

ECOSOC

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Yonsei Model United Nations

Chair Report.

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The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Chair Report

[Agenda A: Devising Frameworks for Complete Eradication of Drug Cartels]

Yonsei Model United Nations 2024

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About the United Nations

The United Nations is the largest intergovernmental organisation that was founded in 1945 after World War II. Consisting of 193 member states, the United Nations endeavours to sustain international peace, security and cooperation, guided by the United Nations Charter.

A replacement for the League of Nations, the United Nations has been the centre of discussion and euphony for multilateral issues such as general disarmament, international security, multilateral cooperation, international economy, human rights affairs and sustainable development. The United Nations is operated under six major organs - The Secretariat, General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council and the International Court of Justice. The United Nations has also assigned other specialised agencies and rapporteurs in reach for international peace and security.

Sessions of committees pertaining to the United Nations carry arduous responsibilities of perpetuating peace and humanitarian rights. Delegates of member states thrive to represent their designated nation and to form an international consensus on a myriad of agendas.

Committee Introduction

Established in 1945 by the UN Charter, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six major organs of the United Nations. The committee places an emphasis on the promotion of sustainable development in three different fields: economic, social, and environmental. In accordance with this focus on sustainable development, the ECOSOC conducts reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and overviews UN

summits and conferences on sustainable development in the aforementioned fields. Furthermore, the committee assists the UN General Assembly and Security Council, coordinates funds and programs with specialised agencies, and provides a large platform for active engagement with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Agenda Introduction

Agenda A: Devising Frameworks for Complete Eradication of Drug Cartels

Since the 1980s, drug cartels have dominated the narcotics trade worldwide and been at the root of the widespread distribution of drugs. A drug cartel is an illegal organisation of independent groups that collaborate together in order to control the production, distribution, and competition of illegal drugs. Extremely well organised, they work methodically and ruthlessly, and this has been making it hard to put an end to their production cycle of illegal drugs. Apart from producing drugs, drug cartels have become a larger issue due to their criminal violence, such as kidnappings or gun-based violence. A "war on drugs" or "drug war" has been proclaimed by many governments to put a stop to influential drug cartels and the violence they have continued to cause in regions. Most solutions proposed and initiated to eradicate drug cartels thus far have been to arrest drug lords, who serve as the leaders of drug cartels. However, this has not been sufficient for complete eradication. Drug cartels are able to easily replace leaders once one is arrested, and the temporary power vacuum created due to the arrest of the leader results in more violence. Hence, it is important to devise other strategies to put an end to drug cartels and the violence that follows.

Another notable characteristic of drug cartels is their informal operating system. Unlike legitimate corporations that have written guidelines and a clear operating system, drug cartels communicate their rules orally, and most of their instructions are heavily implied. This characteristic increases the difficulty of analysing the structure and tracking the operations of cartels, which is why when cartels fragment due to the arrest of their leader, it becomes harder to track the large organisation. Understanding this and utilising the leader or lords to pinpoint cartels and their movements is also central to solving the issue. An additional point to consider is that drug cartels are heavily region-based, indicating that it is important to understand the areas they are based in in order to solve the root of the problem. We must acknowledge that the issue of drugs and the violence that surrounds them is not only a supply-side issue but also a demand-side issue for the complete eradication of drug cartels.

Key Terms

Interdiction

Interdiction involves the active interception and forestallment of illegal drug transportation. This process frequently takes place at borders, along dealing routes, or through law enforcement task forces designed to disrupt the power chain of drug syndicates. It includes conduct similar as seizing drugs, stopping drug shipments, and targeting the structure used by syndicates for transportation.

The *National Interdiction Command and Control Plan (Plan)* outlines the Biden-Harris Administration's interdiction strategy to commercially disrupt the production and the flow of illicit drugs, and their supply in the United States. Grounded on the force reduction lines of efforts in the Biden-Harris Administration's initial National Drug Control Strategy (The Strategy), the Plan provides strategic guidance to National Drug Control Program Agencies (NDCPAs) and other relevant agencies regarding interdiction efforts to disrupt the supply of illicit substances and, through enterprise investigations, to dismantle the Transnational Criminal Organisations (TCOs) that traffic drugs to the United States. The *Plan* focuses on coordinated interdiction efforts by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, and promotes strengthened collaboration with our international partners to maximise the impact of each interdiction event.

Decriminalisation

Decriminalisation is a policy approach aimed at reforming medicine laws by reducing or entirely barring the felonious penalties associated with certain drug-related offences, similar as possession or particular use. This approach shifts the focus from corrective measures, similar to imprisonment, towards treating drug abuse as a public health issue rather than a felonious bone. Under decriminalisation, individualities set up in possession of small quantities of drugs for particular use might face civil or executive warrants, similar as forfeitures or obligatory drug education, rather than incarceration. This policy acknowledges that the use of certain medicines, especially in small amounts, might not warrant the severe consequences of a felonious record or imprisonment.

Decriminalisation doesn't equate to legalisation, which allows the legal trade and production of drugs; rather, it represents a middleground, feeling that criminalising drug use can complicate issues like overcrowded incarcerations, disproportionate impacts on marginalised communities, and hamper access to treatment and support for individualities floundering with dependence.

For example, countries like Portugal have enforced a decriminalisation model. In 2001, Portugal interdicted the possession and use of small amounts of all drugs, rather emphasising a public health approach, individuals set up in possession of small quantities of drugs are pertained to “Dissuasion Commissions” and might face non-criminal penalties similar as forfeitures or obligatory treatment rather than incarceration. Portugal's approach focuses on reducing smirch, furnishing access to treatment, and diverting individualities down from the felonious justice system. Decriminalisation, when effectively enforced, aims to shift the emphasis from corrective measures toward recuperation and support, eventually aiming to reduce the negative consequences of drug abuse on individualities and society while turning coffer towards public health enterprise and detriment reduction strategies.

Covert Operations

Covert operations are secret, discreet conditioning conducted by governmental or intelligence agencies with specific objects, frequently aimed at gathering intelligence or executing strategic conduct without the public's knowledge or, most importantly, the mindfulness of the targeted realities, which could include felonious associations like drug cartels. These operations generally involve a largely technical and trained labour force who operate under a robe of secretiveness, exercising sophisticated tactics and tools to negotiate their pretensions. Covert operations can encompass a wide array of conditioning, similar as intelligence gathering, infiltration, sabotage, and dislocation of felonious networks or conditioning like those of drug cartels. These operations are conducted to gain critical information, gather substantiation, disrupt operations, or indeed strike felonious realities without tilting off the adversaries.

For illustration, in the environment of drug combination eradication, covert operations might involve undercover agents insinuating combination networks to gather intelligence on their operations, uncover crucial numbers, disrupt drug trafficking routes, or baffle their illegal conditioning without waking the cartels. Methods similar as spying, surveillance and

other covert styles are frequently employed to gain critical information and execute strategic conduct against these felonious associations. Covert operations are subject to strict legal and ethical considerations, frequently taking authorization from advanced authorities due to their uncommunicative and potentially sensitive nature. While these operations can disrupt felonious conditioning effectively, they also pose challenges, including the pitfalls involved for operatives, implicit politic counter accusations, and the need for high situations of secretiveness to maintain the operation's effectiveness.

