

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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CONTRIBUTION BY the Institute for Accountability in the Digital Age

TITLE: The Hague Summit Accountability in the Digital Age

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Europe Regional Initiative: EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

Year(s) of implementation: 2019, 2020, 2021

Background

In this era of the Global Digital Revolution, digital technologies provide the world with a wealth of positive accomplishments. Societies and individuals can benefit in all manner of ways through access to knowledge, people and organizations on a local and global level. More than that, digital has become a must-have, for people, society and the economy. Indeed, digital technology fosters innovation. Online platforms, e-commerce, social media, artificial intelligence, data analytics, robotics and the internet of things (IoT) are further expediting this process by hyper-connecting individuals, organizations, communities, societies and data, with tens of billions of objects and entities.

Unfortunately, the Internet is not immune to evil. Breaches of norms and values are also occurring in the online and cyber worlds, ranging from fraud, identity theft, bullying and other forms of personal harassment or exploitation through to malign social engineering, phishing and hacking attacks which can threaten key networks and even entire nations. A number of prerequisites have to be met to maintain democratic principles i.e. privacy, security, transparency, safety, wellbeing, and accountability.



Proposal

The Institute for Accountability in the Digital Age (I4ADA) will focus on developing instruments for accountability in the Digital Age. Instruments can be traditional, such as new international legislation or international government lead institutes. Or instruments can be more modern such as the creation of an Accountability Index or other digital instruments to measure, track, and/or manage accountability variables.

Developing these instruments requires a global multi stakeholder and inclusive dialogue. Therefore, I4ADA will organize the second The Hague Summit for Accountability in the Digital Age in the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

This Summit will focus on safeguarding the role of the internet as a tool for personal, professional, and social engagement. I4ADA is taking concrete steps to increase access to knowledge, evidence-based trust and measures to foster accountability. The goals are to facilitate transparency, a common understanding, and thus to promote maximum sustainable net benefit for people and societies worldwide.

The Hague Summit will be a two day conference in the Peace Palace, The Hague, bringing together a global multi-stakeholder community from national and local governments, international policy makers, civil society, NGOs, the ICT industry and platforms, as well as other relevant Organizations and institutes. The delegates conclusions and recommendations will contribute to shaping a global path towards responsible policy. Together our aim is to foster accountability in and for the digital age.

We look forward to the collaboration of the ITU through the ITU Office for Europe in the organization of the second The Hague Summit for Accountability in the Digital Age which will take place on November 6 and 7th 2019 and for the later editions of 2020 and 2021.

