

**Forum:** Special Conference on Re-defining Human Rights in an Everchanging World (SPECON)

**Issue:** Promoting equitable access to technological advancements and innovations across nations

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## INTRODUCTION

In today's world, both innovation and technology play a major role in forming a country and fostering its internal development. In our case, technological advancements and innovations are what create a clear division between countries and their ability to enhance both their global influence as well as their economic power. From the beginning of time, we humans have always tried to evolve, expand our horizons, and adapt—but most importantly, we have always tried to prosper and thrive. That can be either economically, socially, or emotionally. This drive to constantly improve our lives and move forward is what has helped us humans advance technologically and, at the same time, become innovators across different sectors.

Unfortunately, due to the ever-shifting nature of our world and the vast past and ongoing global challenges each nation faces or has faced, we have all had different opportunities and therefore different outcomes when it comes to how technologically advanced or innovative our nation is. Furthermore, it is very important to also understand that by equity, we mean that—due to the differences in historical background, culture, and circumstances between different countries—reaching a fair and equal outcome would not be achieved by treating everyone in the same way.

This study guide will assess how different agents like the UN, NGOs, and governments can ensure equitable access to both these crucial factors and promote sustainable and safe development across nations. To be able to understand and help resolve the issue, we first need to look at some of the factors causing this inequality. One of those factors is access to education. It is not difficult to see that there is a correlation between education and the ability to advance technologically and innovatively as a country. Another factor is colonialism. Unfortunately, countries that were colonised—especially countries in the region of Africa and partly Asia—have suffered the most, as their resources were taken advantage of by their colonisers. This gave their colonisers the ability to thrive and boost their development while at the same time leaving them behind in a stagnant state where they couldn't progress.

These factors played a crucial role in forming the current technological and innovative divide between nations, and they are what the agents mentioned above are tasked with addressing.

This topic strongly ties into the theme of DSAMUN 2025, which centres on inclusion, empowerment, and resilience in the face of global inequalities. Ensuring equitable access to technology and innovation reflects these ideals by addressing systemic disadvantages and promoting long-term, inclusive development. By focusing on technological equity, we are not only bridging global divides but also reinforcing the DSAMUN commitment to fairness, cooperation, and sustainable progress for all nations.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### ***Technological advancements***

Technological advancements are progressive steps related to or involving technology towards improving a country's ability to use those steps to enhance its technological ability.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Equity***

Recognising that due to the difference in cultural and historical background its country has different opportunities and is in different circumstances, therefore reaching a fair and equal outcome will not mean treating everyone in the same way.<sup>2</sup>

### ***Innovations***

Innovations are new ideas or methods within different sectors like the technological one that foster development and economic growth.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Digital divide***

Digital divide refers to the distinction between those who have access to technological assets<sup>4</sup> and those who are excluded from such assets.

### ***Capacity development***

Capacity development refers to the societal process of creating, adapting, strengthening and maintaining capacity over time.

### ***Ceteris Paribus***

If everything else remains the same; other things being equal.<sup>5</sup>

1“Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus.” Dictionary.cambridge.org, [dictionary.cambridge.org](https://dictionary.cambridge.org).

2European Commission. “European Commission | Choose Your Language | Choisir Une Langue | Wählen Sie Eine Sprache.” Europa.eu, 2024, [ec.europa.eu](https://ec.europa.eu).

3 International Journal of Research in Law and Social Sciences. IJRLS. “Ijrls.” Ijrls.in, 2015, [www.ijrls.in](http://www.ijrls.in).

4Environment, UN. “UNEP - UN Environment Programme.” UNEP - UN Environment Programme, 2024, [www.unep.org](https://www.unep.org).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### *Types of access to technological advances and innovations*

Transitioning from the factors mentioned in the introduction to the types of access a country can have to technological advancements will help provide a clearer picture.. To begin with, one of the major aspects is affordability. Due to factors like colonialism or lack of resources many countries haven't had the opportunity to develop their economic capabilities. This makes their access to certain types of technological advancements utopian since they do not have the capital to buy or develop these technologies. The same applies to innovation. To be able to create and develop some new methods and ideas requires significant funding, which many countries unfortunately lack.

