Dhaka Declaration 2023: DPI & AI High-Level Conference for Zero Digital Divide

We, the participants of the DPI & AI High-Level Global Conference convened in Dhaka on October 30-31, 2023, unite under a common purpose – the global eradication of the digital divide for achieving Zero digital Divide. Acknowledging the transformative potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), we pledge to advance the cause of digital inclusivity, universal access to technology, and the ethical application of AI in every facet of human life. Representing diverse sectors and regions, and guided by the principles of humanity, equality and the development of an ethically robust and transparent digital ecosystem, we hereby declare:

1. **Equity in Digital Access:** We are resolutely committed to closing the digital divide by championing equal and equitable access to digital resources and technologies for all, without regard for location, economic status, or demographics, recognizing that a just and interconnected world hinges on leaving no one behind in the digital era.

2. **Harnessing the Power of DPI and AI**: We recognize the pivotal role of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in democratizing digital services and information access. We vow to champion secure, reliable, and affordable DPI and AI systems that facilitate internet access, e-governance, and vital digital services. Our commitment extends to exploring AI applications across all aspects of human life.

3. **Responsible AI for Global Benefits:** We acknowledge AI's potential to drive innovation, entrepreneurship and progress across various verticals of human development, with an unwavering commitment to promoting responsible and ethical AI. This commitment prioritizes humanity over technology, emphasizing transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and the mitigation of biases and discrimination.

4**. Collaboration, Partnership, and Alliances:** We emphasize on the imperative of global collaboration among governments, academia, industry, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations to effectively combat the digital divide. We advocate for knowledge sharing, resource allocation, and capacity building to expedite progress. We underscore the importance of forging networks and alliances that span society, sectors, and the globe.

5. **North-South and South-South-North Triangular Cooperation:** We recognize the significance of North-South and South-South triangular cooperation as vital mechanisms for international development and collaboration. Through these alliances, we seek to ensure that digital technologies and the epistemologies supporting the development of such technologies are accessible to all, regardless of location.

6. **Education and Digital Literacy:** We acknowledge the pivotal role of education and digital learning in ensuring digital inclusivity. We endorse initiatives for digital skills training, STEAM education, and global digital literacy. Our commitment involves exploring initiatives from various countries and forming alliances to engage young and scientific minds.

7. **Inclusion for Frugal Innovation:** We celebrate innovation as a catalyst for inclusion, emphasizing that innovative solutions must encompass diverse perspectives and address the specific needs of underserved communities. The individuals, especially the children, the resource constrained and physically or emotionally challenged human persons remain central to our development ethos. This inclusive approach aims to advance access to healthcare, education, economic opportunities, self-employment, and value through human ingenuity and compassion.

8. **Financial Inclusion:** We explore contributions to enhance financial inclusion and equity, paving the way for a more inclusive and economically equitable world, while revolutionizing FinTech.

9. **Technological Framework for Responsible AI:** We commit ourselves to the development and implementation of a technological framework that fosters responsible AI regulations while promoting innovation in DPI and DPG solutions. This framework prioritizes safety, fairness, and ethical considerations. AI must ensure augmentation of human capabilities and perceptions and not constrain them in any form.

10. **Gender Inclusivity:** We recognize the importance of gender inclusivity and commit to advancing equal opportunities and representation for all genders in the digital landscape, fostering an environment that values and supports diverse perspectives. Gender must be mainstreamed and all genders must be equals in their inclusion into the decision making process.

In Dhaka, October 2023, participants of the DPI & AI High-Level Conference stand united in our dedication in achieving a ZeroDigitalDivide and ensuring that AI technologies contribute positively to the well-being of all humanity. We pledge to hold ourselves accountable through monitoring and reporting on our progress toward these goals and to take corrective actions as needed.