



*CAIDP Update 2.29 (Aug. 29, 2021) – G-20 Digital Ministers Update AI Strategy*

The Digital Ministers of the G-20 concluded their work this week for the October Leaders' Summit with the issuance of a [Declaration](#). The Declaration builds on earlier work of the G-20 and introduces new policy goals for the protection of children, policy measurement, the digitalization of public services, and digital identity. CAIDP has tracked closely the work of the G-20 as the organization plays a key role in the development of global norms for AI.

In the 2021 [Declaration](#), the Digital Ministers stated “We reaffirm our willingness to implement trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to commit to a human-centred approach, as decided in 2019 under the Japanese G20 Presidency, guided by the G20 AI Principles, drawn from the OECD Recommendations on AI. We will build on the Examples of National Policies to advance the G20 AI principles, launched under the Saudi G20 Presidency in 2020.” The Ministers noted the need to improve the ability to track implementation of AI policy, a point made also in the CAIDP report [Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Values](#). “We believe that measurement of AI, notably its diffusion and impact across the economy and the international comparability of indicators on AI, needs to be improved.”

The Digital Ministers established a new focus on Children's Protection and Empowerment in the Digital Age, building on [recent work of the OECD](#). As explained in the Declaration, “The abundance of personal information and data processed and shared in the use of internet, mobile devices and media devices, including through emerging digital technologies, such as AI and Internet of Things, exposes children to increased and complex privacy risks.” The G-20 also called attention, for the first time, to the risk of “bias in algorithms,” though the statement was far less emphatic than the statement from the G-7 democratic nations earlier this year. (See [CAIDP Update 2.24](#)).

The G-20 Digital Ministers released reports on the [Digitalization of Public Services](#) and [Digital Identity](#). The first report noted that digitalization should not “lead to excluding businesses and citizens who do not wish or are not able to use digital public services.” The second report called for digital identity that is “easily usable, reliable, secure, trusted, and portable.” Privacy protection was also a prominent theme.

In a [statement](#) earlier this year, CAIDP recommended that the G20 endorse “red lines” for certain AI deployments, such as facial surveillance, that violate fundamental freedoms. “These systems are contrary to the goals of human-centric and trustworthy AI and will likely provoke further negative responses,” CAIDP wrote to the Digital Ministers. The CAIDP also recommended that the G20 focus on “fairness, accountability, and transparency for all AI systems, particularly for public services.”

The G-20 Leaders will meet in Rome at the end of October to consider the recommendations of the Digital Ministers and to issue a final Declaration. Indonesia will then take on the Presidency of the G-20 for 2022, followed by India in 2023.