This already limits their ability to access technological advancements and innovations but let's take a look into some other aspects that are also blocking their access to those two areas. Another aspect is adaptability. Developing and emerging economies have limited resources and unfortunately don't have the power to transition fast and to follow trends and patterns that could lead to them not being able to use new technologies and innovations appropriately. An example of that could be the failure to transition into modern educational systems that could push the population of a nation to excel academically making it more likely to produce scientists and other specialists that are required to create new innovations or technological advancements.

Finally another very significant factor is utilization. Even if the LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries) managed to acquire some of these Innovations or technologies they would have a hard time using them effectively to utilize them in their maximum capacity.<sup>6</sup> This would occur not only due to the lack of knowledge but also due to the limitations these countries have. Some of these limitations include corruption, outdated ideologies and restrictive abilities when it comes to spreading and maintaining these technological advancements and innovations within their communities, to better the lives of their people.

### *Solutions in Action*

The biggest challenge is, what can the agents mentioned in the introduction do, that they aren't doing so already, to help resolve this inequality. Firstly it is crucial to acknowledge that

<sup>5</sup>“ScienceDirect.com | Science, Health and Medical Journals, Full Text Articles and Books.”  
Www.sciencedirect.com, <https://www.sciencedirect.com>..

<sup>6</sup>World Bank. “World Bank Group - International Development, Poverty, & Sustainability.” World Bank, 2022,  
[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

there are a few things that bodies like the UN are doing to help with the resolution of the issue. An example of that could be the multiple treaties mentioned below which serve as a prime display of what positive steps are being taken. Those treaties aim to boost knowledge sharing as well as fund the development of new technologies and Innovations in underdeveloped countries, thus acting as a bridge and mending the divide between countries when it comes to technological advancements and Innovations.

Another key agent actively involved in resolving the issue is national governments. Governments are essential when it comes to fixing such problems due to their ability to place themselves in positions where they can make impactful decisions. An example of that could be the fact that most countries have signed and have been actively following the UN treaties mentioned below. Furthermore, a lot of countries both LEDC (less Economically Developed Countries) and MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) like Uganda, the USA and Germany are all forming their own solutions to the problem through various programs, policies and agendas.

### ***The Impacts of Colonialism***

Another important aspect in understanding and resolving this issue is assessing the factors we can not control or the ones in which our control over them is limited. During the research phase, a study conducted by Mario Coccia, an economist at the National Research Council of Italy concluded that there is a correlation between population size and technological advancement.<sup>7</sup>

He concludes that their findings support the idea that “ceteris paribus (if all else remains equal), high population and significant demographic changes may hinder technological output.” If we take this logical claim that is supported by evidence in the study, it would make sense to assume that countries like India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, DR Congo and many other countries both in Asia and Africa would be far more technologically advanced than for example smaller countries in population like the UK, France, Italy and Spain.

Although this assumption would be logical, it is not something that we can take as facts, his statement can be attributed to many different factors, one of which is colonialism.<sup>8</sup> A relevant example could be the plethora of countries in Africa with vast amounts of resources<sup>9</sup> that with the right help and technology to utilize them would eventually place them in a position to progress on their own. This is something that can be asserted as proven as while Europe is the

<sup>7</sup>“Home ... Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.” Un.org, 2019, [sustainabledevelopment.un.org](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org).

<sup>8</sup>“Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus.” Dictionary.cambridge.org, [dictionary.cambridge.org](https://dictionary.cambridge.org).

<sup>9</sup>“Connecting the World and Beyond.” ITU, 2025, [www.itu.int](https://www.itu.int).

continent with the least amount of natural resources through colonialism, former colonial powers managed to thrive; meanwhile, Africa, a continent with the most natural resources and a significantly larger population has been left behind. This could change dramatically by empowering African countries to utilise their resources and correcting a major systemic problem of the past.

