

Conference Highlights

UN Open Source Week 2025



An Open Community for the Global Digital Compact

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for Digital Transformation and
Government Modernisation



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Conference Highlights

UN Open Source Week 2025: An Open Community for the Global Digital Compact

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OpenForum Europe

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Introduction

From 16–20 June 2025, the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) and the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) hosted UN Open Source Week 2025. With over 1,000 participants from 75 countries, more than 160 speakers, and close to 100 sponsors and partners, this year’s programme marked a new milestone in scale, ambition, and impact.

Open source technologies are not just tools; they are building blocks for inclusive development, transparent governance, and shared innovation.

Co-hosted with Germany, the Dominican Republic, and Nigeria, the week highlighted the expanding role of open source and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in driving inclusive digital transformation, strengthening digital sovereignty, and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over five days, the programme combined high-level keynotes, practical hackathons, breakout sessions, and community-led events. Participants co-created open source solutions for UNICEF platforms, expanded Wikipedia’s coverage of global digital policy, debated approaches to ethical AI, shared insights from government OSPOs, and charted pathways for inclusive DPI.

As Ambassador Maurizio Massari of Italy noted in his opening remarks: “Open source technologies are not just tools; they are building blocks for inclusive development, transparent governance, and shared innovation.” This report captures the central themes, sessions, and outcomes from each day, underscoring how open source has become a cornerstone of multilateral digital cooperation.

Day 1 and 2

The opening of the UN Open Source Week 2025 was dedicated to hands-on collaboration. Under the banner UN Tech Over, participants filled UN Headquarters and satellite spaces to take part in three impactful events.

The “Ahead of the Storm” Hackathon, organized with UNICEF, The Apache Software Foundation, the Linux Professional Institute (LPI), and the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF), focused on innovative, child-centered climate tech solutions. The Edit-A-Thon, supported by the Permanent Missions of Italy and Sri Lanka alongside the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia NYC, brought together UN experts, students, first-time contributors, and open-source advocates to collaboratively improve Wikipedia’s coverage of global digital policy, from digital public goods and AI regulation to the Global Digital Compact, UN history, and more. Meanwhile, the Maintain-A-Thon, backed by the Sovereign Tech Agency

and Alpha-Omega, fostered peer learning around the often invisible but essential work of open source sustainability.

Together, these events underscored the diversity of open source contributions — from coding prototypes, to documenting knowledge, to maintaining the software that underpins critical systems. Days 1 and 2 set the tone for the week: open source is not just about technology, but about the people and practices that sustain it. The practical, high-energy atmosphere showed how open collaboration can deliver tangible results in a short time — and how the UN can serve as a convener for global communities working in the open.

Opening plenary

Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to the United Nations

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to the United Nations

Thank you very much Chair and Distinguished Ambassador Jayasuriya, distinguished UN Tech Envoy Mr. Gill, dear speakers and guests. It's a great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to this event jointly organized by Italy, Sri Lanka, and Wikimedia, together with the competent UN offices in charge of this edition of UN Open Source Week, the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) and the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). I would like to thank them for the great support they offered us for the organization of this event.



Today's Edit-A-Thon holds a special meaning for my country. This year, Italy proudly marks the 70th anniversary of its membership to the UN, a journey of shared values, multilateral commitment, and global partnerships. We share our pride for this milestone with Sri Lanka, one of the 16 countries that, like Italy, was admitted to the UN in 1955. At the same time, we join the international community in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the UN itself and enduring the same boat of cooperation and peace.

In the spirit of celebration and reflection, we have chosen to focus today on one of the most vital frontiers of our time, the Digital Commons. Open source technologies are not just tools; they are building blocks for inclusive development, transparent governance, and shared innovation. They embody the idea that knowledge should be open, accessible, and

collaborative, a vision that Italy proudly shares. This is why we are especially pleased to co-host this event with an organization that epitomizes this spirit, the Wikimedia Foundation, whose platforms, like Wikipedia, have become universal knowledge commons that have made a difference in the lives of many people, especially students and young people like you.



Open source is not a peripheral part of this conversation: it is essential to realizing that vision.

—Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to the United Nations

As we look to the future, the Global Digital Compact (GDC) presents a historic opportunity. Italy firmly supports its core objectives, ensuring universal connectivity, safeguarding human rights online, promoting digital trust and security, and, crucially, fostering a digital space that is open and inclusive. Open source is not a peripheral part of this conversation: it is essential to realizing that vision.

Artificial intelligence is, of course, part of this picture, but we must ensure that AI is developed and governed in an ethical, human-centered, and inclusive way, one that narrows the digital divide rather than widening it.

Dear friends, information travels faster today than ever before. This unprecedented access to information holds immense potential for progress, education, and understanding. Yet, alongside this opportunity comes a profound challenge: the rapid spread of disinformation and misinformation, which threatens the very foundation of truth, trust, and social cohesion.

So, when we look for good sources of information, let's not forget that the UN disseminates daily information that is fact-checked and science-based, that is objective and reliable. Equally vital is the role played by open knowledge platforms such as Wikipedia, which embodies the principles of transparency, verifiability, and community oversight. By enabling millions of volunteers worldwide to scrutinize and update content continuously, Wikipedia serves as a powerful countermeasure to falsehoods and biased narratives.

Italy has also been playing its part to preserve information integrity, more recently in our capacity as Vice Chair of the Board of the UN Committee on Information until May 2025.

Excellencies and dear participants, to conclude: in our interconnected world, no country, no actor, can do it alone. By embracing open standards, sharing knowledge, and collaborating across borders, we can build a digital future that serves the public good. Let this event be a small but meaningful step on that journey.

Thank you once again for joining us, thank you for traveling from all parts of the world, including Italy, to be here today. All the best in today's challenging Edit-A-Thon. Grazie, thank you very much.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

SPEAKER: Jayantha Jayasuriya, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Ambassador Massari, distinguished colleagues, and young tech wizards, it is a pleasure to join you for this timely and meaningful initiative. We are pleased to co-sponsor the Edit-A-Thon with Italy. 70 years ago, the admission of Sri Lanka and Italy to the United Nations symbolized our shared commitment to peace, multilateralism, and a rules-based international order.

Today's Open Source Week events reflect the same spirit through collective knowledge building and global cooperation. We gather for three unique initiatives: the Edit-A-Thon, the Ahead of the Storm hackathon, and the Maintain-A-Thon. Each highlights the transformative potential of open source collaboration, whether through preserving institutional memory, advancing climate resilience, or maintaining digital infrastructure.

Open Source Week reminds us of the important role that digital communities play in sharing information across borders. It shows how far we can go when knowledge is accessible, and our shared history is preserved. When information is open, societies grow more inclusive,

institutions become more accountable, and individuals are more empowered. Access to reliable, up-to-date information is foundational to education, civic engagement, and sustainable development. Platforms, like Wikipedia, are essential to this mission: they document the milestones, challenges, and evolution of institutions, making that knowledge freely available to all.

This makes our lives easier. In fact, I recall when I was your age, needing to ruffle through 10-kilogram

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When information is open, societies grow more inclusive, institutions become more accountable, and individuals are more empowered.

—Jayantha Jayasuriya, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

encyclopedias to learn about the UN. Today, that same information, and far more, can be accessed instantly and updated collaboratively around the world. Sri Lanka sees this event as a chance to strengthen the UN's historical record, empower young people, and center diverse perspectives. Knowledge creation must reflect the full breadth of global experience, including the voices of the Global South, marginalized communities, and youth.

As a developing country, Sri Lanka understands the urgency of bridging the digital divide. Internet access, digital literacy, and representation in digital spaces are necessary for full participation in modern life. That is why Sri Lanka is investing in digital infrastructure, expanding connectivity, and digitalizing public services. As an example, digitalizing courts of law creates an ethnosphere where access to justice is strengthened. Efficiency and openness of judicial proceedings are enhanced and preserved. On a personal note, I am happy for the opportunity I had to take a series of initiatives in this regard over the last few years. Yet, there remains space to clear hurdles for the full realization of these goals.

As Sri Lanka and Italy celebrate 70 years in the United Nations, I ask: How can we build upon what we have achieved? Events like this, grounded in openness, youth participation, and digital innovation, chart the path forward. They show that the future of multilateral assembly lies not only in high level diplomacy, but also in the hands of those expanding shared knowledge, one edit at a time.