Asset Forfeiture

Asset forfeiture is a legal process employed by law enforcement to seize property, finances, or means associated with felonious conditioning, primarily targeting drug trafficking and organised crime. Divided into two primary orders — felonious and civil penalty — the procedure allows authorities to expropriate means linked to felonious cartels, irrespective of the property proprietor's conviction. In felonious penalty, means are seized as part of the execution following a conviction, with the demand to establish a direct connection between the property and the married crime. Civil penalty, on the other hand, doesn't bear a felonious conviction but rather targets the means themselves, professing their involvement in lawless conditioning. The ideal of asset penalty is to disrupt felonious enterprises by depriving them of the proceeds and tools used in illegal operations. These seized means may encompass cash, real estate, vehicles, bank accounts, and other precious particulars. Once the court subpoena is the penalty, the power of the means transfers to the government, frequently allocating the finances for law enforcement operations or community programs. Nevertheless, the practice of civil asset penalty has faced review due to enterprises about implicit abuses and the seizure of property from innocent individuals without proper due process, leading to conversations about reforming this legal medium.

Cyber Intelligence

Cyber intelligence refers to the collection, analysis, and operation of information deduced from digital sources to comprehend and fight implicit pitfalls, felonious conditioning, or security pitfalls in the cyber sphere. It involves the methodical gathering and assessment of data from colourful online sources, networks, and digital dispatches to identify, help, or respond to cyber pitfalls, including those posed by felonious associations like drug

cartels. This process encompasses colourful conditioning, similar as covering online communication channels, assaying data from digital platforms, examining network business, and conducting cyber examinations. By using sophisticated tools and technologies, cyber intelligence aims to uncover patterns, vulnerabilities, and implicit pitfalls associated with felonious conditioning, including drug trafficking, plutocrat laundering, and other illegal operations that might be conducted through online channels. Crucial rudiments of cyber intelligence include trouble discovery, criterion of cybercriminal conditioning, understanding the modus operandi of felonious realities in cyberspace, and visionary measures to fight their conditioning. Law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts use cyber intelligence to track the online movements of felonious associations, identify their digital footmark, and gather substantiation necessary to disrupt their operations. For example, in the environment of combating drug cartels, cyber intelligence might involve monitoring translated communication channels, tracking fiscal deals conducted through cryptocurrencies, assaying social media for suggestions about illegal drug trade, and insinuating online commerce where lawless drugs are vended. By using advanced technologies and strategic analysis, law enforcement agencies can uncover pivotal perceptivity and take measures to disrupt drug combination operations in the digital realm. Still, cyber intelligence is a constantly evolving field due to the rapid-fire advancements in technology and the adaptive nature of cybercriminals. Its success depends on staying ahead of rising pitfalls, employing slice-edge tools, and uniting across colourful agencies and authorities to address the complex challenges posed by felonious conditioning in cyberspace.

Historical Background

The issue of drug cartels has a complex and expansive literal background deeply entwined with global geopolitics, profitable interests, and social ramifications. Drug cartels, primarily associated with the trafficking of anaesthetics like cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and more lately, synthetic drugs, have been significant players in the transnational drug trade. The early roots of drug cartels can be traced back to the mid-20th century, primarily centred around the illegal drug trade, which gained instigation in the post-World War II period. The product and trafficking of drugs boosted with the growing demand in North America and Europe, bringing about the emergence of systematised felonious groups that seized upon the economic occasion presented by this request. The rise

of drug cartels gained particular elevation in the 1970s and 1980s with the swell in cocaine production in South America, particularly in countries like Colombia. This period saw the emergence of important cartels similar to the Medellín and Cali cartels in Colombia, which controlled significant portions of the cocaine trade. These cartels amassed immense wealth and power, impacting politics and society while engaging in violent turf wars to cover their interests. The 1980s and 1990s marked a period of heightened notoriety for drug cartels, specially due to high-profile numbers like Pablo Escobar, leader of the Medellín Cartel, whose felonious conglomerate made captions. The violent tactics, corruption, and influence of these syndicates led to a series of law enforcement efforts and transnational cooperation to combat their operations.

The United States launched the historical movement of "War on Drugs" in the 1980s, enforcing aggressive anti-drug programs and supporting enterprises to strike drug cartels. Several high-profile operations, similar as "Operation Panama Express," "Operation Just Beget," and the establishment of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), aimed to disrupt drug trafficking routes and strike these felonious associations. The geography of drug cartels continued to evolve, with shifts in the control of the drug trade, similar to the decline of Colombian cartels and the rise of Mexican drug trafficking associations, particularly along the U.S. - Mexico border. The Mexican cartels, like the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation syndicates, gained significant power, engaging in a variety of felonious conditioning beyond drug trafficking, including mortal trafficking, highway robbery, and plutocrat laundering. Efforts to combat drug cartels have included transnational collaborations, anti-drug programs, law enforcement operations, and intelligence sharing among colourful nations. Still, the challenges persist due to the rigidity of syndicates, their international nature, and the vast coffers they command. The drive for contriving fabrics for the complete eradication of drug cartels reflects the ongoing struggle to address the multifaceted issues related to these felonious associations. It involves not only law enforcement strategies but also social, profitable, and political measures aimed at reducing demand, furnishing personnel to affected communities, dismembering fiscal networks, and enforcing transnational cooperation to fight the operations of these syndicates. The task remains a significant and multifaceted challenge in the realm of global security and law enforcement.

Status Quo

The global geography concerning the eradication of drug cartels, as of the rearmost available information up to early 2022, continues to present a redoubtable challenge.

While global efforts led to the decline of some prominent Colombian cartels, the drug trade evolved and shifted geographically, specially to Mexico, where syndicates like Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation syndicates gained dominance. These cartels, honoured for their adaptive and extensive felonious conditioning, transcend bare drug trafficking. They engage in a wide diapason of illegal operations, including mortal trafficking, plutocrat laundering, and corruption, further complicating the task of law enforcement agencies and governments in combating their influence. Their operations, frequently marked by extreme violence and corruption, significantly impact societies and destabilise governance structures, particularly in regions where they operate. In addition, the international nature of drug cartels poses significant challenges, with operations stretching across borders and conforming to law enforcement measures. They use sophisticated means, including translated communication channels and cyber operations, to shirk discovery and acclimatise their trafficking routes. Similar rigidity makes these felonious realities flexible and delicate to strike. The global community's unrelenting attempts to address these challenges bear a multifaceted approach.

While law enforcement remains central, dividing the root causes of drug demand, investing in social and profitable development in affected regions, and combating corruption are imperative. Measures concentrated on dismembering fiscal networks and exercising advanced cyber intelligence to fight the cartels' decreasingly sophisticated tactics are vital factors of this comprehensive strategy. Although progress has been made, including the arrest of crucial combination leaders and the seizure of significant drug shipments such as the imprisonment of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, complete eradication remains an ongoing and redoubtable challenge. The hunt for the complete eradication of drug cartels remains an ongoing and redoubtable challenge due to a convergence of complex factors. These felonious associations showcase a remarkable adaptability and rigidity in response to law enforcement efforts, continuously evolving their styles, routes, and operations, making it challenging for authorities to keep pace. Also, their international reach presents a major handicap, operating across borders and exploiting jurisdictional gaps, enabling them to shirk prisoner and execution. Their substantial fiscal coffers deducted from illegal operations empower them to fight law enforcement efforts and maintain their influence, while their infiltration and corruption of institutions weaken the effectiveness of anti-cartel enterprise. Addressing the root causes of drug demand, rooted

within socially profitable issues, remains a significant challenge, taking long-term, comprehensive results.

