Conference highlights

OSPOs for Good – Building & Designing Cooperative Digital Infrastructure

United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology

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Conference Highlights: OSPOs for Good- Building & Designing Cooperative Digital Infrastructure

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OSPOs for Good

Background

Whether we realize it or not, we rely on Open Source software every day. Open Source software powers the internet and cloud technologies. It is in supercomputers, blockchain, the Internet of Things, and Artificial Intelligence. As such, the Open Source ethos aligns with the ideals of the United Nations as it rests on openness, transparency, equality and collaboration.

In its Resolution[1] adopted on 22 July 2021, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognized the enormous potential for Open Source technologies to drive efforts towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By sharing source code freely under a license that permits copying, modification, and redistribution, Open Source can help to reduce current disparities in digital maturity through affordable and equitable access to technologies. By lowering barriers to entry, Open Source promotes collaboration within global communities, fostering technical learning and the development of place-based knowledge.

The Resolution invited the Secretary-General to "develop specific proposals on ways to better leverage Open Source technologies for sustainable development based on inputs from interested Member States and other stakeholders." The OSPOs for Good event and this report should be seen as a step towards developing such proposals by considering how an industry-proven method can be leveraged for economic empowerment and sustainable growth, particularly in underserved communities and low-income countries.

Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) are designated bodies of an organization where Open Source strategies, policies and guidance are supported, shared, explained and grown inside an organization, and which acts as an organizational API for cooperation. The OSPO has been identified as a key enabler for industry to leverage the benefits of Open Source, and has the potential to accelerate these processes within international organizations, national administrations, and civil society.

Insofar as OSPOs are good for fostering an Open Source community, they are ineffective if siloed solely within their respective organizations. Their presence, though beneficial to

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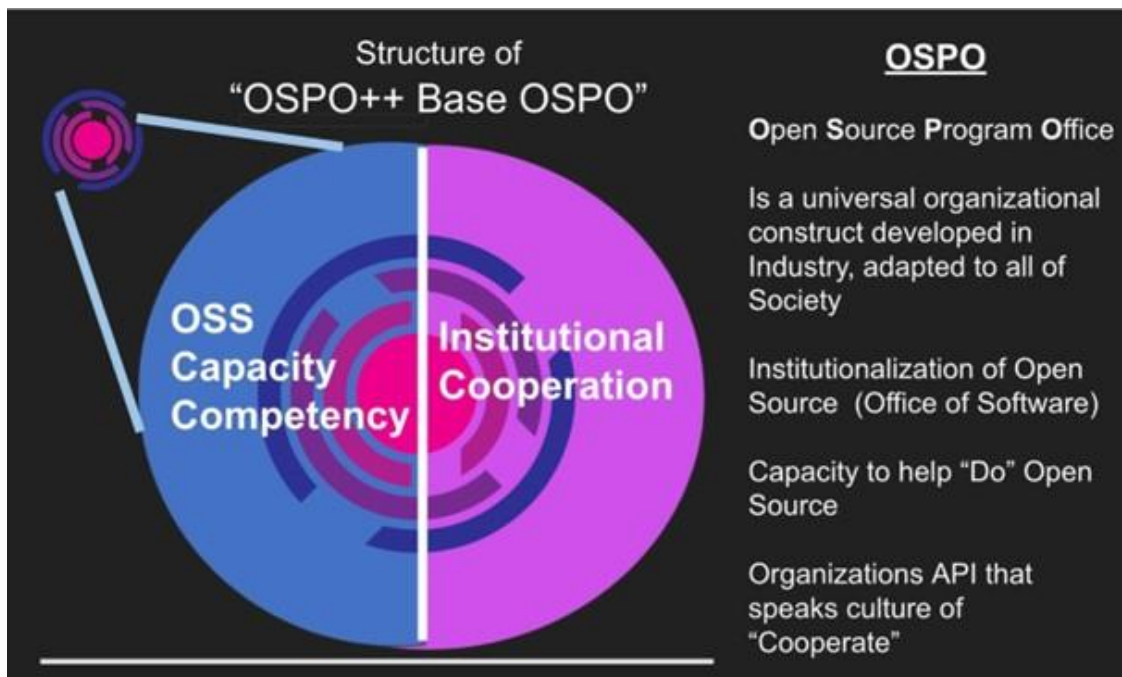
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[1] Resolution on open-source technologies for sustainable development

the organization, still houses significant untapped potential as Open Source is inherently collaborative and global. OSPOs that don't work together for a greater impact run counter to the ethos of Open Source. Thus, existing OSPOs must work together and build cross-border digital cooperation between organizations enabling unified progress toward a more inclusive, interconnected, and sustainable future.

(OSPO++ Default OPSO, Capacity to DO Open Source. Capacity to DO cooperation between institutions. (2021 - Bareille, Green, Hillenius)

Symposium

The Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET) and the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) together with OSPO++, Open Forum Europe, two leading civil society not for profit organizations on OSPOs, and Research Institutes of Sweden and Johns Hopkins University as academic partners, organized a conference on **OSPOs for Good: Building & Designing Cooperative Digital Infrastructure**.

The event was held at United Nations Headquarters on 21 June 2023. More than 60 high-level participants from 15 countries gathered to discuss the opportunities provided by Open Source for sustainable development and the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

The primary objective of the conference was to bring together today's thinkers from the United Nations and its agencies, NGOs, academia, private sector, and other key actors to come together to discuss best practices and experiences, to focus in on the OSPO as a construct for achieving social good, to create new formal and informal networks of innovative forms of collaboration between OSPOs for good, and to generate concrete recommendations.

Through high-level keynotes, expert panels, and interactive sessions (agenda in the Annex), this action symposium aimed to address the issue of wasted potential by fostering collaboration among

government, academia, and industry through a novel cooperative infrastructure. The goal was to work together towards achieving positive outcomes for society with connected and collaborating OSPOs using Open Source and Digital Public Goods to get meaningful & contributory work done together. Connecting OSPOs for Good will help build on the existing model of OSPOs and extend it further to address societal challenges and create positive social, environmental, and humanitarian impact.

Opening Segment

Opening statement by Ms. Paula Grzegorzewska – Strategic Partnerships Director, OpenForum Europe

While OSPOs started predominantly in the industry, in the private sector, they are gaining attention of public administrations around the world. This is in no small part due to the efforts of all the diverse organisations that many of you are part of and many engaged policymakers, keen researchers, developers, and enthusiasts, and all of them share one thing, a vision of connected and cooperating OSPOs to help address society's biggest challenges. Open source software is at [the] heart of our digital world, powering the cloud, big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and many other cutting edge technologies. It embodies the principles of collaboration, sustainability, inclusivity and innovation, allowing us to build a stronger and more sustainable future. Together. Today we have a privilege of gathering leading Open Source experts, practitioners, and fingers from around the world who bring diverse array of knowledge and visions on how we could achieve all these goals, how to take them to the next level, and how to use OSPOs and open technologies to achieve these societal goals.