Dear ladies and gentlemen. Today, you are all learning the tools of editing to become stewards of knowledge about the United Nations, its past, present, and future. Platforms like Wikipedia have become indispensable tools for people across the globe. Your efforts to ensure that Wikipedia offers accuracy and reliability are more important than ever. By contributing to this common goal, you help make trustworthy knowledge accessible to all.



Let us look back with appreciation and forward with determination as we enrich the digital landscape around the UN's legacy, and reaffirm our commitment to a more informed, inclusive, and interconnected world. Thank you.

Hackathon – Building for UNICEF

The hackathon Ahead of the Storm: Open Geospatial Analytics for Children-Centric Climate Emergency Response brought together 81 participants from around the world, working in 21 teams over two days at the UN Headquarters in New York. Developed in partnership with UNICEF, the event challenged participants to co-create scalable, open source solutions to protect vulnerable children and marginalized communities from the impacts of extreme weather. The three challenges focused on child-centric weather intelligence, harmonizing multi-hazard data, and enhancing UNICEF's open-source GeoSight platform for disaster preparedness.

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There are really smart people working on these problems from all angles, coming to the UN and having these focused discussions is an incredible opportunity you don't get every day.

—Seth Larson, Security Developer-in-Residence
at the Python Software Foundation

Over 30 hours of intense collaboration, teams produced innovative and often deeply moving solutions. Prototypes ranged from a child vulnerability index to map climate fragility in China and Brazil, to overlay maps showing children exposed to cyclones, to tools examining how floods in Bangladesh disrupt access to education. Others improved user interfaces for GeoSight to make data more accessible or used natural language understanding to query WMS-standard datasets. The

hackathon underscored the power of open source and global collaboration to deliver concrete innovations aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

Congratulations to the winners: Brytans, SEESALT, and T4SG!

Edit-A-Thon – Knowledge as a Commons

Running in parallel, the Edit-A-Thon brought together contributors to expand and improve Wikipedia's coverage of global digital policy. Co-hosted by the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET), the Permanent Missions of Italy and Sri Lanka, Wikimedia New York City, and the Wikimedia Foundation, the event marked both the launch of the week and the 70th anniversary of Italy and Sri Lanka joining the UN. UN staff, students, open source advocates, and first-time editors collaborated with experienced Wikipedians to build

knowledge on topics such as digital public goods, AI regulation, and the Global Digital Compact.

The results were substantial: more than 1,000 edits and 16,500 words — the equivalent of 60 printed pages — were added across key articles. Within just a month of the conference, these



articles had already been viewed more than 2 million times, underscoring Wikipedia’s role as a go-to source for reliable information on digital governance. Participants emphasized that open contribution extends beyond code to include open knowledge, with one volunteer noting: “It was powerful to see live edits happening at the UN and to know that the UN cares about the future of the digital world, an evolving topic we should all be paying attention to.”

Maintain-A-Thon – Sustaining What We Build

The third track, the Maintain-A-Thon, focused on the often invisible but essential work of software maintenance. Maintainers and contributors hosted 15 breakout sessions on topics ranging from supply chain security and long-term funding to community health. Structured as an unconference, participants worked in groups spanning the full lifecycle of an open source project, from inception to long-term sustainability and even sunseting. Sessions explored practical strategies such as keeping feature-complete projects secure with limited maintainer capacity and creating clear, welcoming entry points for new contributors.

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Usually as maintainers, we only meet in our own communities. Now meeting so many other maintainers, we were able to address structural problems and exchange what your experiences are, which was really valuable.

—Sarah Hoffmann, Maintainer for
OpenStreetMap

The Maintain-A-Thon underscored that maintainers are as critical as creators, and that stewardship and sustainability are core to the long-term impact of open source. It provided a rare shared space for maintainers who often work in isolation to address structural challenges, exchange experiences, and define concrete, adaptable actions. The event, co-hosted with Alpha-Omega and supported by the Sovereign Tech Agency, highlighted the need for greater

recognition of maintenance as essential infrastructure, reinforcing the message that innovation without maintenance doesn't last.

LinkedIn side event

In the afternoon on Day 2, LinkedIn hosted a side event in partnership with the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET), focusing on the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence, labor markets, and digital policy. Building on UN-ODET's joint report with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mind the AI Divide, the event introduced a new



framework for assessing AI's impact on the workforce, with early findings on the ICT sector. More than 200 participants attended in person, joined by online viewers.

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Even if you're not changing jobs, your job is changing on you.

—Sarah Steinberg, Head of Global Public Policy Partnerships, LinkedIn

The main session, AI and the Future of Work: The ICT Sector in Transition, featured:

- **Mehdi Snene**, Head of Programme, AI and Digital Transformation, UN-ODET
- **Sarah Steinberg**, Head of Global Public Policy Partnerships, LinkedIn
- **Craig Ramlal**, Head of the Control Systems Group, University of the West Indies
- **Armando José Manzueta Peña**, Vice Minister for Public Innovation and Digital, Dominican Republic
- **Moderator: Lucia Velasco**, Senior Advisor, UN-ODET

Speakers emphasized that AI is not simply displacing jobs but reshaping them, sector by sector. Steinberg noted LinkedIn's data shows “even if you're not changing jobs, your job is changing on you,” underscoring the urgency of continuous skills development. Mehdi Snene stressed the importance of moving beyond hype, pointing to the need for nuanced frameworks that capture sectoral shifts. The discussion closed with a call for policies that balance innovation with equity, and educational models that prioritize skills over credentials.



Breakout Sessions

In addition to the main panel, participants joined two breakout sessions exploring open source and AI through different lenses:

Breakout Session 1: Open Source Skills in the AI Era — Perspectives from the European Open Source Academy

- **Moderator:** Nicholas Gates, Senior Policy Advisor, OpenForum Europe
- **Panelists:**
 - **Amandine Le Pape**, COO and Co-Founder, Element; Co-founder, Matrix.org Foundation
 - **David Cuartielles**, Co-founder, Arduino; Senior Lecturer, Malmö University
 - **Sachiko Muto**, Senior Researcher, RISE; Chair, OpenForum Europe
 - **Walid Mathlouthi**, ITU

This session examined the skills needed to sustain open source innovation in an AI-driven economy. Panelists stressed the need for collaboration between industry, academia, and policymakers to upskill the workforce at scale. They highlighted the role of open source as a “great democratizer” that can ensure AI benefits are broadly shared.

Breakout Session 2: Advancing Open Source AI for the Public Good

- **Speakers:**
 - Stefano Maffulli, Executive Director, Open Source Initiative (OSI)
 - Amreen Taneja, DPG Standard Lead, Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA)

This discussion focused on evolving standards for defining “open source AI.” Stefano Maffulli introduced version 1.0 of the Open Source AI Definition (OSAID), while Amreen Taneja outlined requirements for classifying AI systems as Digital Public Goods (DPGs). Both emphasized that openness must extend beyond code to training data, documentation, governance, and safety practices. Participants broke into groups to debate policy incentives and safeguards, underscoring that building trust in AI requires shared standards and collective oversight.

Day 3: OSPOs for Good

Day 3 of UN Open Source Week 2025 turned the spotlight on Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) — strategic units within governments, businesses, and institutions that provide the structure and culture needed to make open source stick. More than just coordination points, OSPOs are becoming essential for scaling collaboration, embedding openness in digital governance, and building sustainable systems that serve both organizations and the public. The “OSPOs for Good” track returned to the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber for its third year,

convening leaders across sectors to explore how OSPOs are shaping AI policy, advancing digital public infrastructure (DPI), and strengthening global innovation.

Hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Digitization and Government Modernization, UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET), and UN Office for Information and Communications Technologies (OICT), the day opened with remarks from Amandeep Singh Gill and quickly moved into a full agenda: from case studies of newly launched OSPOs to debates on ethical AI, interoperability, and digital public infrastructure. Participants also joined breakout sessions on humanitarian applications, scaling open source inside institutions, and building effective government OSPOs. The global spread of OSPOs was clear: from Trinidad and Tobago to Kenya, they are being built not only for efficiency, but for equity, sustainability, and South–South collaboration.

