



# International Submarine Cable Resilience Summit 2026

2–3 February 2026, Porto, Portugal

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## **The Porto Declaration on Submarine Cable Resilience (affirmed by the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience, on 3 February 2026) Porto, Portugal**

We, the members of the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience (IAB), reaffirm the vital role that submarine telecommunications cables have for global connectivity, economic development, social inclusion, and digital transformation.

Following the adoption of the Abuja Declaration in February 2025, which affirmed principles and priorities for submarine telecommunications cables as critical infrastructure, the IAB has convened Working Groups to engage on those priorities.

Building on this progress, the non-binding recommendations are expected to further inform international cooperation and resilience building efforts.

These recommendations are meant to provide overarching guidance on how states and regions may harmonise and create enabling policy and regulatory environments that support and enable development, operation, and resilience of submarine cable systems, including by addressing barriers that may delay deployment or restoration of those systems. These recommendations should also underscore the importance of coordination and cooperation among relevant authorities, the submarine cable industry, and marine stakeholders to support the protection of existing infrastructure and the development of future networks, alongside continued efforts to build institutional capacity and expertise.

We further recognize the value of the work of this International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience in its 2024-2026 mandate that have brought together specific industry, governments, academia, and other stakeholders. Through this collaboration, we have established constructive lines of communication, advanced awareness of the strategic importance of submarine cables, and developed practical suggestions to inform policy, operational practice, and investment decisions.

We welcome the recommendations that have been produced through constructive work in the International Advisory Body and encourage participants to take them forward as relevant and appropriate.

On the basis of this shared understanding, we affirm the following guidance to strengthen international cooperation and resilience:

1. Streamline submarine cable permitting, maintenance, and repair processes through clear, transparent, and predictable regulatory frameworks and designate a single government contact point to facilitate timely cable deployment and repair.
2. Improve legal framework and regulatory procedures while reducing legal and regulatory barriers, including in areas such as cabotage, customs, and marine spatial planning and management.
3. Encourage cable geographic diversity and redundancy, by supporting investment, through partnerships, including public–private partnerships, supporting varied routes,



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redundant landing points, and resilient infrastructure, especially for small island developing states, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and underserved regions.

4. Encourage the adoption of industry best practices for assessing, mitigating and responding to risks to submarine cable infrastructure.
5. Encourage enhanced cable protection through better planning and across relevant marine sectors.
6. Build cable capacity and support innovation through training and use of technologies that enhance monitoring, route design, redundancy, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

We invite governments to consider reflecting this guidance, as appropriate, when developing or reviewing relevant policies, regulatory approaches, and operational frameworks and we encourage industry to strengthen and expand existing initiatives that support cable protection and resilience.

Through this Porto Declaration, we reaffirm our shared commitment to cooperation to help ensure that submarine cables serve as a resilient foundation of open, reliable, and interoperable global connectivity for all.