

2018 G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting Recommended Outcomes

Industry welcomes the leadership of Argentina in the G20 and the group's continued championing of the digital economy. The G20 should build upon the work achieved at the previous Digital Economy Ministerial and support policies that enable growth and innovation. As the G20 recognized in 2017, "the digital economy is an increasingly important driver of global inclusive economic growth and plays a significant role in accelerating economic development, enhancing productivity of existing industries, cultivating new markets and industries and achieving inclusive sustainable growth and development." Industry encourages the G20 to engage in discussions consistent with these views, and offers the following recommended outcomes with respect to themes that the Argentinian Presidency identified for the 2018 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting:

- **Digital Inclusion:** The Internet and emerging technologies are creating new opportunities for social inclusion and international development. To further this trend, the G20 should encourage broadband deployment and Internet adoption and ensure that the Internet remains a neutral platform, open to all users around the world.
- **Future Jobs Skills:** Technological progress has driven economic growth and enhanced labor productivity, and transformations in how individuals participate in the economy has accompanied this growth. To ensure workers have the necessary skills to participate in the increasingly digital workforce, the G20 should prioritize the education of students of all ages and provide workers with sufficient flexibility and adaptive skills to succeed in new roles as the workforce and economy continues to evolve. STEM education also needs to be improved. The G20 should encourage governments to work with the private sector to develop solutions that will enable the economic growth and productivity that accompanies new technologies, while also encouraging investment in human capital, skills, and worker flexibility. Industry and governments must work together to develop short, medium, and long-term solutions to empower all people and sectors to freely benefit from the fruits of technological innovation.
- **SMEs and Entrepreneurship:** Low barriers to entry characterizes the Internet economy, which allows Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs) and startups an equal platform to enter the global market and compete. The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that the direct impact of data flows leads to 3% global GDP growth annually. That net effect is not limited to Internet companies — an estimated 75% goes to traditional businesses, big and small, that the digital economy enables to grow in new and better ways. The low-cost of entry and rapid scaling that Internet-enabled services provide allows SMEs to start new ventures, find customers around the world online, hire new workers, and grow in their communities. These businesses rely on open data flows to reach new customers, and regulatory consistency to invest in new markets. The G20 should work to open up trade for SMEs by discouraging restrictions on cross-border data flows, avoiding data localization requirements, reducing barriers to entry in local markets, and encouraging capacity building and digital skills for SMEs and entrepreneurs. This will also enhance regulatory certainty for SMEs engaged in digital trade.

- **“Industry 4.0” and Emerging Technologies:** The G20 should encourage policy approaches that will usher in the next industrial revolution. Technology is fundamentally changing the nature of manufacturing in positive ways by greatly enhancing productivity. The G20 should commit to furthering an environment that will enable growth and innovation. This includes the following:
- Encourage approaches to new technologies that protect consumers from actual harms, as speculative regulation can chill innovation and further development. Any new regulation of emerging technologies or business models should be evidence-based, founded on widely accepted definitions, and narrowly-tailored to address a specific and demonstrated current harm to consumers or competition in order not to restrain innovation, economic growth, and job creation.
 - Promote the development of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and algorithmic data analysis by prioritizing international investment in research and education.
 - Support economic opportunity and enhance ecosystem resiliency by promoting information security and network risk management that is interoperable globally and across sectors. Industry will leverage consensus-based international standards and references, such as ISO/IEC 27103 and functionally equivalent frameworks, guidelines, and best practices, that are developed with transparency and through multi-stakeholder input, strengthening trust and fostering investment, innovation, and growth in the global economy.
 - Discourage barriers to entry in global markets for products and services of the digital economy. International development, growth, and productivity is only possible in an environment in which market access and global cooperation is not limited by trade barriers such as tariffs, discriminatory regulations, or other access restrictions.