Opening keynote: Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET

Thank you everyone for being with us today, it's an absolute pleasure. It's great to see through a show of hands and your presence today how this event has grown over the past three years. I remember our first moment together started as a small, intimate gathering of open source enthusiasts, and it felt like a working session. At that time, in parallel, we were working on consultations for the Global Digital Compact (GDC) across different regions and stakeholder communities. Last year, when we gathered as a larger group of people focused on the growing role of Open Source Programme Offices (OSPOs) in governments and institutions around the world, in parallel, the negotiations on the GDC had started. Today, in 2025, as we meet at a larger scale, we are at a critical moment: the Global Digital Compact was adopted last year in September by the UN Member States, and it's a milestone in how we look at international cooperation on digital and emerging technologies.

We didn't start from scratch. Twenty years ago, we came together in Tunis at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and adopted a defining document whose 20th anniversary we celebrate this year. What we all did with the Global Digital Compact was move to the next version of this software for cooperation around digital and emerging technologies. These five objectives, from bridging the digital divide and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all the way to governing AI for humanity, represent an

interlocking, comprehensive, modern agenda on digital and emerging technologies. The GDC also led to the establishment of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) that I



Open source isn't just a method: it's a shared foundation for public digital life. If we want this transformation to be inclusive, it has to be open."

—Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, ODET

have the honor to lead at this point in time. Importantly, from our perspective as open source enthusiasts, it recognized the critical value that open source, digital public goods (DPGs), and digital public infrastructure (DPI) play in advancing an inclusive digital transformation and building an inclusive digital economy.

This year, as we celebrate the Open Source Week, we have a more comprehensive agenda: a full week of programming reflects the diverse, powerful, and growing role of open source in shaping digital cooperation and digital transformation. We started on Monday with the UN Tech Over: participants from around the world came together to address critical challenges. You created new solutions, improved the reliability of information online, and worked to ensure the foundational infrastructure of the digital world is maintained and strengthened. So, we saw the full cycle of open source in action: create, maintain, sustain.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work, the dynamic moments, that we witnessed in this same room through the Maintain-A-Thon, Edit-A-Thon, and the Hackathon. We saw a remarkable impact: during the Edit-A-Thon, participants created 6 new articles and edited 234 existing ones, resulting in more than 30,000 edits, all focused on topics related to the UN and its mission around digital and emerging technologies. A dedicated group of more than 37 editors contributed several thousand words, and their collective efforts reached a global audience of nearly 2 million views. Meanwhile, the Maintain-A-Thon brought together over 40 participants across 15+ breakout sessions, diving deep into open source software and its lifecycle, from licensing to governance. These sessions were hands-on and collaboratively guided by senior maintainers and produced actionable insights on critical topics like AI and OSS, contributor recognition, fair labor, and security. In the Ahead of the Storm Hackathon, 81 hackers took over the UN to tackle three ambitious challenges proposed by our colleagues at UNICEF related to children and focused on climate and risk data. From forecasting extreme weather impact on children, to solving complex geodata puzzles, to making risk data actionable through GeoSight innovations, participants brought together creativity, collaboration, and technical excellence to the forefront. The solutions developed during the hackathon will be used by UNICEF colleagues to advance their work on these critical challenges. Congratulations to the three winning teams; your innovative solutions will make a powerful impact and will help drive real-world change through UNICEF's mission.

Today, OSPOs for Good will continue the dialogue that started three years ago. We'll dive into how we can build more effective government OSPOs, explore the



dynamic relationship between open source and AI, and discuss how open source and DPIs can reinforce each other. Tomorrow, on DPI Day, we will work to better connect the open source and DPI communities and ecosystems. We will help align initiatives at the global level and ensure that DPI projects actively contribute to the implementation of the GDC.

I will wrap up by showing how this community is connecting to the broader mission of the United Nations and ODET at a critical juncture when we are amid this UN80 moment: reform, renewal, rejuvenation on the 80th anniversary of the UN. I will mention a few critical points. First, the UN is not only a space for governments: it is a space for all stakeholders. We cannot reinvent ourselves if we do not move to this broader notion of multistakeholder collaboration. Our mission therefore in the technology sector has to advance inclusive multistakeholder cooperation that serves everyone. In the same spirit, the GDC is not only for governments; it is a north star for all actors in the digital ecosystem for everyone in this room: technologists, policymakers, and advocates. Open source is explicitly recognized in the GDC: open AI models, as well as open access to training data, and compute resources.

This reflects a clear understanding by UN member states of open source as the foundation of digital transformation. All of you in this room can support this mission of implementing the GDC. The GDC is open for endorsement by any stakeholder: from civil society, to academia, to the private sector, to the developer community, even individuals, can endorse it. We invite you all to take part in it: go to the UN Global Digital Compact website to endorse the GDC and join this implementation community.

At the end of the day, this event is community driven. The team lost sight of what is happening around this week, and loss of control is a good thing. We are having some moments of serendipity, of discovery, of connection, that is often hard to imagine in our crazy world. Thank you all; many of you have traveled from different parts of the world, made the time, contributed your own resources to be here. Thank you to the panelists for contributing their valuable insights, the mentors of our UN Tech Over, and the moderators and session organizers whose efforts have shaped such a rich and thoughtful program. Enjoy. Thank you.

Panel – How They Did It: A Look Behind Newly Launched OSPOs

- **Sachiko Muto**, Chair/Senior Researcher, OpenForum Europe/RISE (Moderator)
- **Nithya Ruff**, Head of OSPO, AWS
- **Sayeed Choudhury**, Associate Dean for Digital Infrastructure and Director of OSPO, Carnegie Mellon University
- **Bastien Guerry**, Chief Free Software Officer, French Interministerial Digital Directorate (DINUM)
- **Avni Khatri**, Senior Director, Education, GitHub
- **Richard Gevers**, Head of Service Design and Delivery, Digital Services Unit, Presidency of the Republic of South Africa

The Wednesday morning panel dug into a central challenge: what does it take to move beyond high-level endorsement and actually leverage the potential of open source? The answer, participants argued, lies in institutions and culture. OSPOs (Open Source Program Offices) provide an anchor for openness — a place where code, compliance, and community can coexist. Whether born from the research mission of a university, the operational needs of a company, or the policy demands of government, these offices marked a shift from ad hoc enthusiasm to formal, resourced programs.

Yet structure alone is not enough. Several participants traced their OSPO journeys back to moments of crisis or civil society pressure, emphasizing that trust, sovereignty, and inclusion must be part of the design. Others highlighted the need to bridge internal priorities with open source practices, learning to “speak both languages.” Despite different contexts, the consensus was clear: an OSPO’s role is to hold the tension between resistant systems and the open practices that challenge them. When done well, it becomes a space where shared governance meets real delivery.



Breakout Sessions

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It’s nice to have a community that wakes up in the morning and thinks about open source.

—Nithya Ruff, Head of OSPO, AWS.

Open Source for Humanitarian Impact, led by UNICEF

Vipul Siddharth, Open Source Specialist at UNICEF highlighted how open source technologies underpin scalable, adaptable solutions in humanitarian and

development contexts, particularly where infrastructure constraints and local capacity vary widely. Open tools were presented as essential for avoiding vendor lock-in and ensuring

continuity in fragile settings. The speaker noted, “In humanitarian work, sustainability is not optional. Open source allows solutions to live beyond individual projects and funding cycles.” Examples referenced included digital public goods supporting health information systems, identity, and data exchange, where local adaptation and long-term ownership are critical.

The discussion also underscored the policy implications of adopting open source in humanitarian ecosystems. Speakers argued that donors, governments, and implementing partners should align around open source—first approaches to maximise reuse and interoperability across programmes and borders. UNICEF emphasised that open source enables not only cost efficiencies, but also trust and accountability with local partners and communities. The session concluded with a call for governments and international organisations to treat open source as core infrastructure for humanitarian response and resilience, rather than as experimental or additional tooling.



Scaling Open Source Principles Internally: The Innersource Journey, led by Innersourcing Commons Foundation

Daniel Izquierdo, President of the InnerSource Commons Foundation framed InnerSource as the application of open source ways of working within organisations, including public administrations, state-owned entities, and private-sector institutions. Drawing on experiences shared by contributors from organisations such as Mercedes-Benz, the Netherlands Tax Authority, and the BBC, the session highlighted how InnerSource enables collaboration across organisational boundaries while operating within institutional constraints. These examples illustrated that InnerSource is less about technology choices and more about creating transparent contribution models that allow teams to share, reuse, and collectively improve software assets internally.