"Open Source software is at heart of our digital world, powering the cloud, big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and many other cutting edge technologies.

It embodies the principles of collaboration, sustainability, inclusivity and innovation, allowing us to build a stronger and more sustainable future."

Keynote by Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill – the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology

Thank you very much and thank you to all of you for coming together on this day. Happy International Day of Yoga and

happy summer solstice, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. I'm delighted to share a few thoughts at the start of this event. As you've said, Madam Chair, this is an important moment and we are quite excited about this journey going forward on this topic of great significance to our shared digital future. Open Source software is everywhere. It's the life blood running through the veins of our devices, powering our internet browsers, and facilitating the connections we use to engage - even in this very meeting. Open Source democratizes access to digital technologies, gives developing countries and startups everywhere the opportunity to adopt, adapt, and implement solutions tailored to their unique context without the often prohibitive licensing costs associated with proprietary software.

And we've learned over many, many years of working with Open Source software that the apparent contradiction between Open Source technologies and proprietary software is not helpful. This is a trope. There is today, even in those who opposed Open Source at the outset, recognition that the two can coexist and in fact, if you actually go to a startup, go to many of the tech companies and see their actual work, it's a mix of tools, Open Source and some proprietary software. Now at the United Nations, we are engaged in an exciting journey on the Global Digital Compact, which is proposed for adoption at the Summit of the Future next year. Recently, the UN Secretary General gave some inputs into this process and those inputs reflect the collective wisdom, the collective thinking of the entire UN system, including the two institutions represented here today. In his policy brief published on June 5th, the Secretary General has emphasized the notion of a Global Digital Commons, which encompasses Open Source software, databases and collaboration communities and that these communities, these commons would play a key role in advancing us on the sustainable development goals.

That said, the potential of Open Source technology often remains underutilized even within our own organization. This underutilization represents untapped potential and missed opportunities. That's why we are gathering here today. That's why we've been working hard on the Global Digital Compact so that we can provide the foundations for a shared digital future in which open sharing of knowledge and innovation creates broader societal benefits. In getting to that future, there are three challenges that we face and I just briefly want to set them out before you at the beginning of your deliberations. The first

"Open Source democratizes access to digital technologies, gives developing countries and startups everywhere the opportunity to adopt, adapt, and implement solutions tailored to their unique context"

one is a literacy gap or a knowledge gap on Open Source technology. There's simply not enough awareness of the power of Open Source and how to leverage that power and some of the questions that you hear and we need to address are: How can we procure Open Source solutions? How can we Open Source the solutions we've built? Is there a contradiction between proprietary software and Open Source?

So we need to overcome this literacy gap, this knowledge gap. The second set of challenges relates to sustainability and to maintenance. Numerous Open Source projects start with enthusiasm, but without ongoing resources and dedicated developers, they risk stalling or becoming obsolete. This challenge is something that goes beyond financial sustainability. It is about commitment, it's about organisation, and it is about the buy-in of the larger ecosystem into the work of OSPOs.

The third challenge that I like to submit before you is that of fragmentation. Now because we are, I mean I'm proud to count myself as part of this community, we are very often very individualistic, very idealistic. So we stay siloed, we stay fragmented in our approaches. So the landscape is often scattered and uncoordinated and there is therefore some duplication of effort and inefficient resource use. Again, something that I won't hesitate to call out. Even within the United Nations, there are many organisations that are building applications, tools, but other organisations don't know about them and then they end up reinventing the wheel. So we need to address this challenge through communication, collaboration, interoperability among various Open Source initiatives to foster a more cohesive, productive Open Source ecosystem. A part of this issue of fragmentation is the relationship between Open Source and what are increasingly called Digital Public Goods and what is increasingly focused on as digital public infrastructure. The way I see it is Open Source is the foundation, and then out of that some more formed products which are used broadly, they end up being digital public goods. So they go through some kind of a funnel, some kind of selection, and then if you stack them up, then they might end up in digital public infrastructure. So again, to avoid more fragmentation, more silos, more separation.

We are, I think we are obliged to be aware of this kind of stacking up from Open Source to digital public infrastructure and make sure that we have enough connections across the Open Source community and the growing DPG s and DPI community. And if you go down to understand the origins of many prominent digital public infrastructure today, the India stack for example, dig down, it's coming from the iSpirit Open Source work and the examples could be multiplied. So I want to conclude by underlining the importance of Open Source champions, those who advocate the core principles of openness, collaboration, and transparency intrinsic to the Open Source movement. And this is where you Open Source Programme Offices step in. You are the best you know of open advocacy, encouraging the use, contribution and maintenance of Open Source within your organisations. So thank you for your attention today and I look forward to fruitful discussions and insights from this gathering. I hope we can build this up so that there is greater convergence in the global community. We have more opportunities to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Thank you.

Keynote by Mr. Bernardo Mariano Junior - Assistant Secretary-General Office of Information and Communications Technology at United Nations

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, colleagues, I'm honored to be here today to introduce an event of very significant importance which is rapidly evolving in this digital age. I still remember before joining the United Nations in New York, I was the CIO at the World Health Organization and one of the areas that, during the pandemic, we really used to accelerate WHO readiness in that digital ecosystem, was really relying a lot on Open Source and on partnerships. I am happy to be here today, to see this progress of accelerating partnerships with the Secretary General Tech Envoy, Amandeep, and my office. with your partnership and collaboration, to really move this forward. My hope for this event is that we need to highlight the importance of Open Source and the digital public goods, as Amandeep mentioned, but also to promote this concept of Open Source Program Offices for fostering collaboration among governments, academia and private sector, as well as the multilateral organizations and the non-profit organizations.

Being Mozambican, I'm often asked to advise countries, especially from the South, my own country, but also others that want some advice on digital transformation programs. And my answer to them is very simple: I always tell governments, to invest in Open Source, invest in national capacity, and to create national Open Source communities. I think some of the elements Amandeep just mentioned, can really drive a sustainable digital transformation. And I highlight the word "sustainable" and my ask to you is to please help expand this Open Source community by bringing in the global south, by ensuring that your knowledge, the brain power and knowledge that is sitting in this room, expands across the whole globe. As we say in Africa, if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. We want to go far and fast, and together.

In our interconnected world, Open Source plays a far more significant role than many of us might realise. It powers the

"And therefore, in fostering this collaborative software development, we need to make sure that it benefits communities at large, that it drives us closer to solving humanity's most urgent challenges, and that it supports the achievement of sustainable development goals."

cloud, enables efficient big data management, supports information and knowledge systems. It lies at the core of cutting edge technologies such as blockchain, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence to name a few. These days, almost every software project we come across relies on Open Source foundations, as Amandeep pointed out. However, it's important to note that these projects are protected under proprietary licenses, despite their basis in Open Source initiatives. We need to recognise that the foundation is still Open Source and give credit to it.

