fields of innovation, productivity, economic competitiveness and social well-being. However, in order to realize the full benefit of these technologies and infrastructures, we must also consider potential risks regarding security, individuals' privacy and protection of intellectual property rights, as well as requirements imposed on suppliers by a third country.

Participants recognised that efforts on this issue will continue in many different international and multilateral fora, including at the G7. While G7 countries have already implemented some measures to address this global challenge, additional cooperation may also be necessary to help develop flexible and SMEs-friendly policy tools that can stimulate innovation and maximise the benefits of data-driven technologies and infrastructures, while addressing the potential associated risks in order to uphold digital security, human rights and economic competitiveness. They recognised the importance of sharing experience and exchanging approaches between G7 countries as well as with other countries on how to make use of the potential of emerging technologies, especially 5G, while assessing and responding to risks, with sufficient oversight and respect for the rule of law. They highlighted the role of multistakeholders' discussions in this regard, emphasizing the XIV. United Nation's Internet Governance Forum taking place at the end of November 2019 in Berlin. They also recognised the need to increase international cooperation on data flows while strengthening mutual trust, privacy and security.