The discussion identified culture and mindset as the primary challenges in adopting InnerSource, particularly within large organisations. Barriers such as limited discoverability, platform fragmentation, legal and policy constraints, and transfer-pricing concerns were noted, with middle management frequently cited as a critical

bottleneck to change. Based on practitioner experience, the speaker emphasised that effective InnerSource adoption requires both top-down leadership support and bottom-up developer engagement, describing this as the need for “air cover and ground cover.” Recommended practices included starting with pilot initiatives, involving legal teams early, defining clear policies and contribution guidelines, and recognising individual and team contributions. The session concluded by positioning InnerSource as a practical pathway for institutions seeking to embed open source principles internally, with additional tools and guidance available through the InnerSource Commons community.

Open Source and Public Interest, led by OpenForum Europe



This interactive breakout session led by Astor Nummelin Carlberg, Executive Director for OpenForum Europe offered a rich and engaging exchange on the critical role of open source in advancing the public interest. Through an interactive dialogue with participants, the discussion highlighted how open source technologies can strengthen digital sovereignty, transparency, and trust in public institutions, while fostering collaboration across governments, civil society, and the private sector. The session underscored the need for policy frameworks that recognize open source as a strategic public good and empower communities

to actively shape digital transformation outcomes. Participants left with a shared understanding of the importance of aligning open source adoption with public-interest values to ensure inclusive, secure, and sustainable digital ecosystems.

From Policy to Practice: Establishing Effective Government OSPOs, led by ITU, UNDP, and UN-ODET

Micheal Downey, Open Source Specialist at United Nations Development Programme outlines how both the Republic of Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago are approaching the establishment of governmental OSPOs as a response to fragmented digital development across government. The OSPOs are framed as coordination bodies



designed to reduce duplication, promote reuse of software assets, and align open source practices with national digital strategies. In Kenya, the OSPO is positioned within a broader digital transformation agenda, supporting interoperability across ministries and encouraging a shift from isolated projects toward shared platforms and standards. Trinidad and Tobago's approach similarly emphasises institutional coordination, with a focus on building internal capability and creating clearer governance around the use and contribution of open source software.

David Manset, Senior Project Coordinator at the International Telecommunication Union, stresses that in both contexts, the effectiveness of an OSPO depends less on technical tooling and more on mandate, authority, and cross-government engagement. Key challenges discussed include limited awareness of open source within public administrations, legal and procurement uncertainties, and concerns around long-term sustainability. These challenges are being addressed through executive sponsorship, clearer policy frameworks, and deliberate efforts to position OSPOs as enablers of public value rather than standalone technical units. Micheal concluded by reinforcing that Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago demonstrate how OSPO models can be adapted to different governmental scales and capacities, while serving shared goals of digital sovereignty, efficiency, and collaboration.

Panel – AI and Open Source: Building Ethical and Transparent Systems

- **Hannah Aubry**, Board Member, Mastodon ([Moderator](#))
- **Hakim Hacid**, Chief Researcher, Technology Innovation Institute (TII)
- **Sabrina Farmer**, CTO, Gitlab
- **Frederik Blachetta**, Partner and Global Public Sector Data and AI Leader, PWC Deutschland
- **Guilherme Canela de Souza Godoi**, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO
- **Keynotes:**
 - **Yann LeCun**, VP and Chief AI Scientist, Meta
 - **Stephanie Hung**, CIO, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

The panel “AI and Open Source: Building Ethical and Transparent Systems” brought together researchers, technologists, and policymakers for a grounded discussion on what ethical AI looks like in practice. In a pre-recorded keynote, Meta's Yann LeCun stressed that open source is a democratizing force in AI, one that fosters transparency, accelerates collaboration, and cannot be left to a single actor. Panelists echoed this, highlighting both the opportunities of open AI and the risks of misplaced trust. While AI can free engineers from repetitive tasks and enable new forms of creativity, too many users still put blind faith in systems they do not understand.

“

We don't need new principles, we need to hold the line on the ones we already fought hard to establish... Maybe the real innovation is doing these things with no one left behind.”

—*Guilherme Canela de Souza Godoi, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO*

strength, not isolation. Ethical AI depends on open ecosystems, strong standards, and a commitment to leave no one behind — choices being made today that will shape equity and innovation for years to come.

From a policy perspective, speakers warned against “shiny-object syndrome” and urged that existing principles of fairness, accountability, and human rights must continue to guide AI deployment. Others emphasized the need for better training data, shared infrastructure, and regulatory cooperation across borders. The consensus was clear: digital sovereignty should mean collective

Panel – Breaking Silos: Open Source and Open Data Drive Interoperability

- **Mehdi Snene**, Senior Advisor for AI and Digital Transformation, UN-ODET ([Moderator](#))
- **Dmitry Mariyasyn**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE ([Keynote](#))
- **Rebecca MacKinnon**, VP of Global Advocacy, Wikimedia Foundation
- **Masayuki Yamada**, Head of Data Unit, Digital Agency, Government of Japan
- **Momar Kouta**, Senior Statistics Systems Information Officer, African Development Bank
- **Nabiha Syed**, Executive Director, Mozilla Foundation

The panel “Breaking Silos: Open Source and Open Data Drive Interoperability” opened with a keynote by Dmitry Mariyasyn of UNECE, who laid out the barriers the UN itself faces in making data interoperable. From legacy systems and siloed mandates to the challenge of coordinating “193 shareholders,” he described the governance inertia that often collides with technical ambition. Yet he also made a strong case for open source as more than code — “it’s a governance model,” he argued, “one that fits the complexity of our time.” His concrete examples, from e-customs to low-code standards, grounded the institutional realities behind the rhetoric.

“

Open source is not just code — it’s a governance model that fits the complexity of our time.

—*Dmitry Mariyasyn, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE*

The subsequent discussion built on these themes, showing how open data can only succeed when paired with trust, shared standards, and inclusive governance. Speakers pointed to community-driven knowledge

projects, new approaches to data governance, and national and regional initiatives that treat open data as infrastructure for the digital era. Their insights underscored a common point: interoperability is not just a technical fix, but a political and social commitment. To move beyond silos, institutions must not only adopt open tools but embrace openness as a practice of collaboration.

Panel – The Role of Open Source in Digital Public Infrastructure

- **Ruth Ikegah**, Open Source Manager, OSPO Now (Moderator)
- **Gabriele Columbro**, President, Linux Foundation Europe
- **Wolfgang Gehring**, FOSS Ambassador and OSPO Lead, Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation
- **Adriana Groh**, CEO, Sovereign Tech Agency
- **Miller Abel**, Deputy Director and Principal Technologist, BMGF
- **Franck Greverie**, Chief Portfolio Officer, CapGemini
- **Keynote: Tshilidzi Marwala**, Rector and USG, UN University

A keynote by Tshilidzi Marwala of UN University opened the session with a clear message: digital public infrastructure (DPI) is not a technical footnote but sovereign terrain, shaping how citizens interact with governments through IDs, payments, and public data systems. “This is where open source has a unique and powerful role to play,” he argued, stressing that transparency is itself a form of governance. Moderator Ruth Ikegah then guided a diverse panel in exploring how open ecosystems can provide both the technical backbone and the trust needed for DPI to succeed.

The discussion highlighted that open source is not an optional add-on but the foundation of modern digital infrastructure. Speakers pointed to DPI as shared infrastructure akin to airports, emphasizing the need for governments to develop “new muscles” for long-term stewardship, and underlined how most proprietary platforms already rely on open components. The conversation also touched on procurement practices, enterprise uptake, and the importance of supporting private open source ecosystems rather than governments building everything in-house. Taken together, the panel mapped a blueprint for DPI rooted in openness, sustainability, and global cooperation.



Open standards aren't a constraint. They're how we scale trust.

—Miller Abel, Deputy Director and Principal Technologist, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Panel – Navigating Digital Cooperation Across Layers of Governance

- **Lucy Harris**, COO, DPGA ([Moderator](#))
- **Roberto Di Cosmo**, Director, Software Heritage ([Keynote](#))
- **Nancy Norris**, Chair, UNECE-UN/CEFACT
- **Sergio Gago de Huerta**, CTO, Cloudera
- **Belfor Fabio García Henao**, Former Vice Minister of Digital Transformation, Colombia
- **Daniel Mazur**, Councilor for Smart City, ICT, Science, Research, and Innovation / Member of the Prague City Council, Czech Republic

The Wednesday program ended with “Navigating Digital Cooperation Across Layers of Governance,” a fast-paced panel moderated by Lucy Harris (Digital Public Goods Alliance). Roberto Di Cosmo (Software Heritage) opened with data from an archive of 180 million open source projects, underscoring that digital cooperation cannot succeed without shared infrastructure and global stewardship. Nancy Norris (UN/CEFACT) argued that open standards function as the “lingua franca” that makes interoperability possible, while Sergio Gago (Cloudera) warned that future AI systems could assume state functions—but only if governments ensure data sovereignty and portability across borders.