When I advise countries, I like to give some examples: Estonia is not the richest country in Europe, but through Open Source it has managed to drive digital transformation to a level that surpasses many European countries with far more resources. I mentioned Estonia, but there are also many more of these successful stories, like for example India. Through these lessons, we need to not only strengthen the community and partnership among them, but also with other countries from the global south. So we are here today because we all share a common belief that Open Source and digital public goods should transcend organisational boundaries. And I think Amandeep mentioned that as well. By fostering this collaborative software development, we need to make sure that it benefits communities at large, that it drives us closer to solving humanity's most urgent challenges, and it supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations and Open Source culture share common values of openness, transparency, equality. Thus, as somebody mentioned how impressed and inspiring to have this meeting in United Nation is, I hope this inspiration serves as more source of energy, empowerment, and encouragement to continue to do better, and not be constrained by any challenge, but making sure that we all work to together to bring these tools and this capacity to where it is most needed.

My hope is that the Open Source offices will support, share, explain, and cultivate this guidance not only within your own organisations, but also across all others that are far more advanced. Let's continue to empower leaders, developers, marketers, and all community to embrace and succeed in Open Source practices. Today's event seeks to illuminate this vast potential by fostering this collaboration among government, academia, and the industry, by building this collaborative infrastructure. We need to cross-collaborate to ensure that we work towards the common goal and the common agenda. My sincere hope is for this event to bring us a unique opportunity, to create a positive environment for meaningful exchange and collaboration among friends, colleagues, and community on Open Source. To conclude, let me stress that building and designing collaborative digital infrastructures is both an opportunity and an obligation that we have to make sure that the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals is a reality. Let's unite and harness the power of Open Source software and Open Source Offices. Let's champion Open Source Offices for Good together. Thank you.

Keynote by Ms. Veronica Gaffey - Director-General of the European Commission -

Directorate-General for Informatics (EC-DIGIT)

It's a fact: Open Source is indispensable for the European Commission. It is a core component of the IT systems used in our policy work. Let me give you some examples. Free and Open Source software is the core of the big data analytics platform. This data science platform delivers insights on crucial challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change. The European Commission developed Vector - a free and Open Source solution that is used by vehicle manufacturers to determine CO2 emissions. Vector is used in the EU and the UK and is being considered in India with interest being shown in Brazil, Chile, Korea, and China. GCO is our geographic information system and it is run an Open Source. It is our pan-European address database based on national authoritative data. This supports our student exchange programme, cohesion funding and some of our healthcare and tax programmes.

Finally, the upcoming public procurement data space uses Open Source to let member states use the wealth of data on procurement for policymakers and watchdogs. The data space should make the advantages of the single market clear. It lets public buyers prepare and it reduces overhead. So more small and medium-sized businesses can participate in public procurement procedures. These examples show how Open Source lets public services work together with industry, with academia and with citizen developers. That's the value of free and Open Source to the European Commission and to governments across the globe. I have learned that we must grasp the complexity of any challenge in order to face it. Governments sometimes try to avoid complexity by relying on cloud providers and external IT service specialists. However, we need to retain our own independent expertise to achieve technological sovereignty. The world's future depends on

"Governments sometimes try to avoid complexity by relying on cloud providers and external IT service specialists.

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systems that provide room for individual and communal contributions.

And we can only do this by requiring our IT systems to be open and interoperable. If anything, the European Union is all about open collaboration. Working with the member states to achieve interoperability is one of the main external activities of my director general for informatics. You may know that we are finalising the Interoperable Europe Act. Once it is in place, this act will help to make sure that our cross-border and interoperable public services give access to all citizens from all member states without discrimination. Open Source is one of the fundamental mechanisms to make this practical. That's why it's an exciting time for me, for DIGIT, and for the European Commission Open Source Programme Office to be part of initiatives like today to reach a global scale.

Over the past three years, our OSPO has been busy. We raised the profile of Open Source across the commission. We revised the Commission rules to make it easier to share our software as Open Source. We created code.europa.eu for the EU institutions to share their projects. And internally our developers are sharing their work with colleagues. It's now time for the EC OSPO to grow to help the Commission and the EU create institutional policy capacity on Open Source to help all of us to collaborate - the only way to face global and strategic challenges - and strengthen the European OSPO network and be part of these efforts. The commission clearly recognises the geopolitical and economic importance of free and Open Source. Clearly a sovereign and interoperable Europe requires a technologically open Europe. I will actively support our own Open Source programme office in such efforts. Thank you.

"The world's future depends on systems that provide room for individual and communal contributions."

Keynote by Ms. Sachiko Muto – OpenForum Europe Chair, RISE Senior Researcher

Good morning everyone. Let me first say that it is a great honor to be here, sharing the stage with such eminent speakers and in front of many of the people who have worked to bring the power of Open Source to social good. It seems significant, and also highly symbolic, that we are here at the United Nations headquarters to participate in a workshop that I believe holds immense potential for social progress and innovation.

Previous speakers have already mentioned how the principles of Open Source align with the ideals of the United Nations, which are based on openness, transparency, equality, and collaboration.

Today, we want to take real steps towards translating that potential and these ideals into practice and to create lasting institutional frameworks that will allow for mature and sustained engagement with Open Source communities. Which is how we can create real benefit.

I have been engaged in Open Source and public policy since 2007. Since then, and especially in the last decade, Open Source has become ubiquitous in the tech sector, revolutionizing the way software is developed, shared, and improved. That transformation has not been driven by ideology, Open Source has become a business imperative.

I think there are many of us who have thought for years that the public sector, international, and non-profit organizations have even more to gain from Open Source than the private sector. But notwithstanding the great work done by many and some of the initiatives we'll hear about today, adoption in these institutions has lagged behind.

"Research has shown that OSPOs have been instrumental for bringing the benefits of Open Source to companies.

Outside of the private sector, we need similar structures for collaboration and tangible outcomes."

I think we need research to better understand both the drivers and challenges to adoption and how they differ from the private sector. But what seems clear is that we do need to go beyond simply subscribing to the ethos of collaboration and knowledge sharing. We need to recognize that the practical implementation of these ideals can be challenging. That collaboration can actually be difficult, and that we need to go beyond high-level statements.

Research has shown that OSPOs have been instrumental for bringing the benefits of Open Source to companies. Outside of the private sector, we need similar structures for collaboration and tangible outcomes. This is why it has been inspiring for me to witness the work of Jacob, the OSPO++ network and the entire ecosystem. Some of whom are here today. I believe that it is through establishing a framework for collaboration and making practical progress on shared initiatives that we can overcome these challenges and start reaping the benefits.