Another obstacle that needs to be overcome is the political and governance challenges posed by their influence hamper the capacity of governments to effectively combat these felonious associations, immortalising violence and insecurity. The high stakes and extreme violence associated with the drug trade produce dangerous conditions for law enforcement, while the complexity of transnational collaboration among different nations further complicates the coordinated frameworks against these syndicates. Therefore, the multifaceted and interlinked nature of these challenges underscores the need for a holistic, multidimensional approach that extends beyond traditional law enforcement, encompassing socially profitable development, governance reforms, transnational collaboration, and innovative strategies to disrupt the fiscal networks and cyber operations of drug cartels. While complete eradication remains a fugitive thing, ongoing efforts aim to alleviate their influence, reduce societal impact, and promote security and stability in affected regions. The patient status quo highlights the critical need for sustained and united transnational efforts, not limited to law enforcement but encompassing comprehensive socially profitable measures and global collaboration to effectively combat the operations and influence of drug cartels.

Past Actions by Nations and Organisations

United States' Decades-Long War on Drugs

Launched in the 1980s, this action involved substantial fiscal allocations, particularly to bolster anti-drug agencies like the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The strategy revolved around enforcing strict law enforcement measures to disrupt drug trafficking routes, particularly those forming from Latin American countries, where numerous drug cartels had their roots deeply ingrained within local communities. The U.S. conducted a series of operations, including "Operation Panama Express," targeting trouble to fight drug trafficking by bolstering indigenous security and collaboration with Latin American nations.

Mexico's Aggressive Law Enforcement Actions

As a crucial conveyance country for drug trafficking to the United States, Mexico has been laboriously engaged in combating drug cartels within its borders. The Mexican

government has accepted substantial law enforcement operations targeting prominent combination leaders and dismembering their operations. High-profile captures, like Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán of the Sinaloa Cartel, illustrated Mexico's boosted efforts against drug cartels.

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

As part of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) has concentrated on drug policy and control in the Americas. Its part involves fostering cooperation among member countries to combat drug trafficking. CICAD works towards strengthening legal fabrics, enforcing strategies for reducing drug demand, and supporting indigenous enterprises to strike drug trafficking networks.

Stances of Major Countries and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

United States

The United States has historically played a commanding part in the global fight against drug syndicates. Emphasising a comprehensive approach, the U.S. has concentrated on both domestic and transnational strategies. While the "War on drugs" initiated in the 1980s underlined a commitment to law enforcement and interdiction, there has been a growing recognition of the need for a balanced approach. Recent administrations have increasingly emphasised addressing root causes, promoting indispensable development, and combating plutocrat laundering to disrupt the fiscal structures supporting drug syndicates. The U.S. has engaged in expansive transnational collaboration, furnishing aid, intelligence sharing, and supporting enterprises like the Mérida Initiative in Mexico.

Mexico

As a primary conveyance and product mecca for lawless drugs fated for the U.S. request, Mexico has been at the van of combating drug syndicates. Mexican governments have constantly emphasised the need for participating responsibility in addressing the issue, pressing the demand for drugs in the United States as a crucial factor. Mexico's station involves a combination of law enforcement conduct, similar as high-profile apprehensions

and operations against syndicates, and efforts to ameliorate socially profitable conditions in drug-producing regions. Yet, challenges persist due to corruption within law enforcement agencies and the pervasive influence of important syndicates.

Colombia

Colombia, historically associated with important drug syndicates like Medellín and Cali, has made significant strides in reducing the influence of these felonious associations. The Colombian government has enforced robust anti-drug programs, combining eradication efforts, indispensable development programs, and a focus on interdiction. Still, challenges remain, including the coca cultivation and the emergence of new felonious groups. Colombia's station involves an uninterrupted commitment to eradicating lawless crops while addressing the socially profitable factors that contribute to the drug trade.

Russia

Russia has been vocal about the global trouble posed by drug syndicates, particularly in the environment of its enterprises about the inflow of anaesthetics from Afghanistan. Russian authorities emphasise the need for transnational cooperation to address the issue and have engaged in political frameworks within the United Nations to endorse stronger measures against drug trafficking. Russia's approach includes supporting anti-drug enterprise, participating in intelligence, and fostering collaboration among countries affected by the conveyance and product of lawless drugs.

China

China has decreasingly honoured the global impact of drug trafficking and has taken way to address the issue. The Chinese government focuses on domestic efforts to combat drug products and trafficking, enforcing strict anti-drug laws and emphasising transnational cooperation. China's station involves collaboration with neighbouring countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, to disrupt drug trafficking routes and combat international felonious associations involved in the trade.

European Union

The European Union adopts a multifaceted approach to combat drug syndicates, emphasising both internal and external strategies. Internally, EU member countries unite on law enforcement, intelligence sharing, and addressing socially profitable factors contributing to drug demand. Externally, the EU engages in political efforts and cooperation with source and conveyance countries. The EU emphasises a balanced approach that combines interdiction, forestalling, and detriment reduction measures.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC has been at the van coordinating global efforts against drug trafficking. It operates by furnishing specialised support, capacity structure, and policy guidance to colourful countries, abetting in the fight against drug syndicates. The UNODC supports and advocates for transnational cooperation, emphasises the need for stronger legislative fabrics, and promotes anti-money laundering measures to disrupt the fiscal networks that sustain drug syndicates.

As a crucial transnational association devoted to addressing drug-related issues, the UNODC plays a central part in coordinating global efforts. The UNODC lawyers for comprehensive strategies that encompass law enforcement, indispensable development, and demand reduction. It provides specialised backing, capacity structure, and policy guidance to countries affected by drug trafficking. The UNODC's station revolves around fostering transnational cooperation, strengthening legislative fabrics, and supporting enterprises that disrupt the fiscal networks sustaining drug syndicates.

Organization of American States (OAS) and Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)

The OAS and its technical body, CICAD, concentrate on addressing drug-related issues in the Americas. Emphasising an indigenous approach, CICAD fosters cooperation among member countries to combat drug trafficking. The association supports legal fabrics, strategies for reducing drug demand, and enterprise to strike trafficking networks. The OAS

and CICAD advocate for a balanced approach that considers both law enforcement and socially profitable factors.

Possible Solutions

1. Transnational Collaboration and Intelligence Sharing

Strengthening transnational collaboration is consummate in the fight against drug syndicates. Countries affected by the conveyance and product of lawless drugs should enhance intelligence sharing, common operations, and collaboration of law enforcement efforts. Establishing and buttressing indigenous task forces that bring together nations with participating interests in combating drug syndicates can grease a more effective approach.

2. Addressing Socially Profitable Factors

Feting the connected nature of drug trafficking with socially profitable factors, a holistic approach should involve enterprise to address the root causes of drug demand. Nations should invest in sustainable development systems, indispensable livelihoods for communities involved in lawless crop civilization, and poverty reduction programs. This approach aims not only to disrupt the profitable foundations of drug syndicates but also to produce more flexible and tone-sufficient communities.

3. Enhancing Legislative Fabrics and Regulation

Strengthening and harmonising legislative fabrics at the public and transnational situations is pivotal. Countries should review and modernise their laws to ensure they're effective in combating evolving tactics employed by drug syndicates. Also, there should be a focus on harmonising transnational regulations and repatriation covenants to grease the execution of individualities involved in drug trafficking across borders. Establishing clear and strict regulations can act as an interference and give a legal base for effective law enforcement conduct.

4. Promoting Indispensable Approaches to Drug Programs

The traditional approach to drug programs has frequently centred on corrective measures. Exploring and promoting indispensable approaches, similar as detriment reduction and decriminalisation of certain substances, can be considered. Countries should engage in open dialogue and policy conversations to estimate the effectiveness of current corrective measures and explore substantiation-grounded druthers that prioritise public health, recuperation, and detriment reduction.