Don’t make us reinvent the wheel—help us drive further.

—Daniel Mazur, Councilor for Smart City, ICT, Science, Research, and Innovation / Member of the Prague City Council, Czech Republic

Belfor Fabio García Henao described how Colombia’s dormant open source legislation is being revived in response to new AI pressures on digital sovereignty. Daniel Mazur (Prague City Council) offered a city-level perspective, stressing the need for frameworks that allow municipalities to scale

proven solutions and avoid duplication: “Don’t make us reinvent the wheel—help us drive further.” Collectively, the panel painted a picture of open source as more than a philosophy: it is an operational framework of standards, repositories, and governance that underpins trust in the digital public sphere. The message was clear—open cooperation across institutions, from cities to international bodies, is essential if digital systems are to reflect public values.

DPI Day

Day 4 of UN Open Source Week marked the inaugural Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Day, convening governments, multilateral agencies, technologists, and civil society at UN Headquarters in New York. Co-hosted by the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, UN-ODET, and OICT, the event framed DPI—identity, payments, data exchange, and beyond—as a shared public good. Keynotes by Sigmund Freund, Dr. ‘Bosun Tijani, Amandeep Singh Gill, and Vilas Dhar

underscored that DPI must be open by default, built on interoperable standards, and governed through inclusive, multistakeholder processes.

The programme combined high-level exchanges and practical sessions: a panel on cross-border cooperation, breakout discussions on safeguards, sovereignty, and strategies for smaller states, and keynote reflections from Treveen Rabinath and Tomas Lamanauskas. The day closed with a plenary and remarks by Amandeep Gill and Bernardo Mariano Junior, emphasizing that safeguards—privacy, safety, and inclusion—are not optional but prerequisites for trust. A strong theme throughout was Africa’s momentum, where regional alignment and open building blocks are enabling DPI deployment at scale. DPI Day set a new benchmark for collective action, showing that through open source collaboration and shared learning, global partners can co-create resilient, inclusive digital foundations.



Keynote session

- **Moritz Fromageot**, Associate Expert, UN-ODET ([MC](#))
- **Sigmund Freund**, Minister of Public Administration, Dominican Republic ([Keynote](#))
- **Amandeep Singh Gill**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET ([Keynote](#))
- **Vilas Dhar**, President and Trustee, The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation

United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

SPEAKER: Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET

Thank you, good morning, and a warm welcome to the DPI Day. It has been an exciting three days already and we have one more day after today in the UN Open Source Week. We never imagined when we started with a small gathering in 2023 that this would grow organically and that we would almost lose control, and it's a nice feeling. Thank you to all our partners, to all of you who have come from different parts of the world, often by leveraging your own resources and giving up your valuable time.

At the start of this first UN DPI Day, I want to reflect on a few things. It's a special moment, of course, and my first reflection is that of gratitude to the governments of the Dominican Republic and Nigeria for co-hosting this important day. Both countries are showing remarkable ambition and leadership in advancing digital public infrastructure (DPI) and your presence here today underlies the importance that my boss, Secretary-General António Guterres, attaches to the digital transformation agenda in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

You have been given a sense of the program for the day; certainly give us your feedback because, as this is the first time, there's a bit of experimentation here. We'd like for this to be interactive; we'd like for you to come together in ways that we didn't imagine. As you might see, there's a focus on these two regions, and we have some discussions related to Africa later in the afternoon. Yesterday, we also had a nice session with some experts from Africa on DPIs, data power, challenges around interoperability, etc.

When you look at the embedding of this day in the Open Source Week, it's quite natural. We are working with a broad base of open source and digital public goods (DPGs) on which, if you bring architected collaboration, you end up with DPI that pulls together supply and demand in ways that were not imaginable earlier; we see a pure connectivity and pure telecoms infrastructure type of an agenda. All these pieces, both open source and DPIs, are built with the public good in mind. These are public interest technology efforts, but they don't rule out profit-making. This is the beauty and the paradox of these approaches.

Today, I want to briefly share two slides and ask: how many people are familiar with the concept of DPIs? I see that almost everyone in the room has raised their hand. One way of looking at DPIs is in this stack approach where you build up layers: identity, payments, data exchange, and use cases. Some people have started with financial payments then discovered the need for universal digital IDs, others the reverse. Some have started with use cases; Bangladesh is a case in point. So, you could start from any place depending on the need and context, but at the end of the day, you need some architecting. In our examination of what it helps you achieve, we'll pick up four examples:

There is India, where the combination of the digital ID Aadhaar and the Jan-Dhan push on financial inclusion raised bank account ownership among adults from 35% in 2011 to nearly

80% by 2021. Over 400 million people were pushed into the financial mainstream, and the eKYC cost dropped from close to \$20 to about 25 cents.

There is the pioneer, Estonia, whose e-government infrastructure, e-signatures, secure digital ID, data exchange, saves about 2% of GDP annually by reducing paperwork and administrative burden.

In Brazil, the Pix instant payments platform launched by the Brazilian Central Bank in 2020, which cost about \$4 million to build, has delivered more than \$5.7 billion in savings in just one year. Look at the leveraging that DPIs can provide you.

Lastly, over 6 to 7 years, Kazakhstan, which I have visited recently, has moved at lightning speed and has a comprehensive approach to delivery of government services. This has been done in part by using the UN's multidimensional poverty analysis, the Digital Family Card. They make sure that no family that needs emergency assistance gets left behind.

As we can see, many things then become possible with DPIs, and I'd like to focus on the following points that have not yet

been covered: access to regional markets for startups, access to data for AI research and innovation, access to the digital economy for informal participants. This is therefore not only about inclusion and serving the underserved population, but also about creating skills for startups and entrepreneurs in emerging economies. It's also



If there is no trust, there is no uptake; without uptake, there is no impact.

—Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General
and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging
Technologies, UN-ODET

about leveraging intraregional trade. Africa's intraregional trade is less than its trade with the European Union, so there is huge potential to drive up growth in Africa; if DPIs are interoperable, they can boost that intraregional trade. These are the reasons why we have a big focus on DPIs: the Global Digital Compact (GDC) universalized this concept after the breakthrough in the G20 with the Indian and Brazilian presidencies. We now have a universal framework to pursue these DPIs.

For us at the UN, protection and the human rights angle is very important. My boss says that DPIs fail in some cases because there is not enough trust. This is because there are not enough safeguards, and people feel vulnerable and subject to forces they cannot control. If there is no trust, there is no uptake; without uptake, there is no impact. Safeguards should therefore not be an afterthought: they should be integrated into DPIs by design. We have therefore worked with our colleagues from the UNDP to build the Universal Safeguards Framework, which is getting good uptake around the world. This is a dynamic framework that addresses risk while unlocking the benefits of DPIs. One of the breakout sessions today will be on this theme, and I hope you share your insights and your experience.

We are also looking at some over the horizon, emerging issues, such as the interface of DPI with AI. In some cases, like with India Stack, AI is coming into DPIs, for example through last

mile delivery, use of local languages, or voice-activated payments conducted in a trusted, secure way. In other cases, we have to think about DPI as an infrastructure that creates the data flows and allows people to build their own contextual, “sovereign AI” solutions.

We’re also looking at interoperability, which is a very powerful angle. Just this morning, I was on a call with a government in Asia who are building a sandbox for looking at interoperability issues. There are some concerns around interoperability, especially for smaller states, so we need to find ways to address those concerns while upholding interoperability.

As part of the DPI Insights community, alongside Accion, we are providing country-level research grants to generate evidence of what works and what does not work. This experience sharing is essential on an ongoing dynamic basis so that we avoid those gaps in trust and realize impact.

Looking ahead, in November, we will co-host the second DPI Summit with some of our partners: Co-Develop, UNDP, ITU, and the World Bank. We are excited to co-host this Summit taking place in South Africa, which is the G20 president this year. I hope today’s discussions will help to shape the agenda for the Summit, particularly our breakout sessions.

