

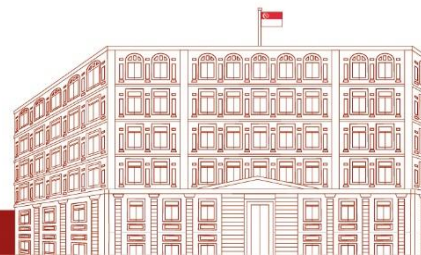
Annex

INTERVENTION G20 DIGITAL MINISTERS' MEETING, 5 AUG

Encourage Innovation for Smart Cities and Communities *Session 2 – Society in the Digital Economy*

Distinguished Chairpersons
Excellencies

1. Good morning. I thank the Italian Presidency for hosting the G20 Digital Ministers' Meeting, and for inviting Singapore. It is my honour to join colleagues and friends in Trieste.
2. Please allow me to share three examples on how Singapore has used digital innovations to benefit citizens and businesses.
3. Like everyone else, Singapore has been in a fierce fight with COVID-19. Last year, we launched a mobile app called TraceTogether that uses Bluetooth signals to identify contacts. As you can imagine, there are millions of such contacts taking place every day.
4. Right now, TraceTogether is open-source and has become a part of our daily lives.
 - a. When one person tests positive, TraceTogether helps us quickly identify contacts who are at high risk of infection.
 - b. So the time between exposure and quarantine has been brought down dramatically from around 4 days using conventional methods to about a day and half.
 - c. As a result, the virus has much less chance to go round or cripple our healthcare system.
5. Along with another digital tool called SafeEntry, TraceTogether is used to digitally record almost 10 million check-ins to premises across the country every day.
 - a. If you visited a place where there were positive cases, your App alerts you to possible exposure, even if there's low risk of infection.
 - b. It is then up to you to monitor yourself, avoid contact with others, and if necessary, get a test done to clear yourself. So this is how we try to help people become more responsible.
6. With or without COVID-19, we know that SMEs need more support from Governments.
 - a. But navigating through bureaucracy is a real pain.
 - b. This is why Singapore developed the GoBusiness portal, a one-stop digital platform to access over 300 Government e-services.





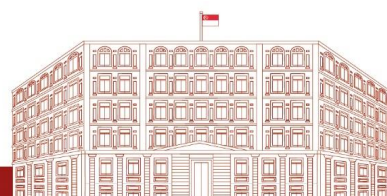
- c. For example, starting a food business used to take multiple forms to be filled in. Now, only one form is required and the data fields have been cut by up to 90%.
 - d. Businesses can also find government assistance tailored to their needs.
7. Excellencies, these examples that I have shared are digital innovations used to grow smart communities as we develop Singapore as a smart city.
8. We look forward to learning about innovations in your countries too. Where opportunities arise, Singapore would very much like to partner G20 members and guest countries to grow our smart cities and digital economy for the benefit of society.
9. Thank you very much.

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INTERVENTION
G20 DIGITAL MINISTERS' MEETING, 5 AUG

Connectivity and Social Inclusion &
Data Free Flow with Trust and Cross-border Data Flows
Session 3 - Enabling Digital Transformation

1. Thank you again, Chairpersons.
2. Singapore fully agrees that Connectivity and Data are key engines powering the digital economy.
3. Secure and resilient infrastructure is essential to provide high quality and future-ready digital services for our people.
4. In Singapore, we have made consistent investments to build a robust and resilient digital and communications network. For example, we are on track to achieve nationwide standalone 5G coverage by 2025.
5. Another key engine is data, especially when they flow across borders.
6. There is of course also risk. What if the data is not well protected? How do we answer to our citizens if the confidentiality and privacy of their personal information are breached?
7. This is a fundamental element in building industry and consumer confidence. It is also the essence behind the concept of data free flow with trust.
8. There must be proper safeguards, but equally, rules must not be excessive, which Minister Altmaier also pointed out. As with most things in life, we should aim for a balanced approach.





9. We also need greater international cooperation - to try our best to harmonise the rules and standards. By making it easier for businesses to operate across borders, we can all benefit from more digital trade.
10. Singapore believes in the value of such cooperation, especially to help SMEs. We have thus championed them through practical regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN Data Management Framework¹ and ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses for Cross-Border Data Flows.²
11. At the same time, there is much that we can do together to bridge the digital divide for vulnerable communities.
12. Like several colleagues here, I am part of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Essential Digital Infrastructure Solutions Network (EDISON). Its mission is to mobilise global movement across sectors to achieve social and economic outcomes through connectivity.
13. Such an alliance, alongside many others, recognises that everyone can, and must, do more.
14. This is also why in Singapore, we launched the Digital for Life Movement, to bring together the public, private and people sectors to promote digital inclusion and wellness.
15. As we have pledged in the United Nations 2030 Development Goals, no one will be left behind and everyone can progress together.
16. Thank you very much.

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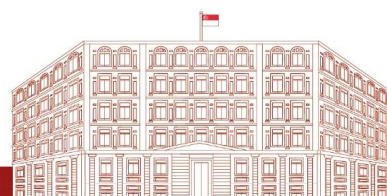
INTERVENTION
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Digital Identity
Session 4 – Digital Government

1. Thank you, Minister Colao (Chairperson of the session).
2. In an increasingly digital world, governments likewise need to go digital.
3. A key element, of course, is the provision of a digital identity.
4. All individuals need to have this as a key to access digital services, anywhere, anytime.

¹ The ASEAN Data Management Framework provides small and medium enterprises (SMEs) guidelines for data governance structures and appropriate data protection safeguards.

² The Model Contractual Clauses are contractual terms and conditions for cross-border data transfers that businesses could include in binding legal agreements.





5. In Singapore, the National Digital Identity or Singpass, provides a convenient and secure way for Singaporeans to access over 1,400 digital services by more than 340 public and private-sector organisations.
6. Singpass has gained tremendous popularity. More than 4 million, or 70% of Singapore residents are on it.
7. We believe there is an opportunity to multiply the benefits of a portable digital identity that can cross borders, even as we address the risks.
8. Minister Colao said that this should be a priority, and we agree.
9. Imagine a world where we don't need to show our passports to immigration authorities or the hotel concierge because all we need is our digital identity. Imagine not having to register for yet another digital account and create new passwords. Consumers will benefit and businesses, including SMEs, will have better access to global opportunities.
10. As countries develop their digital identity systems, there is opportunity to also collaborate and design these systems to recognise and talk to each other.
11. For a start, we can share best practices or conduct pilot projects. For example, in selected Australian universities, students from Singapore will be able to use their Singpass digital identity to file university applications.
12. Singapore welcomes the opportunity to work with G20 members and guest countries to promote more of such mutual recognition and interoperable digital identity systems.
13. As this is also my last intervention today, I would like to once again, thank the G20 Italian Presidency and our esteemed Co-Chairs for the very successful Digital Ministers' Meeting.
14. Digital issues have taken on added salience, more so with the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries would benefit from a structured and regular platform to discuss and advance these digital priorities and collaboration.
15. In this regard, Singapore supports the elevation of the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) to a Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG).
16. It has been my pleasure to be part of these discussions and more importantly, meet all of you here in-person or virtually.
17. Thank you very much.