5. Exercising Advanced Technologies and Cyber Intelligence

Using advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, data analytics, and cyber intelligence, can significantly enhance law enforcement capabilities. Countries should invest in technology-driven results to track fiscal deals, identify trafficking routes, and cover online conditioning related to drug syndicates. Cyber intelligence can play a pivotal part in dismembering communication networks and relating crucial players within these felonious associations.

6. Philanthropic Backing and Rehabilitation Programs

Feting that individualities involved in drug trafficking may include those who are constrained or marginalised, countries should apply philanthropic backing and recuperation programs. These programs should prioritise the recuperation and reintegration of individualities affected by drug syndicates, offering them to a life of crime. Addressing internal health support and dependence issues within affected communities is also essential.

7. Promoting Public Mindfulness and Education

Raising public mindfulness about the consequences of drug trafficking and the societal impact of drug syndicates is abecedarian. Countries should invest in public education juggernauts that punctuate the troubles of drug consumption, the link between drug demand and syndicates, and the significance of reporting suspicious conditioning. Education programs should extend beyond seminaries to engage communities, emphasising forestalling and fostering a collaborative commitment to combating drug-related issues.

8. *Enhanced Border Security and Interdiction Measures*

Strengthening border security measures is essential in dismembering the trafficking routes of drug syndicates. Countries should invest in advanced surveillance technologies, canine units, and labour force training to descry and block lawless drug shipments. Regional collaborations on border security can give a more coordinated response, precluding the movement of drugs across borders.

Questions to Consider

Balancing Law Enforcement and Human Rights

- How can nations strike a balance between robust law enforcement conduct against drug cartels and icing the protection of mortal rights, particularly in regions where the influence of syndicates intersects with vulnerable communities? Delegates should consider their nation's station on this delicate balance and propose measures that guard mortal rights while effectively combating drug trafficking.

Assessing the Effectiveness of Current Programs

- Delegates are encouraged to critically assess the effectiveness of their nation's current drug programs in addressing the issue of drug cartels. What are the strengths and sins of being programs, and how can they be better or restructured to better combat the evolving tactics of drug cartels? Delegates should present well-delved perspectives on the efficacy of current measures.

Indispensable Approaches to Drug Programs

- Nations have different approaches to drug programs, ranging from corrective measures to harm reduction strategies. Delegates should consider the graces and downsides of indispensable approaches, similar as detriment reduction and decriminalisation. What substantiation supports or challenges these indispensable models, and how can they be integrated into public and transnational strategies?

International Cooperation and Information Sharing

- The effectiveness of combating drug cartels relies significantly on transnational collaboration and intelligence sharing. Delegates should estimate the current state of cooperation between their nation and others. What obstacles hamper effective

information sharing, and how can political efforts be enhanced to foster lesser collaboration in the fight against drug trafficking?

Addressing Socially Profitable Factors

- Delegates should consider their nation's station on addressing the socially profitable factors that contribute to drug trafficking. How does their country balance law enforcement conduct with long-term socially profitable development enterprise? What specific programs or programs can be enforced to uplift communities affected by drug cartels and disrupt the profitable foundations of these felonious associations?

Public Mindfulness and Education Enterprise

- Delegates should assess the part of public mindfulness and education juggernauts in combating drug cartels. How effective are current efforts in their nation to educate the public on the consequences of drug consumption and the societal impact of drug cartels? What fresh measures can be enforced to enhance public mindfulness and engagement in the fight against drug trafficking?

Technological Advancements in Law Enforcement

- With the added use of technology by drug cartels, how can nations work advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and cyber intelligence, to enhance law enforcement capabilities? Delegates should explore the implicit benefits and challenges associated with espousing slice-edge technologies and propose strategies to stay ahead of evolving cyber pitfalls posed by drug cartels.

Rehabilitation vs. Punitive Measures

- Delegates should consider their nation's station on recuperation programs for individuals involved in drug trafficking. How does their country balance corrective measures with recuperation enterprise? What substantiation supports the effectiveness of recuperation programs in precluding recidivism, and how can nations more integrate recuperation into their anti-drug strategies?

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Agenda Introduction

Agenda B: Devising Frameworks for Complete Eradication of Drug Cartels

Ever since the world entered the digital age, there has been continuous technological development, and separating our lives from the digital world has become a challenge. Among the many fields that have been influenced by the development of technology, one that has become increasingly integrated into the digital world and is projected to do so even further in the future is the economy. Digital economy, which refers to economic activities generated by connections formed on the internet, is distinct from the conventional economy in that it incorporates digital technologies and the digitization of services, products, techniques, and skills. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of the digital world, there are varying definitions of what is considered to be included in the digital economy, and these very definitions continue to develop alongside technological advancements. Accordingly, it is important that the boundaries of what is considered to be included in the digital economy are commonly defined by the international community for further development to occur.

Another area in need of consideration is infrastructure. As more industries begin to consider the digital economy to offer their products and services, constructing proper infrastructure to support a digital economy has become vital. This includes not only widespread access to the internet or technological devices but also public knowledge on how to work with this new type of economy. While this has been easier for developed countries, which have taken an active role in developing the digital economy and possess the fundamental basis for launching a digital economy, it has been considerably harder for developing countries, which lack the necessary knowledge and resources. However, the important point is that the developing countries are more in need of this digital economy, as it has the potential to serve as a bridge to close the gap of economic disparity between developed and developing countries by directly integrating the economies of developing countries into the global market. Thus, it is crucial for the ECOSOC to ensure that proper

infrastructure for the digital economy can be built in developing countries for their inclusion in the global economy.

Key Terms

Digital Transformation

Digital transformation refers to the incorporation of digital technology into all areas of business. It is not limited to just the simple integration of technologies into existing businesses but also includes utilising these technologies to create new business models, processes, and experiences for both suppliers and consumers in the constantly developing economy. This process does not intend to fundamentally change operations in businesses, but most often results in drastic changes in how businesses deliver value to consumers. It is important when discussing digital economies as the integration of digital technologies can be identified as an essential character of the new type of economy, and this integration breaks down geographical barriers, enabling access to global markets and promoting international trade and economic growth on a large scale.

Financial Technology (Fintech)

Financial technology, more commonly referred to as Fintech, is a set of innovations in technology that are used to develop and automate a wide range of financial services. This specific type of technology is composed of specialised software and computed algorithms that are targeted at allowing users to manage their financial operations more easily. Users range from large companies to individual users that conduct financial operations on their individual digital devices. Some examples of fintech include online payment systems, mobile banking, and crowdfunding. Fintech is a crucial factor in the digital economy because it has the potential to expand financial inclusion, which is fundamental to the growth of digital economies. However, as it is relatively new, regulatory problems regarding its use exist.

Cloud Computing

Cloud computing allows consumers to utilise computing services such as storage and infrastructure over the internet rather than on physical servers or computers. This has many

benefits over traditional on-premises Information Technology (IT) as it allows for elasticity, allows for easy scaling in a more cost-efficient manner, and lowers IT costs. The latter benefit of lowering IT costs is a factor in need of concentration, as it has the potential to reduce costs needed to develop physical infrastructure in developing countries. Clouds cut the costs and efforts of purchasing and maintaining individual on-premise infrastructure and hardware. Moreover, cloud computing enables collaboration on a global scale as it serves as a platform for sharing and accessing data from users globally. Developing countries will be able to participate in international research, trade, and communication through cloud computing, ultimately developing their digital economies.

Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce)

Electronic commerce, or e-commerce, is the purchasing and selling of goods and services over the internet. It is a new type of business model, part of what defines the digital economy, that experienced unprecedented growth during the recent COVID-19 pandemic due to populations not being able to physically exchange goods or services and increasingly preferring convenient methods to purchase products. E-commerce can include online retail, electronic payments, and digital marketplaces. Starting as a new business model itself, e-commerce has given birth to more specified business models such as Business to Consumer (B2C), Business to Business (B2B), Direct to Consumer (D2C), and more. Some potentials of e-commerce include reducing barriers to entry, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), supply chain optimization through new digital technologies, and bridging the urban-rural divide by providing platforms for businesses based in rural areas.

Digital Currency

Digital currency is any currency or money-like asset that is in electronic form. It includes cryptocurrencies, which are virtual currencies that operate independently of a central bank, such as Bitcoin, Litecoin, etc. Digital currencies differ from electronic forms of physical currencies as they never take a physical form. They do not leave the computer network, and transactions occur only by digital means. However, as there are varying definitions of the digital economy, varying definitions for digital currency also exist. Some definitions of the term define digital currency as including traditional currencies in digital form along with newly developed forms that are not physically available. Along with the

aforementioned cryptocurrency, other varieties of digital currencies include stable coins and central bank digital currency (CBDC). A focus should be drawn to CBDCs as they can serve as a secure government-backed form of money that can add to an economy's stability. It is able to eliminate risks associated with traditional banking, which can improve financial stability in developing countries.

Data Privacy

Data privacy refers to the ability of an individual to determine when, how, and to what extent their personal information can be shared. In the digital age, however, this data is not only limited to data offline but also to data online and the protection and control of this information, as leakages of private information have been a common problem encountered by many digital users. Further, as digital economies require and depend heavily on the collection and processing of extensive amounts of data, including the personal data of users, the protection of data privacy has become increasingly important in developed countries that utilise digital economies. Hence, when building new infrastructure for developing countries to implement digital economies, it is crucial to take the issues of data privacy into account and ensure that the infrastructure allows their rights to data privacy to be guaranteed. Regulations and policies on an international scale must also be developed in order to address cybersecurity concerns, cases of data monetization, and the drawbacks of digital economies in regards to data privacy.

Digital Literacy

According to the United Nations Vocational Education (UNEVOC) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), digital literacy is the ability to access, understand, and create information through digital technologies for diverse purposes. Improving digital literacy in developing countries and rural areas in both developing and developed countries is an important agenda item within the development of digital economies, as without the knowledge of how to appropriately put technologies to use, digital economies cannot continue to develop and will not be able to reach their full potential. Furthermore, digital literacy refers not only to simply equipping individuals with the knowledge of using a wide range of digital technologies but also to informing them of the ethical aspects of communication and interactions in the digital world. Informing users of

ethical guidelines will be important for the long-term development of digital economies as it becomes more widespread and the possibilities of people exploiting its benefits increase.

Historical Background

Ever since the rise of the software industry and the widespread adoption of personal computers in the 1980s, digital ecosystems and altered forms of business processes have been introduced in countries that had access to these new technologies. With Tim Berners-Lee's invention of the World Wide Web in 1989, the internet became rapidly commercialised and the internet became a platform for vast amounts of information and communication, accessible to many. As this commercialization of the internet took place, what is known as the 'dot-com' boom that led to the dot-com bubble took place in the late 1990s, which was the fast-paced growth of internet-based businesses and startups. E-commerce and online banking were introduced, and businesses began to interact with consumers in the online world. During this period, the term 'digital economy' was coined by a finance expert named Don Tapscott in his book "The Digital Economy: Promise and Peril in the Age of Networked Intelligence." The following figure is a timeline from TechEela that shows how digital transformation has occurred in the recent past.

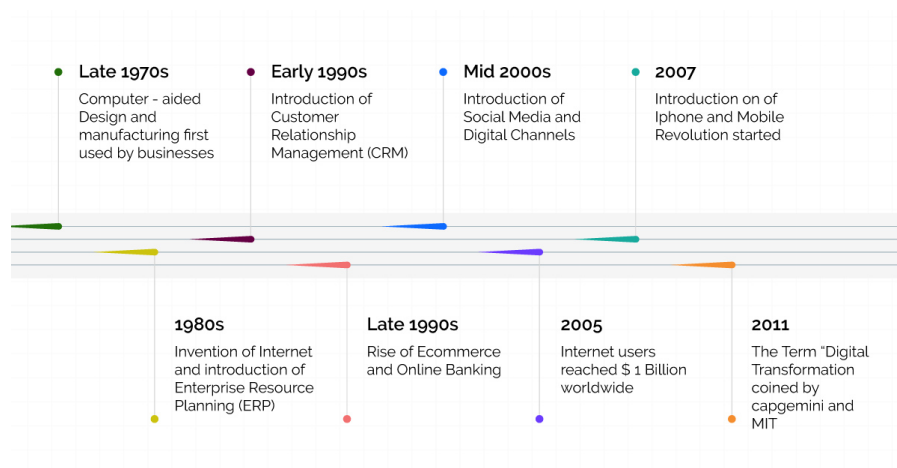


Figure 1. Timeline of Digital Transformation, TechEela 2023

Digitalisation was further accelerated with the expansion of broadband internet, which is defined as the transmission of high-quality data over a wide bandwidth over a high-speed internet connection, according to Investopedia, and with the proliferation of mobile

technologies. These mobile technologies allowed for constant and instantaneous access to the internet and were more affordable than previous technologies, which allowed for more people to easily access the digital web. Mobile technologies are now one of the most vital parts and foundations of the digital economy, as most consumers utilise these interfaces to conduct online banking activities, participate in e-commerce, and facilitate other economic activities. Over time, as the world entered the digital age, where the economy shifted from being industrial-based to information-based, more advancements in existing digital technologies and innovations in new technologies such as cloud computing, big data, and the Internet of Things (IoT) followed. While progress was consistent over these periods, the introduction of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the acceleration of digital transformation in the past three years since 2020, and with this, the digital economy was expanded to encompass more populations than ever. As most did not anticipate this sudden expansion, the definition of digital economy remained ambiguous and was interpreted differently. The current digital economy is a \$3 trillion-dollar ecosystem that is based on technological infrastructure and extensive participants.

However, despite this value of the digital economy, developing countries and their populations are still behind in joining this large digital market. Thus, it has become important to develop digital infrastructures that will allow more developing countries to participate in the digital economy, increase existing value, and result in more people gaining more benefits. Moreover, these infrastructures that support the digital transformation of developing countries are significant as they have the potential to become a pivotal solution to the prevalent long-term issue of economic disparity between countries.

Status Quo

With world populations not being able to physically interact and conduct economic activities in person during the pandemic, the digital economy has experienced unprecedented growth during the past three years. According to McKinsey & Company, the average share of digital consumer interactions increased by an astonishing 22% between 2019 and 2020 globally. The average share of goods and services that are digitised in businesses has also reached over 50% globally and in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and North America regions. COVID-19 has proven to accelerate the already rapid pace of development in the digital world, along with the expansion and growth of digital economies. Advancements in digital

technologies, such as in the areas of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, fintech, and virtual reality (VR), have also collectively geared towards this experienced growth. It is probable that a complete return to traditional economies has now become impossible, with consumers knowing the convenience and advantages of digital economies and companies having developed online platforms and invested in digital-related capital expenditures for the future.