Let me conclude by sharing a thought about the GDC, which is our north star, from the objective of addressing the digital divide, accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all the way to governing AI for humanity. I see Vilas Dhar is here, who will deliver a keynote on the High Level Advisory Body on AI, and the follow up that is going on. This is not a framework for governments alone; we cannot take it forward without the involvement of stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, academia, private researchers, and the regions and countries that will actually realize the impact.

Join us in taking it forward: there is a light touch endorsement process. We have hundreds of partners who have endorsed the GDC from around the world and come together in town halls. These help us build situational awareness of how the GDC is being implemented in different parts of the world: we call this implementation mapping. It is not only of use to us, but also to all implementers so they can see who to partner with, where the gaps are, where they should focus their efforts, and so on.

Thank you so much, I wish you an energizing and collaborative day of discussions.

Panel – Global Cooperation for DPI: Lessons from Cross-Border Projects

- **Moritz Fromageot**, Associate Expert, UN-ODET (Moderator)
- **Dr. Bosun Tijani**, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Nigeria (Keynote)
- **Yolanda Martinez**, Practice Manager for Digital Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Tiffany Farriss**, CEO and Co-Owner, Drupal/Palantir.Net
- **Marc Lepage**, Digital Technology Innovation Specialist
- **Sheila Warren**, CEO, Project Liberty Institute
- **Daniel Murenzi**, Principal Engineer, East African Community
- **Keynote: Tomas Lamanauskas**, Deputy Secretary General, ITU

Moderated by Moritz Fromageot (UN-ODET), with a keynote by Dr. Bosun Tijani (Nigeria) and contributions from Yolanda Martinez (World Bank, LAC), Tiffany Farriss (Drupal/Palantir.net), Marc Lepage (Digital Technology Innovation Specialist), Sheila Warren (Project Liberty Institute), and Daniel Murenzi (East African Community); remarks by Tomas Lamanauskas (ITU). The panel mapped what it takes to make DPI portable across borders—open interfaces, procurement models that favour reuse, and capacity-building for public sector teams.



Breakout sessions

Six deep-dives translated governance goals into concrete practices:

DPI Safeguards, Pathways to Adoption and Inclusion (CR-7), led by UN-ODET and UNDP (Tobi Kasali, Naveen Varshan): risk frameworks, inclusion by design, and policy pathways.



Operationalising Data Protection in DPI (Trusteeship Council Chamber), led by World Bank and UNU-EGOV (Zoran Jordanoski, Nay Constantine, Ambrose Wong, Prakhar Bhardwaj, Ines O'Farrell): implementation patterns for privacy and governance.



Digital Sovereignty in Practice: Co-Creating Trustworthy and Inclusive DPI (CR-E), led by GovStack and Mastodon (Nora Hauptmann, Hannah Aubry): modular building blocks and open protocols to avoid lock-in.



Evidence for Safety: Identifying and Addressing Emerging Risks in DPI (CR-D), led by Accion (Jayshree Venkatesan, David Porteous, Edoardo Totolo): risk identification, measurement, and mitigation cycles.



Breaking Barriers: Open Source, Digital ID and Payments for Inclusion (CR-D), led by **Co-Develop** and **DPGA (50-in-5)** (**Jon Lloyd, Aura Cifuentes**): open rails for financial inclusion.



Learning from Open Source: DPI for Smaller States (CR-9), led by **UNDP** and **Dominican Republic** (**Armando Manzueta, Michael Downey**): templated approaches and communities of practice for small administrations.



Plenary synthesis: Learnings from breakout rooms (15:00–16:00)

Facilitators and participant-reps reported back. Cross-cutting messages: start from **safeguards and inclusion**, use **open standards** to guarantee portability, and invest in **public sector capabilities** to build/operate DPI—not just buy it.



Panel – Empowering DPI Implementation Across the African Continent

- **Tobi Kasali**, Senior Analyst, UN-ODET
- **Ozzeir Khan**, Director and CIO, Operations and Country Engagement, World Bank
- **Jane Munga**, Fellow, Africa Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- **Nora Hauptmann**, GovStack Partnership lead
- **Assane Gueye**, Co-Director, the Upanzi Network at Carnegie Mellon University – Africa

With **Tobi Kasali (UN-ODET)**, **Ozzeir Khan (World Bank)**, **Jane Munga (Carnegie Endowment)**, **Nora Hauptmann (GovStack)**, and **Assane Gueye (CMU-Africa)**, the session highlighted continental initiatives, regional standards alignment, and the role of open source components for sustainability and security.

Closing ceremony

- **Amandeep Singh Gill**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET ([Keynote](#))
- **Bernardo Mariano Junior**, Assistant Secretary General and Chief Information Technology Officer, UN-OICT ([Keynote](#))

Amandeep Singh Gill (UN-ODET) and **Bernardo Mariano Junior (UN-OICT)** closed the day with a call to action: build cooperative digital infrastructure that advances the SDGs—“an

obligation,” as Mariano put it—through openness, shared standards, and durable maintenance models.

United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)

SPEAKER: Bernardo Mariano Junior, Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information Technology Officer, UN-OICT



also accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in this world by using open source technology to power the development of the world.

Thank you. What an amazing week. I still remember the first time we held this conference in 2023, when there were very few of us. The community has grown exponentially since then, and I hope this comes with excitement.

I am grateful to all of you for taking time out of your day and busy schedules to be here. I want to thank the team behind this event that made this possible and continues to do the impossible. Thank you to my friend, Amandeep, Tech Envoy and USG of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies for the partnership and the collaboration, and thank you to all the other partners that are making this event possible behind the scenes. Thank you for using the UN platform to advance open source, bring positive impact, and accelerate the Global Digital Compact (GDC). Thank you for

“

Building and designing cooperative digital infrastructure is an obligation to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Let us unite and harness the power of open source software and OSPOs for the better.

—Bernardo Mariano Junior, Assistant Secretary
General and Chief Information Technology
Officer, UN-OICT

We are here not only to find solutions, learn from each other, and understand what’s happening, but also to be a driving force. This exponential growth drives results and solutions and helps the world solve its many problems. It has been a busy period in the world with lots of events and challenges. The one thing that I’ve found to be very common in everyday life at the United Nations is disagreement: we often see one group thinking one way and

another group thinking the complete opposite way. This means that open source is in the middle of those who have, and those who don't, when it comes to digital transformation and the leveraging of digital technology. Your role, and our role here, is to make sure that we advance by not only including those who don't have, but also those who have. We must try to make sure that that advancement benefits everyone, everywhere.

You might be asking: what has the United Nations been doing since the last edition of this conference? We have launched the Open Source Policy Framework to guide UN agencies to effectively adopt open source software. We launched the UN Open Source Principles, which have now been endorsed by 80 organizations, including the Government of France. We have also launched the UN Open Source Catalogue, a collection of internally developed open source tools. These have been achieved thanks to an open source community of practice in the United Nations that, as part of the Digital Technology Network, works behind the scenes to make sure that we walk the talk. What we preach and talk about here at the United Nations, we also implement and we play the part that we need to play.

I mentioned at last year's event that being in this room is special. Being at the United Nations is special. In this place where issues of humanitarianism, socio-economic development, world security and all the rest are discussed, we ask today: "What can we do and how can we use open source to accelerate? How can we make sure that the race of AI, or the monetization of data, does not further divide us, but bring us together?"

So, I want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart. We organized our first gathering using the convening power of the United Nations, but we found a community that is excited from the get-go. I have never seen a community that is as excited as the open source community, that believe in what they do, and that do it with passion. They spend hours dedicated to it; it's not about remuneration, but about the belief that open source should be open to everyone and everyone should benefit.

As you have all been on this journey for quite a while, I hope that with these five cents of contributions from the United Nations, we are helping to take this community to the next level. This means seeing results, looking at concrete performance indicators, seeing that solutions for open source are not neglected, and seeing that countries and governments are leveraging these open source tools and solutions to fast track and accelerate their involvement.

Thank you everyone and I hope you had an excellent time in the past few days. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being here, for bringing your energy, commitment, and enthusiasm to the United Nations. When we all go home at the end of this week, I hope we are all



able to say: yes, it was great to do it, and we contributed to it. You are the driving force, so please continue to do so and do good for humanity. Thank you very much.

Community Day - hosted by PwC

The final day of UN Open Source Week featured a full slate of community-organized side events, supported by RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, OpenForum Europe, and CURIOS, CHAOSS, and hosted at PwC's office in New York.