Keynote by Mr. Jacob Green - Founder OSPO++ & Institutes of Applied Open Source

The potential of Open Source is tremendous. Open Source is software. It has the capacity to, and is, transforming our digital landscape, enabling us to build robust digital infrastructure (code) that connects people, institutions, and nations.

In this workshop, I encourage YOU to think & explore with us, the power of Open Source program offices (OSPOs), the tangible institutionalization of Open Source and Open Work, as facilitators of innovation, and of innovation for collaboration between institutions themselves. Providing a framework for effective engagement with the Open Source community, to get work done with code, and to facilitate our cooperations beyond

This pool of growing OSPOs offices serves as vital intermediaries, connecting public sector and not-for-profit organizations with the vast pool of Open Source expertise and resources.

By establishing OSPOs, institutions can foster a culture of open collaboration, drive innovation, and give us frankly the opportunity to let ourselves dare to dream collaboration.

the code. In industry, companies in an industry come together for cooperation. Now as we build OSPOs outside of Industry, it's a greenfield for us to come together.

This pool of growing OSPOs offices serves as vital intermediaries, connecting public sector and not-for-profit organizations with the vast pool of Open Source expertise and resources. By establishing OSPOs, institutions can foster a culture of open collaboration, drive innovation, and give us frankly the opportunity to let ourselves dare to dream collaboration.

Since we are talking about software, the analogy is that an OSPO can be seen as a greenfield and universal organizational API. An API to an office that speaks the language of cooperation. Has the capacity to DO & Teach Open Source for meaningful outputs. But an API for connecting the myriad of functions and capacities of organizations for innovative peer collaborations globally.

I would like to express my gratitude to the UN, OFE, JHU, the City of Paris, the EC Commission, the Community of Baltimore, to the decades long Open Source veterans and shepherds who built and maintained Open Source itself and brought us to this point. And all the contributors and individual partners involved in this endeavor. Your dedication and support have made this workshop possible. I extend a warm welcome to all of you and anticipate your return next year, where we can collectively assess the progress we have made. Indeed, our goal is to leverage the power of Open Source collaboration for the greater good. Going to the next step, beyond the code to the greenfield organizational construct of the OSPO. Today's event serves as a testing ground for the collaborative efforts that will bring constituent good and contribute to solving global challenges.

Panel 1: The Global Institution of Open Source

Session Moderator: Gijs Hilennius - European Commission, OSPO (remote)

Participants:

● Leslie Hawthorn - Senior Manager, Red Hat OSPO, Office of the CTO

● Kristie Whitaker - The Alan Turing Institute, & The Turing Way

● Harish Pillay - Leader of All Things FOSS/OSPO

● Gautham Ravichander - Head Strategy, eGov Foundation

● Lacina Koné - CEO Smart Africa

The panel discussion revolved around the global nature of Open Source, its significance in fostering collaboration and innovation across borders and sectors, and the role that the OSPO can play in leveraging this power. Taking an industry-proven model for rapid innovation and applying it to SDGs is very promising. In particular, Open Source has the potential to support the building of digital infrastructure in low-income countries by providing access to affordable technologies while supporting place-based knowledge and creating market opportunities for local SMEs. The panel featured participants from diverse geographic regions and sectors, underscoring the universal applicability of Open Source principles.

Open Source and Public Services: The discussion highlighted how Open Source aligns with public services by sharing similarities with public good. Open Source enables efficient use of public funds, promotes freedom of choice, and prevents vendor lock-in. Its transparency, usability, and collaborative potential benefit everyone and enhance trust in public services.

Open Source and Innovation: Open Source was emphasized as a catalyst for collaborative incremental innovation. Its capacity to gather various expert perspectives and unexpected solutions was identified as crucial for tackling complex social problems. The value of Open Source in the face of global challenges was highlighted.

Role of OSPOs: The conversation delved into the history and structure of Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs). Major technology companies recognized the importance of Open Source software for their infrastructures and began engaging

"This is a structure and a framework that we're seeing take root in other sectors outside of industry as a well understood model to foster collaboration and innovation with folks across borders, across time zones, language barriers, so that what is produced is of greatest benefit to everyone because it is available to everyone to make use of and to improve for their own needs."

Leslie Hawthorn

with contributors to maintain a healthy ecosystem. OSPOs were defined as connectors between internal and external stakeholders, facilitating collaboration and innovation.

Open Source in Governments and Academia: The importance of Open Source in government initiatives, post-pandemic solutions, and cross-border collaboration was explored. The Governments' interest in digital sovereignty and control over technology systems was emphasized, requiring capacity building and policy implementation. Open Source's role in academia was discussed, including the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion in research and innovation.

Cross-Border Technical Support: Cross-border cooperation and technical support were recognized as vital components of successful collaboration. Sharing expertise and capacities beyond borders was noted as a key to leveraging Open Source effectively.

Open Source for Equity and Trust: Openness was identified as a powerful means to address equity, diversity, and inclusion. Responsible research and innovation, data accountability, and creating accessible knowledge were discussed as ways to promote trust and fairness.

Moving Forward: The discussion concluded by highlighting the need for better communication and collaboration within the Open Source community. Emphasizing the benefits of Open Source for job creation, innovation, and sovereignty, panelists encouraged greater sharing of knowledge and resources.

Panelists also mentioned the role of Open Source in promoting innovation, equity, and collaboration across sectors and borders. It underscored the transformative potential of Open Source in addressing complex global challenges and driving sustainable development and economic growth.

"We have no choice but [to use] Open Source This will not only promote the creation of jobs in the future but sovereignty today."

Lacina Koné

"Open Source allows for collaborative incremental innovation and this the tapping of many smart minds is fitting for public services which have to respond to new challenges by creating multidisciplinary teams on the fly to work in a collaborative manner."

Gijs Hillenius

Cooperation Experiment Going Global: "Brno Open Source Declaration"

Lucie Smolka, the chairwoman of the Committee for Open Cities (Czech Republic) presented the Brno Open Source Declaration, which was launched in 2022 to catalyze digital transformation by paving the way for a national Open Source Program Office (OSPO). This document has two core objectives: the establishment of the Czech National OSPO and the promotion of global collaboration among cities, nations, and OSPOs to serve as a unifying force.

Brno, the second-largest city in the Czech Republic, is positioned as a European Open Source hub due to its numerous universities, technical institutions, NGOs, and companies engaged in Open Source initiatives. The city is also home to "Open Cities," the driving force behind the declaration.

The Brno Open Source Declaration seeks to inspire the creation of OSPOs worldwide and underscores the importance of international collaboration. It focuses on aggregating essential resources to expedite the development and adoption of Open Source solutions.

This declaration outlines a roadmap for establishing a national OSPO, encouraging engagement in Open Source communities, cooperation agreements, and the development of national Open Source portals. The initiative is a collaborative effort involving various organizations, including OSPO++, OpenForum Europe, local businesses, and NGOs.