This rapid process has also revealed the existence of wide gaps in digital readiness between countries and the inability of developing countries to follow that fast transition and digitalization with a lack of resources and infrastructure. Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact highlighted the necessity of providing assistance in building digital infrastructure in developing countries. Those residing in rural regions within these developing countries were shown to lack internet access and integration into the digital economy. One of the biggest improvements of the digital economy during the pandemic was e-commerce, due to remote activities and individual consumers utilising the internet to interact and purchase goods or services. People residing in these areas that lack affordable internet access or advanced digital technologies were denied access to e-commerce markets. The following graph from Statista and referred to by the World Economic Forum (WEF) shows the percentage of people with access to the internet based on economic vulnerability in developing economies, developed economies, and globally.

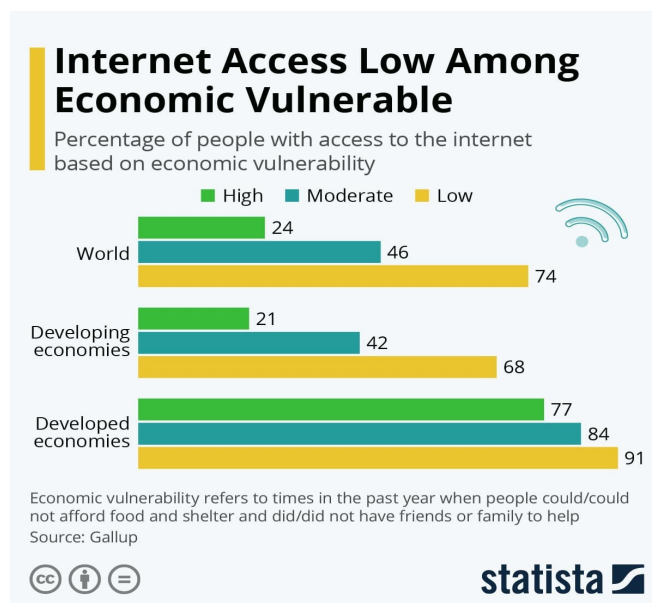


Figure 2. Internet Access Low Among Economic Vulnerable, Statista 2020

The graph indicates a large difference in the percentage of people with high economic vulnerability. In developed economies, 77 percent of people with high economic vulnerability had access to the internet, whereas in developing economies, only 21 percent of people had access, which was close to the global statistic of 24 percent. Access in developed economies was almost three times that of developing economies and the global average, and from this, it can be inferred that only in these developed countries was the digital infrastructure that allowed for affordable access to the internet, increasing the percentage of people in the high economic vulnerability category. Hence, it indicated that currently, the digital divide is largely based on a lack of affordable access, and when constructing digital infrastructure for developing economies, it is essential to take this factor of affordability into consideration.

Currently, while there are initiatives, alliances, and projects that have been launched to support developing countries in constructing foundations for digital economies, several challenges have been interplaying with these efforts, hindering development in some areas. Among several, three major challenges have been balancing multi-stakeholder collaborations, economic uncertainty, and political instability. Many of the initiatives launched, including the ones that are later explained in this report, are multi-stakeholder projects, where the private and public sectors, numerous organisations, and sometimes corporations interact in order to build digital infrastructure. However, balancing these multi-stakeholder collaborations can be difficult as each stakeholder has their own unique opinion about the project, and achieving consensus can take a long period of time. When effective and efficient, multi-stakeholder collaborations can successfully establish digital infrastructures over a short period of time, but when ineffective, they can stall progress and hinder development. Economic uncertainty, including fluctuations in currency, inflation, and debt concerns, has also presented challenges in the establishment of digital infrastructure, as these factors impact funding and investments that are vital to these projects. Moving forward, it is important that funding is not highly dependent on one source, as there are economic uncertainties that any economy may face, but should be appropriately or proportionately divided among investors. Lastly, a great challenge that has remained unsolved is political instability. In areas that are undergoing political instability, especially in the form of war or conflict, developing digital infrastructure has not experienced much success. This is largely because political instability can cause fewer foreign investments and disrupt long-term infrastructure projects.

Taking into account the current status quo of digital economies and the challenges faced by existing developments, delegates must devise solutions that address these challenges. This is especially crucial in the case of digital economies, as advancements in the digital world itself are rapid, and coming up with solutions that present the same challenges that are faced currently can further widen the gap of progress between countries and their economies. It is also important for delegates to compare and analyse the differences between the digital economies of developed and developing countries in order to find focal points and take advantage of successful models of digital economies or digital infrastructure. For instance, as stated above, one characteristic of digital access in developed countries was ‘affordability.’ Consequently, affordability must be a focal point for developing digital infrastructure in developing countries.

Past Actions by Nations and Organisations

2020 Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

Launched in 2020 by the UN, the “Roadmap for Digital Cooperation” is a series of actions that attempt to address the opportunities put forth by digital transformation after the world experienced how important the digital world and digital technologies have become for maintaining connection during the pandemic. The roadmap was part of the UN Secretary-General’s Digital Cooperation strategy and was made as guidance for all stakeholders to develop the digital world into a more safe and equitable one to defeat challenges such as growing digital divides, cyber threats, and human rights violations. There are eight key areas for action identified in the roadmap, which are: achieving universal connectivity by 2030; promoting digital public goods; ensuring digital inclusion for all; strengthening digital capacity-building; ensuring the protection of human rights; supporting global cooperation on artificial intelligence; promoting trust and security in the digital environment; and building a more effective architecture for digital cooperation. As the fundamental basis of digital economies is for populations to become connected and have access to the internet and digital technologies, this overarching roadmap is a significant factor in developing infrastructure in developing countries. Since its launch in 2020, notable progress has been made. More global forums for digital cooperation between stakeholders in the government and private sectors have been created, initiatives to enhance digital literacy and skills for employing digital technologies have been put into place, and more countries

have strengthened laws on data protection and privacy. These changes all gear towards establishing a firm basis for digital economies and for the universal goal of digital cooperation set forward by the UN.

World Bank Digital Development Partnership

The Digital Development Partnership (DDP) by the World Bank is geared toward aiding developing countries to leverage digital innovations to solve challenges their countries are facing. It brings together public and private sector partners to advance digital solutions and, most importantly, catalyse digital transformation in developing countries. The partnership provides support in implementing digital development strategies in areas such as data and indicators, digital economy-enabling environments, universal internet access, digital government, and many more. Among these areas, the most important for this agenda can be identified as the digital economy-enabling environments, as these environments are currently not available in developing countries, leaving them unable to participate in the globally connected economy online. DDP is powered by loans and grants from the World Bank and other development partners that have joined the World Bank in this initiative. Currently, DDP has a partnership with both countries and IT firms. Countries in this partnership include Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, while IT firms include Google, the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), and Microsoft. Under its official website, updates on progress are posted and made accessible to all, ensuring that funds are allocated efficiently and stakeholders are aware of the outcome of their investments. This not only ensures that preexisting partners stay but also serves as an apparatus to attract new partners that can contribute to this cause and allow for more development to take place.