### ***How Aid is Allocated***

Moving on to how agents assess how and where to allocate resources to be able to help. One thing that organisations like the UN or governments do is use data and models to predict future outcomes when it comes to the countries that need long term support or a small nudge towards the right direction. This aims to ensure that resources and funds are allocated appropriately ensuring positive future outcomes.

The reason why it is very important to split countries in need into categories using data and trends to predict the future, ranging from those needing minimal assistance to those requiring substantial support, is because in our current ever shifting world, resources are limited and some countries have the potential to thrive on their own even if we don't know it yet while others don't. One way to assess how and where help is needed and whether to classify a country as one in need of long term help would be through looking into their past and current situation.

For example, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Myanmar that have experienced prolonged wars in the past decade will need a lot more time and resources to be able to build up equal access to both technological advancements and Innovations. Another way would be through assessing the availability of resources in each nation. This could mean looking into how big is the workforce, the number of educated workers, potential natural resources and other available resources that might help boost a country's ability to develop, utilise, adapt and transmit innovation and technological advances within its borders.<sup>10</sup>

## **MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED**

### ***United States of America***

The United States of America has played a fundamental role as a global power in supporting and promoting equitable access to both technology and information for all nations. One of its efforts to do so is the USAID Digital Strategy, which tackles three main pillars: digital infrastructure and adoption, digital society, rights and governance, and the digital economy. These pillars are critical in ensuring equitable access to technological advancements and innovation.

10“UNDP - Digital Strategy 2022-2025.” Undp.org., 2022, [digitalstrategy.undp.org](https://digitalstrategy.undp.org). Accessed 28 Aug. 2025.

- Digital infrastructure and adoption focuses on expanding affordable, secure internet connectivity and increasing access to digital tools and services. It suggests investing in broadband infrastructure, promoting digital literacy, and supporting local innovation ecosystems to close the global digital divide.
- Digital society, rights and governance emphasizes the importance of open, inclusive, and accountable digital systems. It promotes protecting human rights online, ensuring data privacy, strengthening cybersecurity, and supporting transparent digital governance to prevent misuse of technology and uphold democratic values.
- The digital economy supports the use of technology to drive economic growth, particularly in developing countries. This pillar encourages entrepreneurship, digital financial services, and inclusive access to markets. It recommends supporting small businesses, improving digital trade environments, and ensuring that digital economic opportunities are accessible to all, especially women and marginalized communities.

## **Germany**

Germany has also been a key contributor when it comes to promoting equality access for all nations in both innovations and technological advancements. It has done so through<sup>11</sup> GIZ (the German agency for international cooperation) and more specifically its FAIR Forward programme, which aims to strengthen local technical know-how in Africa and Asia, Improve access to training data and AI technologies for local innovations and develop policy framework for ethical AI data protection and privacy.

## **Uganda**

Uganda, is another nation that has suffered from technological advancement or rather the lack of such advancements within its borders. To combat that they have formed the Digital Uganda Vision (DUV), which is part of the country's 2040 goals. This program aims to eradicate the digital divide between rural and urban areas within the country as well as to create and foster new technologies and innovations with networks allowing for their transmission throughout Uganda and possibly neighbouring countries.

## **The World Bank**

The World Bank has been a key contributor towards bridging the gap between nations when it comes to access to new technologies and innovations. One way they have shown that is by creating the<sup>12</sup> DE4A program. This program stands for digital economy for Africa and aims to enable digitally every individual, business and government in Africa by 2030. This

<sup>11</sup>“ScienceDirect.com | Science, Health and Medical Journals, Full Text Articles and Books.”  
Www.sciencedirect.com, <https://www.sciencedirect.com>..

plan, understandably, might seem difficult for some but it also shows the trust and confidence as well as commitment the World Bank has taken in this program.

