

**Statement of Intent¹ for Cooperation on Digital Empowerment in
Developing Countries between the
U.S. Agency for International Development
and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

The United States of America and the Republic of Finland share values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. They are both committed to improving the competitiveness, productivity and well-being of their respective societies by strengthening cooperation in innovation, technology, and research, especially in emerging and disruptive technologies, such as fifth- and sixth-generation (5G and 6G) wireless network technology, artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum computing, and blockchain.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) expresses its intent to work with relevant Finnish government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and companies to strengthen U.S.-Finland cooperation on digital empowerment in partner countries. USAID intends to work with other relevant U.S. Government agencies to advance the purposes and objectives of this Statement of Intent. Likewise, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland intends to cooperate with relevant agencies in Finland.

We, USAID and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, intend to work together by providing financing, technical assistance on strategy development, implementation, and policy advice, as appropriate and subject to the availability of funds, to governments, civil society, and the private sector in interested partner countries to facilitate inclusive digital transformation in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, whereby their citizens can take advantage of all the benefits and opportunities of an open, secure, and inclusive digital ecosystem. In particular, we commit to advancing the full rights and agency of women and girls in the digital ecosystem through the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality.

Through transparent regulations and market-driven policies, we intend to help partner countries build a level playing field and mobilize the full force of usable data and market solutions to facilitate digital empowerment. In collaboration with enterprises and other relevant stakeholders from both public and private sectors in our respective countries, we intend to support capacity building, technical and regulatory assistance, and support innovative solutions to advance the digital ecosystem.

¹ This Statement of Intent is not a treaty and does not give rise to rights or obligations under international law. The Undersigned specifically acknowledges that this Statement of Intent is not an obligation of funds by either USAID or the Government of Finland, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment, including under international law, or create any rights in any third party.

In our engagement with partner countries, we stand in partnership together on rules and values while safeguarding the rights of users, including privacy rights. We intend to advance digital best practices by drawing upon the best practices in digitalization and network development, as stated for example in the EU Toolbox for 5G Security, the Digital Government Toolkit of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)² and the Principles for Digital Development. We intend to work locally, regionally and globally towards forming wider partnerships of like-minded donors to bring our efforts to scale.

We, the undersigned, dedicate ourselves to robust collaboration on these efforts.

FOR THE

**MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF FINLAND**

FOR THE

**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ville Skinnari
Minister for Development Cooperation and
Foreign Trade

Samantha Power
Administrator

Date: _____

Date: _____

² The OECD Digital Government Toolkit uses twelve principles to support the development and implementation of digital strategies that bring governments closer to citizens and businesses:
<<http://www.oecd.org/governance/digital-government/toolkit/12principles/>>