Smart Africa Alliance

An initiative that was launched under the cooperation of 30 African heads of state and governments, the Smart Africa Alliance was aimed at expanding affordable access to broadband and using digital devices such as information and communication technologies (ICT) in Africa in order to establish a knowledge economy—an economy where consumption and production are primarily based on intellectual capital, allowing for long-term growth and development. Since its initial alliance of 54 heads of government of the African Union in

2014, the alliance has continued to develop, currently representing the interests of approximately 750 million people, and has structured a goal of developing a digital single market on the African continent by 2030. Some specific targets part of their vision of a “Smart” Africa include developing affordable digital infrastructure, promoting and implementing frameworks for doing business and making investments across the continent, and boosting the entrepreneurship ecosystem for active business activities. To ensure the contribution of individual states to the alliance, each state is assigned a specific flagship initiative to carry out. One example of a flagship project currently being carried out by a member state would be the ‘Cloud and Data Centers for Africa Project,’ which was led by Djibouti. This flagship intends to create localised data centres in Africa that will serve as the foundations for the continent’s single market and will ensure the security of data. In addition to collaborating among the member states of the alliance, the Smart Africa Alliance has also been cooperating with external organisations such as the African Development Fund, with which they have recently launched a \$1.5 million project to enhance digital trade and e-commerce ecosystems.

Digital Silk Road (DSR) from the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) from China has been characterised as one of the largest infrastructure projects ever designed. The BRI was launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013 and was designed to link vast areas of East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure, similar to the Silk Road built in the past. However, the BRI has today expanded to territories beyond East Asia and Europe to include Africa, Oceania, and Latin America, which has broadened connectivity. With the proclamation that cooperation in the digital economy is a priority of the BRI, Beijing has focused on the expansion of the Digital Silk Road (DSR), constructing digital networks such as data centres and fibre optic cables. As the DSR increasingly has greater significance within the overall BRI strategy, more investments have been made to develop telecommunications networks, cloud computing, e-commerce and mobile payment systems, and more in countries that are part of the BRI. The most important is cross-border e-commerce, which has developed to establish a bilateral e-commerce cooperation mechanism with over 20 countries from five continents. More specifically, China’s cross-border e-commerce exports in the first quarter of last year rose by 92.7% year over year. However, while the BRI seems to have made significant improvements for its participants, a limitation of it is that it has simultaneously broadened China’s political

and economic influence across territories and has resulted in various countries, especially developing countries, falling into a debt trap. This indicates that there should be frameworks constructed to protect participants in the BRI and measures to help countries get out of the debt trap they have fallen into. A more critical view of this initiative must be held, and measures for more sustainable economic growth should be prioritised.

Stances of Major Countries and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

United States

The United States is undoubtedly one of the countries playing a major role in the development of digital economies and in extending access to the internet. According to the Digital Economy Report 2021 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United States, along with China, has the largest capacity to engage in and benefit from the data-driven digital economy. Together, they account for approximately 90% of the market capitalization of the largest digital platforms, which shows their influence in data control. However, in the United States, large portions of this data are controlled by private digital corporations instead of the government or public sector. It employs a light-touch approach that allows for the free flow of data. As previously stated, the United States has also made efforts to improve internet access. The Global Connect Initiative, launched in 2015 with the goal of connecting an additional 1.5 billion people to the internet until 2020, was an example of efforts taken by the United States government. The following graph shows how the gross output of the digital economy has continued to rise over the past two decades.

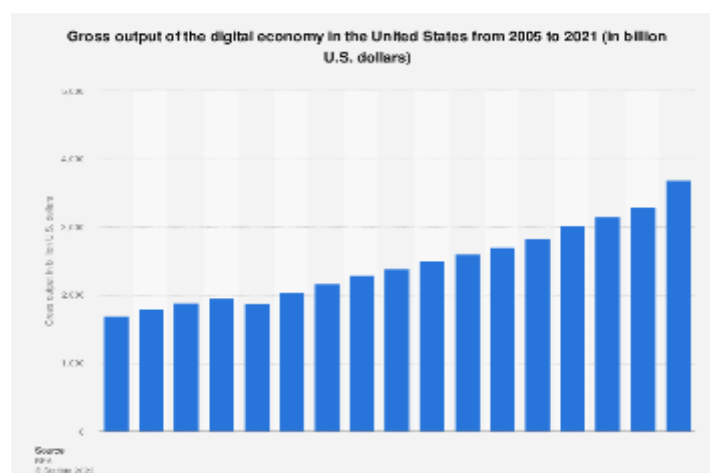


Figure 3. Gross Output of the Digital Economy in the United States 2005-2021, Statista 2022

China

Along with the United States, China is a major geopolitical player in the global digital economy. China has the largest digital infrastructure, which includes advanced facilities such as the 5G network and data centres that are the foundations of economic growth. Furthermore, China has also developed a big data industry chain that collects data, processes data, and stores data. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) revealed that there were 5.2 million racks and 19 million servers in data centres as of 2021, providing data to different sectors. While this is evidence that proves China has one of the most developed data management systems in the world, China is different in its method of controlling data from the United States or other member states as most data is controlled by the government and strict data localization is continuing to be employed. Regardless, investments in more digital technologies, digital infrastructure, and the carrying out of projects such as the BRI have geared towards making China one of the key players in the digital economy of the world. The graph below, published by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), shows the scale of China's digital economy and how it has grown over the years in their national currency, the Renminbi (RMB).

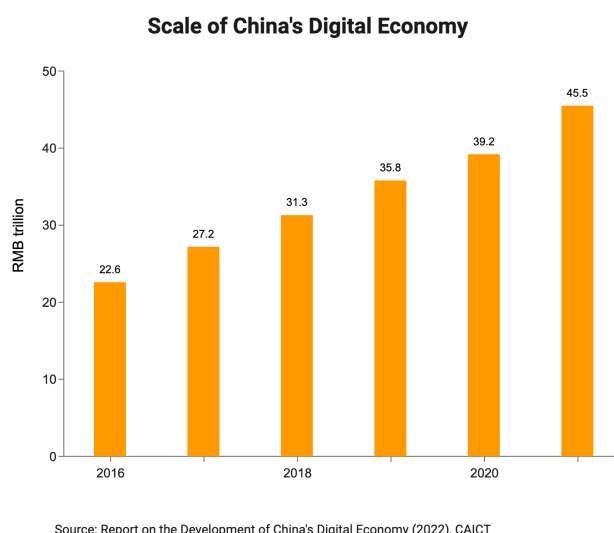


Figure 4. Development of China's Digital Economy 2016-2020, HKTDC Research 2023

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) is one of the leading Asian countries in the current digital economy, identified as a 'Stand Out Economy' by the Harvard Business Review. Stand Out Economy refers to economies that are currently highly digitised and have a strong outlook for further advancing their digital capabilities in the future. ROK has not only high adaptability, which is important considering the nature of the rapidly changing digital environment, but has also constantly demonstrated innovative ways that contribute to developing the digital economy and environment. Further, ROK has topped the World Bank Index for Digital Transformation of the Public Sector and the GovTech Maturity Index (GMI) in 2022. This reveals a notable characteristic of ROK: a strong digital government along with exemplary e-government initiatives. The government of ROK has continuously invested in programs to build digital infrastructure and promote the use of digital devices in public services. It sets an example for what role the government can play and how it can become digitised. Recently, the e-government system has been exported to countries that are in need of digitalization or countries wanting to improve the quality of their systems.

