

THE SAMARKAND DECLARATION ON TECH DIPLOMACY

Global Action and Commitment for Digital Governance

Launched November 1, 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of nations, organizations, and institutions, gathered in historic Samarkand,

Recognizing that emerging technologies—including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, and advanced connectivity—are transforming every dimension of human life, economy, and governance at unprecedented speed and scale;

Acknowledging that technology transcends borders, yet must be shaped by diverse national priorities, values, governance systems, and development contexts, with particular attention to the needs and perspectives of developing countries;

Affirming that multilateral cooperation is essential to ensure technological development serves humanity's common good while respecting sovereignty, cultural diversity, and human rights;

Convinced that diplomatic engagement on technology issues requires new institutional mechanisms, specialized expertise, and sustained coordination across government, private sector, civil society, and academia;

Committed to building a global architecture for tech diplomacy that is inclusive, transparent, and adaptable to rapid technological change;

Do hereby adopt this Declaration as a voluntary, non-binding framework for tech diplomacy, open for signature by all Nation States and endorsement by supporting partners from the private sector, civil society, and academia. This Declaration does not create legal obligations for participating States and allows for flexible implementation approaches based on national circumstances and priorities.

We support the following principles and actions:

ARTICLE 1: INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO TECH DIPLOMACY

1.1 Appointment of Tech Ambassadors or Equivalent Representatives

We encourage nations to appoint Tech Ambassadors or equivalent senior diplomatic representatives dedicated to technology and innovation diplomacy, recognizing the critical importance of institutionalizing tech diplomacy at the highest levels of foreign policy.

Each signatory nation is encouraged to establish and strengthen such positions at senior government level (ministerial, deputy ministerial, or equivalent), empowered to:

- Coordinate national technology policy and international engagement,
- Represent the nation in international fora on digital governance, and
- Engage with counterparts globally to shape technology standards and norms

1.2 Integration with Foreign Policy

We encourage these senior representatives (whether titled Tech Ambassadors or equivalent) to be integrated into their national foreign policy systems, supporting the consideration of technological factors in diplomatic strategy and international relations.

1.3 Participation in Global Platform

We invite signatories to engage their appointed senior representatives in the international community convened by the Tech Diplomacy Institute (TDI), participating in regular convenings, peer learning, and collaborative initiatives.

ARTICLE 2: ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE

2.1 Global Standards Development

We encourage signatories to contribute their national perspectives, expertise, and best practices to the evolution of global standards for AI governance, data protection, cybersecurity, and other emerging technology domains, with particular attention to ensuring that the voices of developing countries are heard and their needs are addressed.

2.2 Digital Rights & Inclusion

Each signatory expresses support for:

- Bridging digital divides within and across nations,
- Upholding human rights online, including access to information, privacy, and data protection,
- Harnessing technology for sustainable development and advancing the UN SDGs, and
- Promoting environmentally responsible technology development and deployment

ARTICLE 3: MULTILATERAL COORDINATION

3.1 Global Tech Diplomacy Forum

We invite signatories to participate in the annual Global Tech Diplomacy Forum, convened by TDI, to review implementation progress, address emerging challenges, coordinate multilateral responses, and build consensus on international norms and standards.

3.2 Regional and Thematic Engagement

The Tech Diplomacy Institute may organize regional, thematic, or issue-specific convenings to facilitate deeper collaboration among signatories. Participation in such convenings is encouraged and voluntary, based on national priorities and interests.

3.3 Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

We encourage signatories to engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on technology issues, leveraging the TDI platform to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, joint initiatives, and collaborative problem-solving.

ARTICLE 4: FINAL PROVISIONS

4.1 Universal Access for Nation States

The Samarkand Declaration remains open for signature by all Nation States at any time. Signature carries no prerequisites related to political system, level of economic development, or existing digital infrastructure. This Declaration represents voluntary commitments by signatories, with implementation approaches varying based on national circumstances.

4.2 Supporting Partners

Private sector companies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international organizations are invited to sign as Supporting Partners of this Declaration, endorsing its principles and committing to collaborative implementation. Supporting Partners will be recognized in the official registry and invited to participate in relevant TDI convenings and initiatives.

4.3 Entry into Force and Depositary

This Declaration enters into force upon signature by the founding members on November 1, 2025, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Tech Diplomacy Institute shall serve as depositary, maintaining an official registry of signatories and supporting coordination as requested.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We, the founding signatories — Nation States, private sector leaders, civil society organizations, and academic institutions — gathered in Samarkand, a city that for centuries served as a crossroads of knowledge, commerce, and culture, recognize that we stand at a similar crossroads in human history.

The technologies we develop and deploy in the coming years will determine whether humanity flourishes in an era of unprecedented innovation or fractures under the weight of digital disruption.

By adopting this Declaration, we choose cooperation over fragmentation, inclusion over exclusion, and human dignity over technological determinism.

We invite all Nation States to join us as signatories, and all organizations dedicated to responsible technology governance—from private sector to civil society to academia—to join



us as supporting partners in building a global architecture for tech diplomacy. Together, we will create a framework that honors sovereignty while embracing interdependence, one that advances innovation while protecting rights, and one that ensures the digital future is shaped by the many, not the few. This neutral and inclusive platform will be particularly attentive to the voices and needs of developing countries, ensuring that technological progress benefits all of humanity.

From the Silk Road of the past, we forge a digital road to the future.