Endorsed by multiple organizations and individuals committed to building national OSPOs, this declaration provides a valuable framework for countries aiming to make substantial progress in this direction. For those interested in participating and learning more, reaching out to the organizers is encouraged, as active involvement and cooperation are essential to its success.

Panel 2: Government OSPOs & Constituent Good

Session Moderator: Axel Thevenet (remote) - Policy Research Analyst, OpenForum Europe

● Koos Steenbergen - Senior advisor and project leader at the

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations (BZK), Netherlands

● Shelby Switzer - Director of Digital Services Baltimore City

● Maria Dalhage - Swedish Public Employment Service

● Hal Seki - Digital Agency Japan & Code for Japan

● Thomas Davin - Director, UNICEF Office of Innovation

In this panel discussion, the participants explored the role of governments, institutions, and Open Source program offices (OSPOs) in fostering collaboration and openness in the context of constituent needs and local communities. The participants each had a unique experience creating, running, and engaging with OSPOs and Open Source for their constituents. The experiences were drawn from a diverse set of backgrounds and contexts.

Several key takeaways emerged:

Importance of OSPOs and Collaboration: The panel highlighted the significance of OSPOs within governmental organizations. These offices act as focal points for promoting Open Source practices, transparency, and collaboration. OSPOs facilitate engagement and partnerships not only within their organizations but also with their communities.

Challenges in Adopting Open Source: While the advantages of Open Source in terms of transparency and independence were recognized, the discussion pointed out that adoption can face cultural barriers within organizations. Despite acknowledging the benefits, many entities struggle to transition to Open Source due to a lack of openness culture and reluctance to challenge existing market dynamics.

Constituent-Centric Approach: Participants emphasized that impactful digital services for constituents involve more than just deploying digital tools. Instead, it's about integrating digital

"And we believe if we are sharing these digital resources, that anybody can build a great user experience on top of that. And it doesn't matter if it's the public sector or if it's the private sector because at the end of the day we want to do something for the society."

Maria Dalhage

practices, tools, and skills from the internet era into government services to address constituent needs effectively.

Collaboration and APIs: Collaboration emerged as a key factor in designing solutions for constituents. APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) are crucial in sharing data and techniques across different stakeholders. Open data, open standards, Open Source code, and APIs enable various entities, including both public and private sectors, to build user-centric solutions.

Civic Tech and Open Source: Civic tech initiatives often thrive during crises, such as natural disasters or pandemics. Open Source solutions can empower grassroots communities to address local challenges. As an example, Japan's Civic Tech community grew during the pandemic and benefited from learning and collaborating with global civic tech communities.

UNICEF's Open Source Approach: UNICEF employs Open Source in three ways: collaborating with commercial ventures for shared solutions, empowering young people to shape technology solutions, and assisting UNICEF country offices in adopting Open Source technologies. The focus is on sharing capabilities, building capacity, and democratizing systems.

Addressing Vendor Lock-in: Open Source provides an avenue to liberate organizations from vendor lock-in and leverage the collective expertise of communities. By adopting Open Source, governments can tap into crowd-sourced solutions, foster industry participation, and democratize critical systems and services.

Global Collaboration for Digital Public Goods: Many countries struggle with similar technological challenges. The idea of digital public goods involves coming together to address these challenges collectively. Collaboration among countries and shared beliefs in Open Source create a platform for knowledge exchange and building consensus.

Consensus Building in Open Source Communities: While Open Source communities thrive on collaboration, they also require consensus-building around the best solutions. It's important to share knowledge and be open to shifting focus when a more effective solution emerges, even if it challenges existing efforts.

Overall, the panel discussion highlighted the pivotal role of Open Source in transforming government practices, addressing constituent needs, and fostering collaboration within and

"Our belief is that when we work on something around education or the use of Open Source for health or water or climate, those are shared problems for humanity.

And so we have to start with Open Source because yes, each country has a specific context which each community has a particular issue, but most of the problem of humanity are actually shared.

And so if we can share also the capabilities, then that gets us further and that gets us also the ability for people all around the globe to participate in making those solutions as good as they can get."

Thomas Davin

across communities. The challenges of cultural resistance, vendor lock-in, and building consensus in Open Source communities were acknowledged as important aspects to navigate in this journey.

Roundtable discussion: Cooperating OSPOs - Across Society

Session moderator: Paula Grzegorzewska - Open Forum Europe

● Frederik Blachetta - German Federal Chancellery

● Mithusa Kajendran - UN-OICT

● Ana Jimenez Santamaria - Linux Foundation, TODO OSPO Group

● Gil Yehuda - OSPO professional

● Ashley Wolf - Github, OSPO

● Christine Kim - Co-develop

● Kendal Fortney - University of Vermont, OSPO

● Jiri Marek - Masaryk University

● Stephanie Lieggi - UC Santa Cruz, OSPO

● Adriana Groh - Sovereign Tech Fund Germany (OSPO)

● Daniel Shown - St. Louis University, OSPO

● Daniel Dersén - Internetstiftelsen

● Jacob Green - OSPO++

This panel consisted of short statements from the floor, drawing on the range of stakeholders and expertise in the audience. Contributors were asked to reflect on the importance of Open Source alternatives in government, academia, and other sectors, and provide their vision for the way forward. Key takeaways include:

Dependency on Proprietary Software: The initial discussion highlighted how certain governments recognized their dependency on proprietary software vendors. The conclusion was that moving towards Open Source alternatives is crucial to reduce reliance on these vendors.

Avoiding Pitfalls: While Open Source adoption is preferred, the conversation cautioned against two traps. The first is the misconception that Open Source always leads to cost savings, which might not be the case. The second trap is the assumption that merely replacing proprietary software with Open Source equivalents won't require changes to established government routines.

Open Source for Innovation and Equity: Open Source adoption isn't just about software development but extends to science, education, and governance. Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) play a vital role in connecting various stakeholders like governments, NGOs, corporations, and foundations, fostering collaboration.

Global Challenges and Solutions: OSPOs for Good aim to leverage Open Source principles to address global challenges like poverty, climate change, and inequality. Collaboration between different governments, institutions, and organizations is essential to transform challenges into opportunities for positive change.

Digital Transformation and Open Source: Many countries aim for digital transformation to empower citizens and boost economic growth. Open Source provides an avenue for governments to have strategic technical capacity, enabling them to design solutions and plug-and-play tools for their unique needs.

Sovereign Tech Fund: The concept of a sovereign tech fund suggests investing public money in digital infrastructure, viewing the Open Source ecosystem as a public good. This approach shifts the focus from outsourcing to building internal expertise and capacity.

"Overall, I see Open Source as more than an approach for software development when applied more widely in society such as the science, education and even governments. We can create a more inclusive and equitable society while being able to improve on our ability to innovate."

Mithusa Kajendran

"Open Source is more than just code, it's also community. It's a culture of collaboration and it's a means for all of us to break down silos and barriers to drive change together."