### **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

The UNDP is a UN general assembly affiliated program that aims to promote digital innovation in governance, climate action, health and inclusive development. It was founded in 1965 and since then it has been tasked with helping countries through enabling them to become digitally integrated and independent. An example of that was its vital help in assisting 82 countries with the adoption of 580 digital solutions like e-commerce systems and digital governance systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>13</sup>

### **Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

The OECD, is another very important Intergovernmental organisation (IGO) that has played a significant part in helping solve the current issue through discussions. Firstly, they tackle many aspects of our issues some of which include: Bridging connectivity divide, Bridging the rural digital divide, OECD AI principles and Digital economy outlook. Those four elements are some of the many challenges the OECD has been working on solving through its various projects. This has all been possible with the support of over 100 countries globally and 38 permanent country members and other IGOs like the UN, the World Bank and the IMF.

## **TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF EVENT</b>
17th of May 1865	Founding of the ITU. The continuing mission is to achieve the best practical solution for integrating new technologies as they develop and to spread their benefits to all. <sup>14</sup>
10th of December 2003	The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society was held in Geneva.

12Cambridge University Press. “Home.” Cambridge University Press, 2019, [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org).

13 “Home | AFD - Agence Française de Développement.” Www.afd.fr, 2 June 2025, [www.afd.fr/en/home](http://www.afd.fr/en/home). Accessed 28 Aug. 2025.

14Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit )giz. “Startseite.” Wwww.giz.de, www.giz.de.

	<sup>15</sup> The aim was to bridge the global digital divide.
16th of November 2005	The second phase of the World Summit in Tunis. Culminating the Tunis commitment and agenda.
30th of May 2024	A UN platform showcasing how AI can advance sustainable development—highlighting inclusivity, capacity-building and collaboration. <sup>16</sup>
15 July 2015	Addis Ababa action agenda. This agenda outlines strategies to mobilise resources and technologies to support the 2030 agenda
25 September 2015	2030 agenda for sustainable development. It was adopted by all UN member states in New York. It set out 17 sustainability goals and its main aim was to ensure prosperity for all.

## RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### ***The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***

The resolution “Promoting equitable access to technological advancements and innovations for all nations” was adopted to address disparities in technology access that impede sustainable development. It aligns with Goal 9, which focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation, as well as Goal 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. The resolution encourages international cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity building. While it has facilitated progress in several regions, persistent challenges in under-resourced countries limit its full effectiveness, underscoring the need for increased support and enforcement to ensure equitable access for all nations. This progress demonstrates that countries actively engaging with these treaties are moving in the right direction toward resolving the issue.<sup>22</sup> The resolution is grounded in the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), a global commitment adopted by all UN Member States in 2015. The Agenda provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity, placing strong emphasis on technology and innovation as drivers of progress across multiple goals. However, disparities in infrastructure, funding, and institutional capacity—particularly in least developed countries—continue to hinder uniform

15 Cambridge University Press. “ceteris paribus.” Cambridge Dictionary, Cambridge University Press, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ceteris-paribus>.

16“AI for Good.” AI for Good, [aiforgood.itu.int](http://aiforgood.itu.int).

implementation, demonstrating a gap between the Agenda's aspirations and on-the-ground realities.

### **The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)**

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted in 2015 as part of the financing framework for the 2030 Agenda, outlines concrete policies and actions to support sustainable development through financial, technological, and capacity-building means. Section F specifically focuses on promoting science, technology, innovation, and capacity-building to reduce the technological divide between countries. It advocates for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, enhanced national innovation systems, and increased investment in research and development, especially in developing countries. It also established the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) to strengthen international cooperation and knowledge-sharing. The Agenda is significant in its recognition that financial commitments alone are insufficient without access to the tools of innovation. Although the TFM has led to some improvements in international collaboration, progress has been uneven. Many developing countries still face structural barriers such as limited infrastructure, low digital literacy, and insufficient funding, which have constrained the full realization of its goals. Compared to other frameworks, the Addis Agenda distinguishes itself by explicitly linking technology access with financing strategies, making it a critical component of broader sustainable development implementation.