Day 5 – Community Event

The fifth and final day of **UN Open Source Week 2025** was hosted by **PwC** and dedicated to the open source community. Designed as a highly participatory gathering, the Community Event featured **20 sessions across five tracks**: *Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)*, *Digital Sovereignty and Resiliency*, *AI*, *Capacity Building*, and *Global Priorities and SDGs*.

Unlike the high-level plenaries of earlier days, the Community Event created space for practitioners, maintainers, civic technologists, policymakers, and funders to exchange directly. The format was interactive—short talks, workshops, and clinics—with an emphasis on cross-pollination between sectors and regions.



Tracks and Focus

- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):** sessions explored how open source can underpin trustworthy, interoperable DPI, with practical case studies from governments and civil society.
- **Digital Sovereignty and Resiliency:** discussions focused on Europe's evolving regulatory landscape, the role of open source in reducing dependency, and lessons from other regions.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** workshops examined how open source can make AI more transparent, ethical, and adaptable, while lowering entry barriers for smaller players.
- **Capacity Building:** participants shared models for training, onboarding, and sustaining contributors, with a strong focus on inclusivity and global collaboration.
- **Global Priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** this track highlighted open source projects contributing directly to the UN's SDGs, including in health, education, and climate action.



Acknowledgements

Sachiko Muto (RISE; OFE) prepared this report. Mithusa Kajendran (UN OICT) and Johan Linåker (RISE) provided invaluable input. Jaakko Karhu, senior communications and policy advisor at OpenForum Europe, laid out and designed the report.

The UN Open Source Week 2025 was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of the ODET and OICT teams, including Omar Mohsine, Mithusa Kajendran, Moritz Fromageot, Aileen Wang, Zeina Hassan, Mehdi Snene, and many others who contributed behind the scenes.

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UN Tech Over Days

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Tuesday side event:

Hosted by LinkedIn (special thanks to Omkhar Arasaratnam)

DPI Day

Co-hosted by:

Dominican Republic

Nigeria

Community Day

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Co-organizers:

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Annex: agenda for Day 3 and 4

OSPOS FOR GOOD (18 JUNE)

Session Title	Time/Location	Speakers and Affiliations
Opening Keynotes	10:00 – 10:30 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Omar Mohsine, Open Source Coordinator, UN-OICT (<u>MC</u>) • Mithusa Kajendran, Programme Management Consultant, UN-OICT (<u>MC</u>) • Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, ODET (<u>Keynote</u>)
How They Did It: A Look Behind Newly Launched OSPOs	10:30 – 11:30 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Sachiko Muto, Chair/Senior Researcher, OpenForum Europe/RISE (<u>Moderator</u>) • Nithya Ruff, Head of OSPO, AWS • Sayed Choudhury, Associate Dean for Digital Infrastructure and Director of OSPO, Carnegie Mellon University • Bastien Guerry, Chief Free Software Officer, French Interministerial Digital Directorate (DINUM) • Avni Khatri, Senior Director, Education, GitHub • Richard Gevers, Head of Service Design and Delivery, Digital Services Unit, Presidency of the Republic of South Africa
Networking Coffee	11:30 – 12:00 Vienna Café, 1B	N/A
Breakout Sessions	12:00 – 13:00 Conference Room D	Open Source for Humanitarian Impact, led by UNICEF • <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Vipul Siddharth
	12:00 – 13:00 Conference Room 7	Scaling Open Source Principles Internally: The Innersource Journey, led by Innersourcing Commons Foundation • <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Daniel Izquierdio Cortázar
	12:00 – 13:00 Trusteeship Council Chamber	Open Source and Public Interest, led by OpenForum Europe • <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Astor Nummelin Carlberg
	12:00 – 13:00 Conference Room 9	From Policy to Practice: Establishing Effective Government OSPOs, led by ITU, UNDP, and UN-ODET • <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: David Manset and Michael Downey
Networking Lunch	13:00 – 15:00	N/A

Session Title	Time/Location	Speakers and Affiliations
AI and Open Source: Building Ethical and Transparent Systems	15:00 – 15:45 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Hannah Aubry, Board Member, Mastodon (<u>Moderator</u>) • Hakim Hacid, Chief Researcher, Technology Innovation Institute (TII) • Sabrina Farmer, CTO, Gitlab • Frederik Blachetta, Partner and Global Public Sector Data and AI Leader • Guilherme Canela de Souza Godoi, Director, Division for Digital Inclusion and Policies and Digital Transformation, UNESCO • <u>Videos:</u> - o Yann LeCun, VP and Chief AI Scientist, Meta - o Stephanie Hung, CIO, ADB
Breaking Silos: Open Source and Open Data Drive Interoperability	15:45 – 16:30 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Mehdi Snene, Senior Advisor for AI and Digital Transformation, UN-ODET (<u>Moderator</u>) • Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE (<u>Keynote</u>) • Rebecca MacKinnon, VP of Global Advocacy, Wikimedia Foundation • Masayuki Yamada, Head of Data Unit, Digital Agency, Government of Japan • Momar Kouta, Senior Statistics Systems Information Officer, African Development Bank • Nabiha Syed, Executive Director, Mozilla Foundation
The Role of Open Source in Digital Public Infrastructure	16:30 – 17:15 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Ruth Ikegah, Open Source Manager, OSPO Now (<u>Moderator</u>) • Gabriele Columbro, President, Linux Foundation Europe • Wolfgang Gehring, FOSS Ambassador and OSPO Lead, Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation • Adriana Groh, CEO, Sovereign Tech Agency • Miller Abel, Deputy Director and Principal Technologist, BMGF • Franck Greverie, Chief Portfolio Officer, CapGemini • <u>Videos:</u> - o Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector and USG, UN University
Navigating Digital Cooperation Across Layers of Governance	17:15 – 18:00 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Lucy Harris, COO, DPGA (<u>Moderator</u>) • Roberto Di Cosmo, Director, Software Heritage (<u>Keynote</u>) • Nancy Norris, Chair, UNECE-UN/CEFACT • Sergio Gago de Huerta, CTO, Cloudera • Belfor Fabio García Henao, Former Vice Minister of Digital Transformation, Colombia

Session Title	Time/Location	Speakers and Affiliations
		• Daniel Mazur, Councilor for Smart City, ICT, Science, Research, and Innovation / Member of the Prague City Council, Czech Republic

DPI DAY (19 JUNE)

Session Title	Time/Location	Speakers and Affiliations
Opening Keynotes	10:00-10:30 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Moritz Fromageot, Associate Expert, UN-ODET (<u>MC</u>) • Sigmund Freund, Minister of Public Administration, Dominican Republic (<u>Keynote</u>) • Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET (<u>Keynote</u>) • Vilas Dhar, President and Trustee, The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation
Global Cooperation for DPI: Lessons from Cross-Border Projects	10:30 – 11:15 Trusteeship Council Chamber	• Moritz Fromageot, Associate Expert, UN-ODET (<u>Moderator</u>) • Dr. 'Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Nigeria (<u>Keynote</u>) • Yolanda Martinez, Practice Manager for Digital Development in Latin America and the Caribbean • Tiffany Farriss, CEO and Co-Owner, Drupal/Palantir.Net • Marc Lepage, Digital Technology Innovation Specialist • Sheila Warren, CEO, Project Liberty Institute • Daniel Murenzi, Principal Engineer, East African Community • Video: ◦ Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary General, ITU
Breakout Sessions	11:30 – 13:00 Conference Room 7	DPI Safeguards, Pathways to Adoption and Inclusion, led by DPI Safeguards (UN-ODET and UNDP) • <u>Session Lead(s):</u> Tobi Kasali and Naveen Varshan
	11:30 – 13:00 Trusteeship Council Chamber	Operationalising Data Protection in Digital Public Infrastructure, led by World Bank and UNU-EGOV • <u>Session Lead(s):</u> Zoran Jordanoski, Nay Constantine, Ambrose Wong, Prakhar Bhardwaj, and Ines O'Farrell
	11:30 – 12:30 Conference Room E	Digital Sovereignty in Practice: Co-Creating Trustworthy and Inclusive DPI, led by GovStack and Mastodon • <u>Session Lead(s):</u> Nora Hauptmann and Hannah Aubry
	11:30 – 12:30	Evidence for Safety: Identifying and Addressing Emerging Risks in Digital Public Infrastructure, led by Accion