Ashley Wolfe

Collaboration and Culture Change: Open Source involves both technological and cultural changes. Horizontal cooperation among various open sectors, like open data and open science, is crucial for addressing fragmentation and fostering collaboration.

Academia's Role: Academia contributes to Open Source through open research, open partnerships, and capacity building for openness. Networking events, like the one discussed, foster collaboration and showcase achievements.

Value of Standing Agreements: Establishing standing agreements simplifies collaboration, streamlining resources towards effective cooperation rather than managing administrative tasks.

Climate Change and Digitalization: Open Source is an enabling technology in the context of addressing climate change through digitalization. Initiatives like "viable cities" use Open Source solutions to drive sustainable transformation in urban environments.

Overall, contributors emphasized the transformative power of Open Source principles in reshaping how governments, academia, and various sectors collaborate, innovate, and address global challenges.

"The idea behind the sovereign tech fund simply speaking is that we need to update our understanding of what a government in the 21st century needs to do to maintain infrastructure."

Adriana Groh

Panel 3: Cross-Border Collaboration Nexus: a Baltimore Spotlight

Session Moderator: Jacob Green - OSPO++

● Shelby Switzer - Director Digital Services, Baltimore City

● Andrew Wichmann - Johns Hopkins University, Tech Ventures

● Al Barry - Principle, AB Associates

● Seema Iyer - Senior Director, The Hive USA for UNHCR, Former Director of Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

The creation of an innovation district[2], or a *nexus of innovation,* is an established tool for stimulating a city's growth, economic development, workforce development, and achieving measurable impact on metrics of social determinants of community health. Extending this analogy to the OSPO, the panel discussed how this organizational construct can be viewed as an innovation nexus, an infrastructure tool for cities to make progress on challenges relating to Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG-11).

The mandate of regional or city-based OSPOs is determined by the needs and advantages they offer to their constituents. Focusing on the Baltimore experience, it was emphasized that Open Source has not been pursued as an end but has been seen as a means to enable cross-border cooperation to bring better digital services and infrastructure to Baltimore citizens.

The origins of the current at-scale push for OSPOs outside industry was traced to 2018, and the grassroots community work of OSPO++ that aimed to connect the Baltimore region to the world and to work with cities & regions globally on sustainable solutions for common challenges. A first collaboration connected Baltimore's need for accelerating societal & community impact with Paris's ambition to scale the user and developer community engagement around its Open Source solution Lutece (used for providing the bulk of all its digital services to its 2.8 million residents).

OSPO++ brought together key Baltimore stakeholders including Johns Hopkins University and Maryland Institute College of Arts along with a West Baltimore community center to the

The mandate of regional or city-based OSPOs is determined by the needs and advantages they offer to their constituents.

OSPOs of cities and regions, provide an implementation pathway for achieving SDG-17 "strengthening global partnerships" with OSPO infrastructure to ensure no one is left behind in our journey to development.

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[2] The Rise of Innovation Districts - Brookings, Bruce Katz and Julie Wagner
https://www.brookings.edu/articles/rise-of-innovation-districts/

collaboration. In the process, the first major US research university OSPO was created at Johns Hopkins, and Paris became the first major European city with an OSPO. These two nodes worked with OSPO++ to deploy Paris's Lutece system to Baltimore constituents and it was all accomplished through the power of the Open Source license, without the need for an MOU or formal agreement between the parties.

Analogous to the early days of the development of the Internet, this 2-node network of OSPOs demonstrated the potential for connected and collaborating OSPOs. The setting up of OSPOs served as a mechanism for institutionalizing collaboration, a structured interface that could mediate collaborative projects between local neighborhood associations, universities, and cities. Recent visits to various OSPOs and Open Source Nexus events across the globe underscored the expansive growth of this network since those early days. Noteworthy among these was the establishment of national OSPOs in the Netherlands and in the Czech Republic

Considering how the integration of OSPOs provide a structured framework to facilitate sustained, repeatable, and impactful partnerships, the panel explored the potential of connected OSPOs of cities and regions as a blueprint for cooperative infrastructure that could enable scalable and sustainable cross-border solutions to advance SDG 17: strengthening global partnerships.

The notion of capacity building emerged as a pivotal aspect of this Open Source journey. By empowering cities to leverage cutting-edge technology efficiently, OSPOs contributed to creating resilient and resource-efficient urban infrastructures. Moreover, OSPOs were positioned as catalysts for economic growth by attracting intellectual capital to local communities.

The discussion extended to consider the evolving paradigm of economic development and revitalisation. Traditionally perceived as a competitive pursuit, the shifting global landscape has prompted a reevaluation of economic strategies. The panel highlighted the potential for cooperation to emerge as a cornerstone of economic development, away from the conventional mindset of rivalry to a more collaborative and synergistic approach. Ultimately, the consensus was that redefining economic development within the framework of collaboration had the potential to yield unprecedented benefits for all stakeholders involved.

"I don't want to do Open Source for the sake of doing Open Source. For me, it is a kind of core tenet or way to get to a place where we want to go. And for me, that's better digital, better services, better infrastructure for Baltimore City residents."

Shelby Switzer

Panel 4: Open Source as a key enabler for Sustainable Development Goals

Session Moderator: Omar Mohsine - UN-OICT

● Vipul Siddharth - Open Source Technical Advisor, UNICEF Office for Innovation

● Eleonore Fournier-Tombs - Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation, UN University, Center for Policy Research

● Lorena Cano - Innovation Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank

● Allana Welch - Innovation, Technology & Research Hub for USAID

The panel focused in on the critical intersection of Open Source technology and the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the outset it was emphasized that the SDGs, which span peace, security, development, and human rights, are all intrinsically interconnected and that it is incumbent on all of us – governments, academia, private entities, and on individuals – to collaborate on achieving the goals. While technology has been recognized more generally as a key enabler of the SDGs, a key takeaway from this panel was the specific assertion that the SDGs cannot be achieved without leveraging the power of Open Source.

The need to promote inclusivity within the Open Source ecosystem was highlighted, with a particular focus on improving gender balance. It was acknowledged that women's historical contributions to technology, mathematics, and data have historically often been underrecognized and that efforts were needed to embrace and empower diverse talents encourage equitable participation.

Capacity building emerged as another key point to reduce disparities and promote sustainable development and economic growth. Recognizing the potential of Open Source initiatives to support local SMEs, civil society organizations, and communities, participants underscored the importance of financial investment and assistance aimed not only at providing digital solutions but also fostering knowledge-sharing and technical learning.

Several speakers emphasized the need to combine global collaboration with localized needs. Open Source solutions, while offering universal advantages, must be adaptable to

"And we are working on capacity building because it's not just publishing those solutions and putting it there. We need to teach them how to use it."

