

Annex A: Digital Forum of Small States

1. Small states, in part due to their population size, as well as geographical and economic circumstances, often share common interests and concerns. To give small states a platform to discuss and foster common issues, Singapore helped to establish an informal and non-ideological grouping in New York known as the Forum of Small States (FOSS) in 1992.
2. FOSS now comprises 108 countries across all geographical regions and at all levels of development. The FOSS community meets several times a year to discuss issues relevant to the community. Apart from New York, FOSS Chapters have also been established in Geneva, Vienna, and London.
3. Given the increased global interest in digital technologies and growing discussions surrounding the use of these technologies in key platforms such as the UN and ITU, Digital FOSS was introduced as a new pillar of engagement in October 2022 in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of FOSS. The intent of Digital FOSS, as a community and a movement, is to facilitate the exchange of views among digital policy leaders from small states on pressing digital challenges. Digital FOSS also supports the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to establish a Global Digital Compact.
4. The AI Playbook is an important document that is reflective of Digital FOSS' collective efforts in harnessing AI for the public good. In the process, Digital FOSS members can explore how to partner one another to share resources and build capacity, given the constraints faced by individual small states. We can also work together to amplify our collective voice in the international arena, to shape AI outcomes in a more concerted and inclusive manner.