
List of questions

Public hearing on “International digital policy”
on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, 14:30 – 16:30 hrs,
Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Building (MELH), room 3.101

As at: 22 September 2023

- 1) What should a German strategy for international digital policy focus on, and how could Germany and Europe be better positioned in this context?
- 2) What role should Germany’s international digital policy play in the European Union?
- 3) To what extent is an increasingly multipolar world order influencing the work of the institutions traditionally responsible for internet governance, and what implications does this have for the open, free internet and access to it, or for the protection of human rights and communication freedoms? To what extent are underhand methods also being used in an attempt to undermine the international standardisation bodies in geopolitical terms, for example to impose certain values by technical means or to close markets to competition? What consequences should this have for the German and European strategy on international digital policy?
- 4) What specific measures should financial resources earmarked for international digital policy be used to fund?
- 5) Could and should digital-policy considerations be taken into account more in the trade-policy decisions and initiatives of the Federal Government and the European Union, for example when drafting trade agreements – and if so, in what ways?
- 6) In the past, there have been repeated calls for the EU to pursue a “third way” with regard to the regulation of its digital ecosystem – distinct from China’s techno-authoritarianism and the US digital economy. Do you regard this approach as outdated, in view of the shift in German foreign and security policy (*Zeitenwende*) and the resulting need for greater digital-policy cooperation and integration with the United States and other liberal and democratic partners?
- 7) How can democratic internet governance be ensured over the long term? In this context, what role is played by existing formats such as the IGF, the planned Global Digital Compact, and



transnational organisations such as ICANN (particularly with regard to the multistakeholder model and civil society involvement)?

- 8) What should Germany critically examine when developing its international digital policy, with regard to the international impact of national laws on power relations, new dependencies, global justice and Germany's colonial heritage?
- 9) How are digital-policy instruments currently abused by states as a tool of oppression (e.g. internet shutdowns), what developments are we witnessing in this context, and how can and should the EU and Germany take effective action to stop this?
- 10) What interactions exist between national and international digital policy, what is the significance of digital foreign policy in this context, and what aspects should Germany develop even further?
- 11) What cross-cutting policy fields should be taken into consideration by the Federal Government when developing a strategy for international digital policy?
- 12) How can the Federal Government ensure the operational implementation of a strategy for international digital policy in practice (please specify concrete instruments/methods)?
- 13) In your view, has the Federal Government already actively implemented the decisions it took in the framework of the German G7 Presidency in 2022?
- 14) In your view, is the Federal Government doing enough, or not, to actively participate in the bodies (international and otherwise) that are relevant and responsible for international digital policy, including standardisation bodies?
- 15) What view do the experts take of the Federal Government's current efforts to reduce the global digital divide, and what resulting benefits for Germany can currently be identified?
- 16) What is the experts' view of African countries' technological expertise in the digital sphere, e.g. on issues such as IT security or AI applications, and would greater exchange on these issues not amount to a one-sided outflow of technology from Germany, in most cases?
- 17) How could an international digital policy pursued by Germany contribute to moving closer to the goal of a fair and inclusive global digital transformation, and, to this end, help to strengthen global partnerships based on equality and openness (e.g. digital commons) and to achieve greater diversity in innovation processes and technology production; in particular, what role could support for open and sustainable technological solutions play in this context, including those produced by grassroots innovators in the Global South?
- 18) What topics should an international digital policy cover in order to address the most important issues in the relationship between the Global North and the Global South, with a view to achieving a fair and inclusive global digital transformation? Please state (briefly) why in each case. (For example: raw material extraction and its consequences, market concentration, representation in data and content, norms/standards/governance, digital



commons, platform work, participation and access to education / innovation processes / connectivity, etc.)