Lorena Cano

"So many NGOs and governments waste so much of resources in recreating the wheel, not because they want to, because they don't have understanding that solution like this exist and it's easy to utilize."

Vipul Siddharth

diverse contexts. Documentation, localization, and flexibility are instrumental in tailoring these solutions to cater to unique regional requirements. This was seen as especially relevant for the Global South.

The discourse transitioned to cybersecurity and digital infrastructure. Cybersecurity attacks put all the SDGs at risk and Open Source solutions must integrate robust measures to counter such threats effectively. OSPOs can play an important role in furthering collaboration, clear policies, and open governance which emerged as critical factors in safeguarding digital assets.

Panelists shared examples where Open Source is being leveraged to support SDGs, including in collaborative development of technology supporting groundwater sanitation projects in South America. The pooling of efforts removes the need for countries facing similar challenges to reinvent the wheel.

Another example that showcases the potential of leveraging existing tools to respond swiftly to emergencies is RapidPro, which is an Open Source tool employed by UNICEF – in collaboration with government and NGO partners – to access real-time data through SMS and various communication channels, including social media platforms. This technology supports data collection, mass communication, and Digital Health interventions in 18 countries, particularly in remote and underserved areas. It enables the design, piloting, and scaling of mobile outreach services without the need for software developers and has reached millions of children, aiding various initiatives such as immunization campaigns, water and sanitation monitoring during crises such as Ebola and COVID-19.

Government and donor involvement were highlighted as a catalyst for Open Source adoption. Increasingly, grants and projects stipulate the use of Open Source software, enhancing the reach and impact of Open Source principles.

The theme of continuous learning and improvement resonated throughout the discussion. Feedback loops, open communication, and participatory decision-making were presented as pathways to refine Open Source projects. This iterative process is essential for addressing dynamic challenges aligned with the SDGs.

"There's a lot out there that we should be leveraging and from a donor perspective that saves us money, but also it means that we are giving local ownership to how our partners can leverage these tools to meet their needs."

Allana Welch

"I think that OSPOs, they have this power to be the enabler to promote knowledge sharing, to promote capacity-building in this Open Source ecosystem."

Lorena Cano

The United Nations was positioned as a key advocate for Open Source tools and digital public goods in achieving the SDGs. Leveraging its brand and the trust it commands can rally passionate contributors to develop tools tailored to specific SDGs.

Ultimately, the discussion underscored the potent fusion of Open Source collaboration and the SDGs. Beyond technological innovation, Open Source principles embody inclusivity, scalability, and adaptability, aligning with the multidimensional aspirations of the SDGs. The panel reinforced that the success hinges on global cooperation, open dialogue, and a united commitment to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Plenary Interactive Sessions: Cooperations

Participants split into four groups to discuss specific aspects of OSPOs and their role in cross-organizational and global cooperation. Key takeaways from these interactive sessions include:

Collaborative Innovation and Expertise of OSPOs: OSPOs were seen as crucial boundary-crossing entities, facilitating collaborative innovation across borders. They bring expertise in evaluating technology and licensing, helping bridge the gap between cultural and functional differences within and between organizations. It was emphasized that digital infrastructure is intertwined with human infrastructure, underscoring the importance of sustained community engagement beyond grant cycles.

Policy Making to Support Open Source Software: The need for policies and guidelines that facilitate Open Source procurement was emphasized. Open Source was seen as both a product and a process where software licenses and community-driven development are equally important aspects. Participants agreed that policymakers must collaborate and invest in digital public infrastructure maintenance.

Ecosystem Investment and Culture Shift: The importance of investing in ecosystems was highlighted. All software, both proprietary and Open Source, is vulnerable, and fostering a culture that embraces mistakes and encourages collaboration is crucial. The idea of an Open Source sandbox was proposed to provide a safe space for organizations to experiment, but concerns about misuse by large corporations were raised. Encouraging upstream contributions was seen as a key solution, driven by favorable policies.

Effective Events and Collaboration: Creating fertile ground for cross-sector collaboration through events was emphasized. Connecting diverse groups to foster partnerships, shared learning, and opportunities was highlighted as essential. The value of recognition for participation and collaboration vectors like climate goals or Sustainable Development Goals were discussed. Partnering with existing networks like smart city initiatives and associations of mayors was suggested.

Transparency, Trust, and Civic Technology: The role of Open Source technology in building transparency and trust in government was recognized. Open Source solutions, particularly for civic technology like surveillance cameras, can enhance transparency and community engagement. Standardized language and effective problem-solving were emphasized, with consideration for greenfield projects that promote collaboration without legacy constraints.

Overall, the sessions highlighted that OSPOs play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration, driving policy changes, enhancing digital infrastructure, and cultivating a culture of Open Source innovation to address global challenges and achieve sustainable development goals.

Summary and future outlook

Open Source software underpins the world's shared digital infrastructure and is an instrument for sharing, reusing, and collaborating on technology development, which accelerates innovation across organizational and national borders. The use of Open Source has the potential to reduce current disparities in digital readiness by providing affordable access to technology while supporting digital sovereignty, meaning the freedom to choose technology based on local needs, values, and laws. Hence, the use of Open Source as a mechanism for driving sustainable growth and collaboratively addressing common global challenges holds significant promise.

Recognizing the significant potential for Open Source to be deployed to accelerate progress on the SDGs, ECOSOC has called for the development of specific proposals for how its power can be best leveraged. The OSPO for Good event hosted by the United Nations Office of Special Envoy on Technology and the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology answers directly to this call by focusing on how OSPOs, which have been instrumental for tapping the value of Open Source in the private sector, can be used also outside of industry, by governments, not for profits, and academia. Such "OSPOs for Good" have the power to bring the world's population closer together, both technically through an open and interoperable infrastructure, and socially through the open and culture-spanning communities that maintain the infrastructure through peer-production and collective action.

The symposium aimed to ignite a light in this burgeoning collaborative effort by raising the topic to a higher level and bringing together a wider range of stakeholders and experts across communities for an open session of knowledge sharing and interaction. Through the keynotes and discussions, three main challenges to the use of Open Source were discussed and reflected upon through the many lenses of the conference participants.

- *Knowledge gap*: There is a general knowledge gap of what Open Source software implies - legally, technically, culturally, and collaboratively. Use and procurement are often blocked for the public sector due to experienced or perceived limitations and the lack of guidelines and support. Local governments are

The use of Open Source has the potential to reduce current disparities in digital readiness by providing affordable access to technology while supporting digital sovereignty.

typically constrained due to the limited resources on hand, a fact that is also shared with many national governments across the globe.

- *Sustainability*: Open Source software is maintained through the communities of people coming together for a shared vision and need, which the software addresses. Individuals are, however, not obliged to contribute to the peer-production and can freely benefit from the collective action of others. Brain-time among the individuals carrying the collective burden is, however, a scarce resource. If run out, cornerstones of global digital infrastructure may risk collapsing or issues introduced that can have ripple effects through the global software supply-chain.
- *Fragmentation*: Solutions developed are not shared openly to the extent and ways that would be preferred. This fragmentation negatively impacts the potential of Open Source software as a building block, and collaborative mechanism for addressing the SDGs.

