

Beijing Initiative on the Belt and Road International Digital Economy Cooperation

The digital economy is an increasingly important driver of global economic growth and plays a significant role in accelerating economic recovery, enhancing productivity of industries, cultivating new markets and industries, and achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. To expand cooperation in digital economy, unleash the huge potential of the digital economy in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the Belt and Road cooperation partners, while bearing in mind the principles of interconnection, innovation, openness, harmony and inclusiveness, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and we will explore ways to collectively leverage digital opportunities, cope with challenges, through enhanced policy coordination, facilities connectivity, trade facilitation, financial cooperation, and people-to-people bond. We are working to build an interconnected digital silk road and to create a community of shared interests and shared future based on win-win cooperation and common prosperity. To this end, on a voluntary and non-binding basis, the People's Republic of China, Republic of Argentina, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Union of Comoros, the Republic of Cuba, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the

Republic of the Gambia, the Republic of Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State of Palestine, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Kingdom of Thailand propose the following initiative:

1. Strengthen digital interconnection to build digital silk road.

Improve the construction of telecommunication, internet, satellite navigation, cloud data center as well as other important digital infrastructures. Strengthen digital capacity building, ensure the rights of developing countries to use basic resources and technologies of the Internet for peaceful purposes, and bridge the digital divides. Explore ways to expand high-speed internet access and connectivity at an affordable price and improve the scope and quality of mobile and broadband access. Improve the accessibility, quality and security of digital services. Leverage the advantages of digital interconnection, and enhance interconnection in regional, sub-regional and remote areas through high-quality digital infrastructure construction and investment.

2. Promote cooperation on digital government, digital economy and digital society, etc.. Promote the exchange of digital transformation practices in manufacturing, agriculture, retail, finance and bank, education, medical and health care, tourism and professional services, share model cases for digital application, explore cooperation on digital transformation projects, so as to achieve more inclusive,

enabling, sustainable, resilient and innovation-driven digital transformation, and promote high-quality development through digitalization.

3.Foster agricultural modernization. Promote the application of digital technologies such as big data, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, drone, robot and automation and satellite remote sensing in the agricultural field, and promote the digitalization of agricultural production, operation, management and services. Actively promote cooperation in smart agriculture and strengthen the exchange of application scenarios and advanced experience of water-saving, green and other efficient technologies.

4.Promote digital transformation of the industry. Deepen the integrated development of digital technology and manufacturing, and develop digital, networked and intelligent manufacturing industry. Encourage digital transformation in the whole life cycle of enterprises, including R&D, design, manufacturing, operation, management, and market services. Explore cooperation models with complementary advantages and tap cooperation potential in intelligent manufacturing and Industrial Internet.

5.Improve digitalization of public services. Promote digital government administration, enhance service capacity, and facilitate government services. Jointly carry out demonstration projects in areas

such as distance education, telemedicine, digital poverty reduction, smart cities, smart communities, and emergency management in a people-centered approach and with a focus on meeting people's livelihood needs, so that digital technologies and applications can better benefit people's livelihood.

6.Coordinate digital transformation and green transformation.

Advance coordinated and mutually reinforced digitalization and green development. Achieve synchronized green development with digitalization. Make green development take the lead in promoting digitalization and enable green development with digital technologies. Utilize digital technologies to improve energy efficiency, promote green, low-carbon and sustainable development, and achieve harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

7.Improve development and cooperation of digital trade, e-commerce, digital payment, and promote cross-border trade facilitation. Encourage development of new business form and model of digital trade, accelerate digitalization of the entire trade chain, and promote the level of trade digitalization. Explore the feasibility of information sharing and mutual recognition in fields of digital signature, cross-border e-commerce credibility, customs clearance, inspection and quarantine, and consumer protection. Strengthen cooperation in fields of digital financial payment, warehousing and logistics, technical

service, offline exhibition, etc.. Encourage digital innovation in shipping trade, promote the application of such new technologies as blockchain and artificial intelligence, promote cross-border trade facilitation, and enhance the capability of enterprises to use e-commerce to explore new channels for trade. Strengthen cooperation in protecting consumers' rights.

8.Support digital innovation and entrepreneurship. Encourage digital-based research, development, innovation (RDI) and application through an enabling and transparent legal framework. Create an enabling ecosystem to support large, small and medium-sized enterprises in fostering digital innovation capabilities. Take advantage of digital technologies such as artificial intelligent, big data, blockchain, cloud computing, fintech, 5G to promote innovation in products, services, processes, organizations and business models.

9.Promote development of MSMEs and digital start-up. Promote policies that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to utilize digital technologies for innovation, improved competitiveness, and new distribution channels in markets. Promote affordable digital infrastructure needed for the digitalized operation of MSMEs. Encourage MSMEs and digital start-up to provide digital goods and services to the public sector and support the integration of MSMEs into global value chains. Encourage MSMEs to

utilize digital technologies and solutions to carry out production, business activities and international trade cooperation, and contribute to maintaining supply chain stability.

10.Promote digital literacy and skills. Strengthen digital capacity building and enhance digital skills of the general public to ensure that the development of digital economy benefits all. Promote on-the-job training to upgrade employees' digital skills. Encourage government, universities and research institutions, and enterprises to actively carry out training programs to promote the popularization and the improvement of digital skills. Strengthen international cooperation on digital literacy and skills, and promote exchange of experience and mutual learning, promote the establishment of digital skills training systems where the resources are inclusive, mutual-sharing, equitably accessible and interconnected, so as to promote digital literacy and skills.