Session Title	Time/Location	Speakers and Affiliations
	Conference Room D	<u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Jayshree Venkatesan, David porteous, and Edoardo Totolo
	12:30 – 13:30 Conference Room D	Breaking Barriers: Open Source, Digital ID, and Payments for Inclusion, led by Co-Develop and DPGA (50-in-5 Initiative) <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Jon Lloyd and Aura Cifuentes
	12:30 – 13:30 Conference Room 9	Learning from Open Source: Global Digital Cooperation on DPI for Smaller States, led by UNDP and Dominican Republic <u>Session Lead(s)</u>: Armando Manzueta and Michael Downey
Networking Lunch	13:30 – 15:00	N/A
Discussion in Plenum: Learnings from Breakout Rooms	15:00 – 16:00	<u>For each Breakout Session</u>: 1 session facilitator and 1 representative from breakout session participants
Empowering DPI Implementation Across the African Continent	16:00 – 17:00 Trusteeship Council Chamber	Tobi Kasali, Senior Analyst, UN-ODET Ozzeir Khan, Director and CIO, Operations and Country Engagement, World Bank Jane Munga, Fellow, Africa Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Nora Hauptmann, GovStack Partnership lead Assane Gueye, Co-Director, the Upanzi Network at Carnegie Mellon University – Africa
Closing Remarks	17:00 – 17:30 Trusteeship Council Chamber	Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UN-ODET (<u>Keynote</u>) Bernardo Mariano Junior, Assistant Secretary General and Chief Information Technology Officer, UN-OICT

Community Side Event Agenda (20 June)

	Digital Sovereignty & Resiliency	Global Priorities and SDGs	AI	Capacity Building	DPI
10:00-11:20	Building Sovereign Digital Workspaces Speakers: - Bastien Guerry, French Interministerial Digital Directorate (DINUM) - Matthew Hodgson, Element - Tima Soni, UNICC - Anais Concepcio, Grist Labs - Kitio Fofack, IREX - Institut du Retour d'EXperience - Johan Linåker, RISE	Open Source in the UN System	Open Trusted AI Speakers: - Tim Bonnemann, AI Alliance - Andrea Greco, IBM - Greg Lindahl, Common Crawl Foundation - Subha Ramkumar, OpenMined - Sayeed Choudhury, Open Forum for AI (OFAI) - Mala Kumar, Humane Intelligence	Impactful Open Source in Academia Speakers: - Clare Dillon, CURIOS - Josh Barron, Apereo Foundation - Will Gearty, Syracuse University - Fang Liu, Georgia Tech University - Laura Langdon, University of California Davis - Jan Morrison, STEM Garage Africa - Richard Littauer, CURIOS - Karla Padilla, University of California San Diego - Arielle Bennett, The Turing Way - Jonathan Starr, NumFOCUS - Morane Gruenpeter, Software Heritage - Bill Brannan, Johns Hopkins University	Open Standards, Open Source, Futures: Lessons Learned from FIWARE for Open Source DPI Speakers include: - Chandra Challagonda, FIWARE Foundation - Suna Akbayir, Artech International BVBA - Michael Epley, Red Hat - Roland Fadrany, Gaia-X

Break: 11:20- 11:40

	Digital Sovereignty & Resiliency	Global Priorities and SDGs	AI	Capacity Building	DPI
11:40-13:00	Securing the Supply Chain through Global Collaboration Speakers: - Dadisi Sanyika, Continuous Delivery Foundation (Linux) - Adrienne Marcum, OpenSSF - Arun Gupta, Intel - David A. Wheeler, George Mason University - Scott Clinton, OWASP - Ijeoma Onwuka, Scandium Systems	Youth & SDGs Speakers: - Divya Mohan, SUSE - Abigail Mesranyame Dogbe, Everything Open Source Africa, Cincinnati University - Ruth Ikegah, CHAOSS - Joon Baek, Technology Focal Point - Winnie Kennedy, UNMGCY - Sujasna Tamang, UNMGCY	Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions with Open Source AI Speakers: - Diego Gosmar, Open Voice Interoperability initiative - Deborah Dahl, Open Voice Interoperability initiative - Tiffany Farriss, Drupal Association - David Cuartielles, Malmö University - Elizabeth Adams, Minnesota Responsible AI Institute	Open Source Enablement in the Public Sector for transformation and innovation. Speakers: - Bastien Guerry, DINUM - Tom Sadler, BBC - Omar Mohsine, UN - Sachiko Muto, OpenForum Europe - Serge Stinckwich, United Nations University - Remy DeCausemaker, CMS - Michael Downey, UN - Johan Linåker, RiSE	Digital Public Goods as Infrastructure: Use Cases and Practical Considerations Speakers: - Paula Hunter, Mojaloop Foundation - Gunjan Jain, Strategy at eGov Foundation - Arnau Monterde Mateo, Barcelona City Council - Nil Homedes Busquets, Decidim Association - Jon Lloyd, Digital Public Goods Alliance

	Digital Sovereignty & Resiliency	Global Priorities and SDGs	AI	Capacity Building	DPI
14:00-15:20	Invisible Work, Critical Code: The Role of Maintainers in Open Source Digital Infrastructure Speakers include: - Bastien Guerry, French Interministerial Digital Directorate (DINUM) - Paul Sharratt, Sovereign Tech Agency - Adriana Groh, Sovereign Tech Agency - Powen Shiah, Sovereign Tech Agency - Michael Winser, Alpha Omega - Ruth Ikegah, CHAOSS SDG WG	Open Source and Open Data Speakers: - Diana Lopez Caramazana, Advisor on cities and local governments, UNDP (F, Spain) - Petr Suska, Chief Innovation Officer, City of Prague (M, Czech Rep) - Dmytro Pokhylko, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Columbia University (M, USA) - Joseph Bullock: Data Scientist/ Researcher, UN Department of Peace Operations - Juliet Shen: Head of Product, ROOST - Tarunima Prabhakar: Research lead/ Co-Founder, Tattle	Responsible AI - navigating tradeoffs between innovation and responsibility Speakers: - Anni Lai, LF AI & Data - Ofer Hermoni, iForAI - Oita Coleman, Open Voice TrustMark Initiative - Susan Malaika, IBM	National Responsibility for Fundamental Technologies with Open Source Speakers: - Frederik Blachetta, PwC Germany - Dominik Lawetzky, PwC Germany	DPI in the Global South: Perspectives on Open Source & DPI from Beyond the North Speakers: - Evelyn Kwarteng, Africa Center for Digital Transformation - Khairil Zhafri, EngageMedia - Ronald Ajiboye, STEM Garage Africa - Jan Morrison, STEM Garage Africa and Founder & CEO at TIES - Kemisola Bolarinwa, STEM Garage Africa, Nextwear Technologies - Victor Oshodi, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Nigeria
Break: 15:20- 15:40					

	Digital Sovereignty & Resiliency	Global Priorities and SDGs	AI	Capacity Building	DPI
15:40-17:00	Fostering Resiliency in the Digital Public Infrastructure Speakers: - Peter Giese, NeoNephos Foundation - Ronald Ajiboye, STEM GARAGE AFRICA - Angela Newell, University of Texas - Daniel Izquierdo Cortázar, Bitergia - Cassie Seo, WHO - Cesar Martinez Espinosa, University of Texas	Open Technologies in Healthcare Speaker: - Andrew Lamb, Internet of Production - Julian Stirling, Chief Executive, Humanitarian Technology Trust - Avinash Baskaran, NASA Grant Fellow - Omar Moshine, UN - Om Narayan, Application Security Engineer, AWS - Aline Weng, Head of Product, Intaigent	AI Security, Risk, and Safeguards Speakers: - Scott Clinton, OWASP - Armstrong Foundjem, Institut d'Intelligence sur la durabilité des SECO - Ying Liu, Snahil Singh, NYU - Pradip Khatiwada, Youth Innovation Lab, Nepal	Measuring the Impact of Open Source for DPI Speakers: - Kemisola Bolarinwa, STEM Garage Africa - David Lippert, George Washington University - Ruth Ikegah, CHAOSS - Kendall Fortney, University of Vermont	DPI Governance: Navigating Law, Ethics, and Safeguards in Open Source DPI Speakers: - Aparana Singh, Suno Sunao - Li Xing, Access Partnership - Sarah Lee, Fair Tech Policy at Access Partnership - Jorge Tuddón, The Wireless Cable - Alice Bibaud, Margin Research