These challenges proved general across the different sectors and communities represented at the conference. So was the need for support, and professional guidance on how these can and may be addressed. OSPOs here served as a common vocabulary for how such support and guidance may be structured and mediated. OSPOs provide an institutional support-function and center of competency that can help and promote Open Source best practices, grow an open culture, and serve as an interface for innovation and collaboration between internal and external resources.

Such institutional capacity is especially needed in countries and contexts where resources and competency are scarce. Actors across government, industry, civil society, academia, and communities need to come together on an international scale and support the sustainable growth of such capacities. Digital Public Goods, including Open Source software, as well as open data, open artificial intelligence models, open standards, and open content, can, in this context, provide a carrier for knowledge, culture, and technology that can help unite the many minds in such development.

The research community can play an important role in tackling the knowledge gap through the collective gathering, generation, and sharing of knowledge that highlights both the potential benefits and challenges inherent within the use of

OSPOs provide an institutional support-function and center of competency that can help and promote Open Source best practices, grow an open culture, and serve as an interface for innovation and collaboration between internal and external resources.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead this change and to help facilitate the cross-border knowledge sharing and communication needed to drive the development forward.

Open Source. Public sector OSPOs can facilitate such knowledge generation and maintain and support its dissemination. They can further help build institutional capacity for national governments that enable the creation of place-adapted while also leveraging the potential of cross-border innovation.

Sustaining such development requires a long-term commitment and support from all stakeholders, and the enabling of commons-based peer production that can ensure the quality and robustness of the digital public infrastructure, both locally and globally. Hence, the growth of the institutional capacity needs to start locally and collectively. OSPOs in this regard, provide the glue and interface between the many different actors, who together help form the complex ecosystem that ultimately can deliver the change and solutions needed for addressing the SDGs in the digital age.

The United Nations is uniquely placed to lead this change and to help facilitate the cross-border knowledge sharing and communication needed to drive the development forward. The event provided a unique opportunity for such conversations and interactions. Participants overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of holding the symposium annually, recognizing its immense value as a platform for collaboration and idea exchange. The overwhelmingly positive feedback received underscores the growing momentum of a global community dedicated to exploring how Open Source and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be harnessed for the betterment of society.

Credits

Symposium organizers:

UN-OICT - Omar Mohsine, Mithusa Kajendran, Benin Godfrey Lenin Rajesh, Sebastian Rocca

UN-Office of Special Envoy on Technology - Moritz Fromageot

OSPO++ - Jacob Green

OpenForum Europe – Paula Grzegorzewska

RISE Research Institutes of Sweden – Sachiko Muto

The organizers wish to thank the speakers, the UN OICT and the Tech Envoy Office for hosting the event, and all the participants for their active contributions.

Agenda

Time	Agenda
9:30a - 10:10a	Arrival, Check-In & Networking
10:10a - 11:00a	Opening Segment and Keynotes from Organizers Master of Ceremonies: Paula Grzegorzewska
	Amandeep Singh Gill - UN Secretary-General Technology Envoy
	Bernardo Mariano Jr. - Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) Assistant Secretary-General Office of Information and Communications Technology at United Nations
	Veronica Gaffey - Director-General of the European Commission - Directorate-General for Informatics (EC-DIGIT) (remote)
	Jacob Green - OSPO++ Founder & Institutes of Applied Open Source & Sachiko Muto - RISE - Research Institutes of Sweden, Chairperson Open Forum Europe
11:00am - 11:30am *(17:00am CEST)*	**Panel 1: Global Institution of Open Source** Session Moderator: Gijs Hilennius, EC OSPO ● Leslie Hawthorn - Sr Manager, Red Hat OSPO, Office of the CTO ● Kristie Whitaker - The Alan Turing Institute, & The Turing Way ● Harish Pillay - Leader of All Things FOSS/OSPO ● Gautham Ravichander - Head Strategy, eGov Foundation ● Lacina Koné - CEO Smart Africa
11:30a - 11:45a	Break
11:45a - 12p	**Cooperation Experiment Going Global**: "Brno Open Source Declaration" - Lucie Smolka, Czech Open Cities "Les Blue Hats Global" -> "BlueHats Global" - Bastien Guery, French OSPO Video from The French OSPO.

12:00p - 12:30p	**Panel 2: Government OSPOs & Constituent Good**
	Session Moderator: Axel Thevenet, Open Forum Europe
	● Koos Steenbergen - Senior advisor and project leader at the Ministry of BZK - Netherlands
	● Shelby Switzer - Director of Digital Services Baltimore City
	● Maria Dalhage - Swedish Public Employment Service
	● Hal Seki, Digital Agency Japan & Code for Japan
	● Thomas Davin - Director, UNICEF Office of Innovation
12:30p - 1:00p	**Roundtable: Cooperating OSPOs - Across Society**
	Session Moderator: Paula Grzegorzewska (in-person)
	● Frederik Blachetta - German Federal Chancellery
	● Christine Kim - Co-Develop
	● Kendal Fortney - University of Vermont OSPO
	● Jiri Marek - Masaryk University
	● Gil Yehuda - US OSPO professional
	● Ana Jimenez Santamaria - Linux Foundation - TODO OSPO Group
	● Ashley Wolf - Github OSPO
	● Stephanie Lieggi - UC Santa Cruz OSPO
	● Adriana Groh - Sovereign Tech Fund Germany
	● Daniel Shown - St. Louis University OSPO
	● Mithusa Kajendran - UN - OICT
	● Jacob Green - OSPO++
	● Daniel Dersén, Internetstiftelsen
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch & Networking
2:00pm - 2:30pm	**Panel 3: Cross-Border Collaboration Nexus: a Baltimore Spotlight**
	Session Moderator: Jacob Green
	● Shelby Switzer - Director Digital Services, Baltimore CIty
	● Andrew Wichmann - Johns Hopkins University, Tech Ventures

	● Al Barry - Principle, AB Associates ● Seema Iyer - Senior Director The Hive USA for UNHCR
2:30pm - 3:00pm	**Panel 4: Open Source as a key enabler for Sustainable Development Goals** Session Moderator: Omar Mohsine ● Vipul Siddharth - Open Source Technical Advisor, UNICEF Office for Innovation ● Eleonore Fournier-Tombs - Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation, UN University - Center for Policy Research ● Lorena Cano - Innovation Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank ● Allana Welch - Innovation, Technology & Research Hub for USAID
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Plenary Interactive Sessions: Cooperations:
4:00pm - 4:30pm	Wrap-up & Next Steps
4:30pm - 7:00pm	Social @ UN Delegates Lounge

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