Kenya

Categorised as a 'Break Out Economy,' by the Harvard Business Review, Kenya's economy significantly lacks the necessary digital infrastructure but has shown to digitalise rapidly. Since 2016, the country's ICT sector has shown an annual growth rate of 10.8%, and its digital economy is expected to contribute to approximately 9.24% of the country's GDP by 2025. Kenya serves as a prime example of a developing country becoming an influential contributor and participant in the global digital economy. Several factors play into Kenya's success story. Among many, some of them are identified as large investments in increasing the basic digital literacy of local populations, the acquisition of advanced skills in data management, and a high demand that continues to fuel progress and innovation. With 98% of the Kenyan population using mobile money and 65% having access to the internet, the country is now aiming to become a globally competitive and newly-industrialising country with a high quality of life by the year 2030 as a part of the 'Kenya Vision 2030.' Digital transformation is included as a part of this large vision, as the government is seeking to improve digital infrastructure and invest in the digital skills development of its citizens.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The UNCTAD was established to focus specifically on trade and development between nations and to give guidance in the areas of finance, technology, investment, and sustainable development. It is part of the UN's mission to construct a free and secure digital future for all, giving insights and assistance to countries facing challenges in trade and development. Further, UNCTAD has a focus on implementing e-commerce and elements of the digital economy in developing countries for inclusive development. The 'eTrade for All' initiative is an example of a platform UNCTAD has composed for partnerships between governments, businesses, and international organisations to share effective strategies related to e-commerce. Apart from this, the organisation has also taken part in extensive research on assessing the readiness of regions for eTrade, figuring out which e-commerce strategies are effective, and publishing annual Trade and Development Reports.

ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development

Established in 2010 as a joint initiative between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UNESCO, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development is a high-level advocacy group that has the goal of achieving universal broadband connectivity. The commission is currently composed of over 50 members that engage in promoting the widespread use of broadband in developing countries and building partnerships between different stakeholders. While it works to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and the Digital Cooperation Roadmap, the commission has its own 2025 Broadband Advocacy Targets, comprising seven specific targets they are working toward. Among the seven, target five reads: increase use of e-finance. By 2050, they aim to enable 40% of the world's population to use digital financial services. This target is particularly important as it specifically mentions the development of e-finance services to fit the environments and needs of developing countries. Progress is tracked annually through their flagship State of Broadband Reports and their Target Update Campaign.

Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI)

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) is hosted by the World Wide Web Foundation, an international organisation that works to make the open web a public good and a basic right for all people. The alliance represents cooperation between private businesses,

governments, and civil society actors to devise policies that reduce the cost of utilising the web in order to make universal connection a reality. A4AI's work consisted of three different tasks, namely, engagement, advocacy, and research. In the engagement aspect, A4AI works with the national governments of various developing countries by formalising partnerships through official Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Each coalition of selected countries is led by assigned local coalition leaderships, divided by continent. The advocacy aspect specifically focuses on policy advocacy, constructing a publicly available database, offering distinct frameworks and plans to carry out the alliance's vision, and working to accomplish partnerships with other organisations interested in the cause. The last aspect of research gears effort towards publishing various reports and the Affordability Drivers Index (ADI), which assesses how well a country is working to ensure affordable broadband.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organisation that brings individuals and leaders from the political and private sectors together to discuss agendas that have been affecting the global economy. Like the UN, WEF has no decision-making power, but these leaders discuss pressing agendas and devise solutions that can benefit the international community. It is powered mainly by its members, who are identified as prominent business and political figures. Among the many actions taken by the WEF, one that ties in with the development of digital economies was the 'Internet for All' initiative. With a particular focus on the continent of Africa, Internet for All aims for the digital transformation that will accelerate internet access and adoption and ultimately extend the reach of the internet to the four billion people across the world. It endorses public-private cooperation, or public-private partnerships (PPP), as it believes partnerships between the public and private sectors are essential to making pragmatic changes and progress. The WEF also emphasises the need for inclusive connectivity models and active community engagement in order to guarantee that minority groups and rural regions are not left behind in the development of digital economies and the reduction of the digital divide.

Possible Solutions

1. Setting International Standards

One of the most important aspects that is currently lacking in the midst of the development of the digital economy is clear definitions of concepts related to the digital economy and to the digital economy itself, as stated previously in the agenda introduction. Coming up with international definitions is a significant step that needs to be taken in order to set a common boundary for what should be and should not be considered as a part of digital economies. Agreements on definitions and standards will also increase international cooperation and provide a universal framework for businesses and corporations to engage in global trade, further expanding the global digital economy. Apart from this, international standards and regulations to protect users' data privacy are another factor to consider and develop.

2. Digital Literacy Education & Professional Training

According to the Digital Economy Blueprint, the digital skills of ICT professionals are one of the key components of a well-developed digital economy. Hence, professional training and the cultivation of a larger pool of human resources are important steps toward the enlargement of the digital economy. As professionals are currently dispatched to developing countries to share their acquitted knowledge and skills, more skilled professionals will increase the number available to do this work. Direct training of individuals in developing countries will also be an effective strategy, as they will become the foundations for development. Besides professional training, education for digital literacy in developing countries that lack basic knowledge of working with digital devices will also be a focal point for the current status quo.

3. Environments for Research & Innovation

Many developing countries lack the appropriate environments for research and venturing into the digital world. This has resulted in a negative cycle of being unable to escape low rates of digital literacy and being unable to join the global digital economy. Thus, fostering environments for research and innovation is vital. As most ongoing research and development is conducted by professionals and corporations from developed countries, it is

important that these new environments allow the same stakeholders from developing countries to take part. This way, the developing countries will become less dependent on the developed countries, finding ways to participate in the global digital economy as individual entities in the long term. Along with this, creating digital entrepreneurial ventures will also prove to be a successful strategy for inclusion and advancement.

4. Establishment of International Data Centers

With data privacy increasingly causing more issues in the digital world, methods for securing and managing data in ethical ways are needed. Many data centres that have already been built are largely managed by private corporations or bodies part of the public sector, such as sovereign governments. Thus, in some cases, it is hard to track how data is managed and whether it is safe. As the digital economy expands and more users start sharing their personal information and data online, data will accumulate, and unprecedented issues may arise along with this vast amount of data. Establishing international data centres that can be controlled by multiple participants holding each other accountable and that can serve as a platform to analyse data can be an important step forward in the development of the digital economy.

5. Circulation of Digital Technologies

Eventually, when standards are developed and digital literacy is improved, the increase in available digital technologies and affordable access to the internet will be the most significant factor that contributes to developing countries partaking in the digital economy. Taking the rapid pace of development in the digital world into account, one solution that can allow for the increase in available technologies is an international circulation of digital technologies, especially in the direction from developed to developing countries initially. However, a limitation of this strategy is that if the circulation only flows in this direction, developing countries will always be unable to fully participate in the digital economy. Therefore, for this strategy to be successful, finding a balance between the circulations will be crucial. This strategy also has the potential to be employed in both developed and developing countries to reduce inequalities between majority and minority groups or urban and rural areas.

Questions to Consider

- How can the most urgent and needed infrastructure be determined? Does this have to be by countries as a whole or by specific regions within each country?
- What are compelling incentives for developed countries to help construct infrastructure in developing countries? How do we determine the share of investments?
- How can countries contribute to existing initiatives for building digital infrastructure or further develop them? Knowing that these initiatives are based on different continents, how can they interact to produce beneficial outcomes?
- What are the limitations of current initiatives, and how can these failures be overcome through remedies or newly designed initiatives? Current initiatives are commonly collaborations within continents or between private and public actors.
- How can member states collaborate with powerful private corporations that wield a large amount of influence through PPP in the current digital economy?
- What can be done to prevent the dependency of developing countries on developed countries in the process of helping developing countries? What are self-sufficient methods for them to build infrastructure, and should these methods be prioritised?

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