### **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Outcomes – The Tunis Agenda**

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005, represents a pivotal international effort to promote equitable access to ICTs and build a people-centered, inclusive information society. It emphasizes the role of innovation and technological development in empowering communities, improving governance, and fostering development. The Agenda calls for capacity-building in science and ICT, strengthening national innovation systems, promoting infrastructure (e.g. IXPs, affordable access devices), and enabling technology transfer to developing countries. It further encourages the use of innovative financial instruments such as incubators and digital solidarity funds to support ICT initiatives. The Tunis Agenda has been instrumental in framing the digital divide as a global challenge, but its effectiveness has varied. While it has led to stronger international discourse and some national policy reforms, its non-binding nature and lack of robust enforcement mechanisms have limited tangible outcomes in many regions. Unlike more recent initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda, the WSIS outcomes were more narrowly focused on ICTs rather than broader science and innovation systems, making them less comprehensive in addressing systemic barriers to equitable technology access.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)**

India's Ministry of External Affairs launched the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to promote development through technical partnerships with other nations. It

has helped developing nations by offering consultancy services, study tours, donation of equipment, deputation of Indian experts to partner nations, and aid for disaster relief. These initiatives have helped bridge the technological and innovative gap between India and its partner nations by expanding their economic potential and boosting their output capabilities.

Country-specific achievements include:

- Nepal: Used ITEC training to develop improved disaster management and water resource management systems.
- Kenya: Adopted solar energy solutions and digital governance reforms after training key officials in India.
- Bhutan: Enhanced agricultural productivity and rural development by applying modern techniques learned through ITEC.
- Vietnam: Improved cyber-security infrastructure by sending military and IT personnel to ITEC defence and technology courses.

### ***Agence Française de Développement (AFD) – Dakar Electric BRT***

France has supported the funding and construction of Dakar’s first 100% electric Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network through its international development agency. The electric BRT system will cover 18.3 kilometres with 23 stations, serving over 300,000 passengers daily. It aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 59,000 tonnes and create around 1,000 jobs. As of now, two lines have been completed, reducing commute times by about 45 minutes. The full project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.<sup>17</sup>

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### ***International Technology-Sharing Platform***

The first solution I would suggest would be a joint venture between developed countries across the globe like: Japan, the USA, Germany, France, Italy, South Korea, South Africa, Canada and Australia. This venture would be a technology sharing platform that will give less economically developed countries the opportunity to access insightful information about specific technologies and innovations that those countries have developed. Then the developed countries would help adapt and transfer this technology to the developing nations giving them the opportunity to develop their economies as well as their global influence and infrastructure.

### **Joint Development Fund**

<sup>17</sup>“Homepage | UN Global Compact.” Unglobalcompact.org., 23 July 2025, [unglobalcompact.org](https://unglobalcompact.org).

Another solution would be a joint fund that consists of only financial support. This would allow developing nations to access funding and thus be able to start developing their own technologies as well as Innovations. This fund should be closely monitored by third parties to ensure that there is no embezzlement of the funds both from the funding sources or the governments of the recipient countries.

### ***Investment in Education***

The third and in my opinion the most solid but also most time consuming solution would be the investment in education by both developed countries and IGOs as well as NGOs. This would build a solid foundation for the future boosting the overall quality of labour in the countries receiving this investment. In the long run it would allow them to boost their economic growth as well as produce more skillful employment that will help drive technological advancement and increase innovation within the country. While this plan could take more than 20-30 years to yield results, it would target the root of the problem and thus potentially eliminate the issue at hand from its core.

### ***Anti-Corruption Oversight Mechanism***

Finally, another solution would be to tackle corruption. While in plain sight corruption might not be one of the first problems that comes to mind when thinking of our topic, it is in fact a critical issue. For all of the solutions mentioned above money is a key part in allowing for their completion. This would mean that LEDCs which are often affected by intergovernmental corruption would need to handle the money that they receive. This would open up a gateway, allowing for the misuse of the funds by a corrupt government and essentially eradicating any positive potential impact on the country's citizens. One way to prevent that from happening would be through implementing a regulatory commission. This commission would be composed of multiple representatives from different third party countries and agencies that would regulate the process and ensure through proper oversight and framework that the funds get used adequately. This would allow for sustained growth and protect the above programs and solutions from externalities, like corruption, that the funding members can't control.

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