

# Sector Project International Digital Policy for Sustainable Development

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## Digital transformation in development cooperation

### Challenges

Digital Transformation is changing the world at a tremendous pace: With more than five billion people using the Internet, equating to around 66 percent of the world's population. Since 2011, the number of users has doubled. With this global process of change comes both opportunities and challenges - including for development policy. According to António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be achieved by 2030 with the advancement of digital development. At the same time, digital transformation entails risks, such as the misuse of data or the restriction of freedom of opinion. Therefore, it is the very task of development policy to shape digital transformation together with our partner countries in a fair, sustainable, and people-centric manner, to leverage its potential and close digital divides in the Global South.

For German development cooperation, the key question is how to shape digital transformation in a way that fights **hunger and poverty, pandemics, climate change and the disadvantage of marginalized groups**. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has a clear mission statement in this regard: a **social-ecological and feminist-oriented** digital transformation that enables digital sovereignty for our partner countries and integrates them into a globally open Internet and fair data markets.

### Tasks and fields of action

The sector project is shaping digital transformation in development cooperation on a political level and advising the BMZ on how to advance digital transformation in its partner countries. The goal is to compensate for impending competitive disadvantages in an increasingly digitalized and globally networked world. In this regard, the priorities of German development policy in the context of the changing times serve as a framework for orientation - also in shaping the strategy for Germany's international digital policy.

#### The sector project takes on these tasks:

-  It advises the BMZ on digital transformation and digital policy by monitoring trends and global debates.
-  It provides technical support for digital policy processes, commissions studies and drafts background papers.
-  It provides important impulses for national and international initiatives and processes, organizes conferences, working groups and dialog events.
-  It creates knowledge and provides up-to-date information at [www.bmz-digital.global](http://www.bmz-digital.global)
-  It provides an overview of contact structures and topics, as well as services on digital policy approaches in development cooperation and networks with the relevant initiatives.
-  It brings the perspective of partner organizations into German and European debates and promotes mutual learning and networking.

**Examples of the sector project’s work:**

✓ **Clear positioning for a social, ecological and feminist digital policy on a national, European and international level**

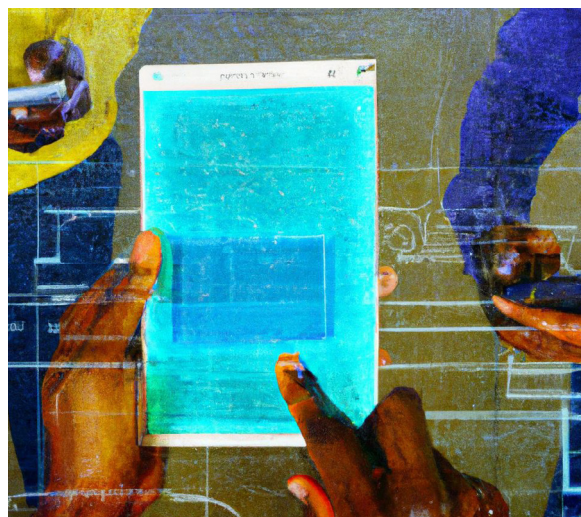
Development policy is a central component of international digital policy. The sector project is committed to making the global debates around regulation and internet governance more inclusive. It advises the BMZ on key issues such as data governance, AI regulation, internet governance and agile forms of regulation for human-centered, technological change. The aim of the sector project is to expand BMZ’s positioning in the field of digital transformation at both the national and international levels in order to pave the way for new collaborations and greater effectiveness. To this end, the sector project supports the BMZ and global partner organizations in contributing joint topics and perspectives to the European multi-stakeholder platform (D4D Hub) or the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

✓ **Roll-Out of the new BMZ digital strategy**

The sector project advises the BMZ on consistently mainstreaming the cross-cutting role of digital transformation in German development policy projects and strategies. As a contribution to shaping digital policy approaches in German development cooperation, the sector project develops service offerings to support systematic integration and implementation of digital strategies. To increase digital competence in German development policy, the sector project also develops knowledge and communication products on selected digital topics.

✓ **Dialogue opportunities in the [digital.global] network**

In order to shape worldwide digital transformation in a human-centered way, a strong network of participants in the global digital ecosystem is necessary. To promote exchange on the political priorities, the sector project brings decision-makers from politics, civil society, scientific and business communities together in the [digital.global] network and organizes exchange at high-profile events such as the digital and media conference re:publica or the German government’s digital summit.



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