11.Promote investment in digital technologies. Foster an open, fair and non-discriminatory digital business environment through policy frameworks that facilitate RDI as well as investment in the digital economy. Promote various kinds of financial institutions and multilateral development institutions to invest in digital technology infrastructure and applications. Attract and mobilize capital from private sector including commercial equity investment funds and social

funds to invest digital economy and encourage Public Private Partnerships(PPP). Encourage investment information exchanges between digital companies and financial institutions in accordance with local law and regulations. Encourage mutual investment in digital technologies.

12. Explore inter-city cooperation in digital economy. Identify potential areas of cooperation between city pairs, and support the establishment of city partnership based on mutual benefits. Encourage relevant cities to explore setting up digital silk road economic cooperation pilot zone respectively. Promote in-depth cooperation in digital infrastructure, smart cities, e-commerce, telemedicine, Next Generation Internet, Internet of Things, blockchain, cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

13.Enhance digital inclusion. Bridge the digital divides by various policies and techniques. Facilitate internet penetration and ensure the digital economy benefit all the people. Strengthen support for vulnerable groups and improve their digital skills. Promote experience exchange sharing and cooperation on digital poverty reduction. Facilitate the use of digital technology in school education as well as in non-formal education. Strive towards realizing broadband connectivity and network teaching in schools, ensuring an increased number of students can learn by using digital tools and resources.

14. Encourage transparent policies for digital economy. Develop and maintain a digital economy policy-making process that is open, transparent and inclusive. Encourage the publishing of pertinent and unclassified government data and recognize the potential of such data in boosting new technology, products and services. Encourage online public procurement to support the production of innovative digital services and products by enterprises, while maintaining market-oriented demands.

15. Promote digital market opening and international standardization cooperation. Strengthen exchanges and practice sharing on the governance of platform economy and promote mutual opening of digital markets based on the principle of reciprocity and win-win results. Develop basic measures related to electronic invoicing in accordance with applicable international open standards, guidelines or recommendations, promote the adoption of interoperable electronic invoicing systems, digital payment, digital signature and continuously expand the connecting of different electronic systems. Advocate the joint development of international standards for relevant technical products and services and promote their application. These international standards should be consistent with universally accepted international rules, including but not limited to the WTO rules, the International

Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards.

16. Attach importance to the significant role of artificial intelligence (AI) in comprehensively improving quality of life.

Encourage sound development of AI industry blockchain, big data, cloud computing, and deeply empower traditional industries with AI. Encourage all countries to uphold a people-centered approach and the principle of AI for good, strengthen research and prevention of potential risks in the development of AI, so as to safeguard people's interests and national security, and ensure that artificial intelligence is safe, reliable and controllable. Attach importance to the role of the United Nations as the main channel, strengthen international exchanges and cooperation in AI, work together to create an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory international environment for AI development, promote and improve the AI governance mechanism with the participation of multiple stakeholders and collaborative governance, and form standards and norms with broad consensus.

17. Strengthen confidence and trust. Promote the availability, integrity, confidentiality and authenticity of online transactions.

Encourage the development of secure digital infrastructure to promote trusted, stable, and reliable Internet applications. Jointly combat cyber crime and safeguard digital technology ecosystem by strengthening

international cooperation in online transactions. Build stronger confidence and trust by ensuring the respect of privacy and protection of personal data to enable open and secure internet environment.

18. Encourage cooperation while respecting the path of independent development of each country. Encourage partner countries to exchange views, promote mutual understanding, and strengthen cooperation in policy-making and regulation to reduce, eliminate or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements to unleash the vitality of digital economy, while recognizing that all countries could chart their development paths that are consistent with their international legal obligations and their development stages, historical and cultural traditions, national legal systems, and national development strategies.

19. Encourage establishment of a peaceful, secure, open, cooperative and orderly cyberspace, and work together to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace. Give play to the role of the UN as the main channel in international governance of cyberspace, and support the formulation of universally accepted international rules on cyberspace under the UN framework. Advocate solidity rather than division, cooperation rather than confrontation, inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness, and discuss the formulation of globally interoperable digital rules to prevent fragmentation in

cyberspace. Support digital policies that preserve the global nature of the Internet, allow Internet users to lawfully access online information, knowledge and services of their choice. Recognize the need to fully respect sovereignty in cyberspace and safeguard cyber security, resolutely fight against cyber terrorism, cyber crime and cyber attack, protect privacy, information and data security, resolutely fight against fake news, telecom and cyber fraud, personal data leaking, promote the establishment of a multilateral, democratic and transparent international Internet governance system. Achieve fair distribution and joint management of basic Internet resources, promote international cooperation and assistance, actively maintain the openness, security and stability of the global supply chain of information technology products and services, and explore the formulation of common rules and standards for global interoperable supply chain security.

20. Encourage the establishment of a multi-level exchange mechanism. Promote exchanges and share views among governments, enterprises, scientific institutions, industry organizations and relevant interested parties to enhance cooperation in digital economy. Strengthen training and research cooperation in digital economy. Promote Belt and Road cooperation partner countries to exchange experience in policy making and legislation, and share best practices. Encourage the establishment of a united, equal, balanced and inclusive digital

economy partnership, to tap the potential of digital economy cooperation, while balancing development and security, and jointly create an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory digital economy environment. Welcome and encourage UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITU, and other international organizations to play an important role in promoting the international cooperation of digital economy under the Belt and Road Initiative.