

# DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Thematic Paper

2025 January

"To close the divide, the United Nations' proposed Global Digital Compact helps countries build safe digital systems that provide internet access for all, including students in hard-to-reach communities."

-Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General<sup>1</sup>.

#### 1. Navigating the Digital Age: UN Digital Commitment

The United Nations Secretary-General's 2023 report proposes building on six transitions to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with digital connectivity as one of these critical pathways. Unlocking rapid and profound digital connectivity as a key entry point offers an opportunity for economic leapfrogging and has catalytic and multiplier effects across all SDGs, leading to systemic impact of the 2030 Agenda.

The world is becoming increasingly digital, exposing us to both the vast promises and perils of digital technologies; which today serve us similarly to natural resources like air and water as a global good. To maximize the benefits and address the challenges, the UN Secretary-General convened a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation in 2018-2019, leading to the issuance of the "Roadmap for Digital Cooperation"<sup>2</sup> in 2020. This roadmap guides global efforts in enhancing digital cooperation and advancing structural changes through its impacts on productivity, employment, sectoral linkages, and trade.

Following the political declaration adopted on the United Nations' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2020, the Secretary-General proposed a Global Digital Compact<sup>3</sup>. On September 22, 2024, world leaders officially adopted "The Pact for the Future", the "Global Digital Compact", and the "Declaration on Future Generations"; which the Secretary-General described as laying the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order for all peoples and nations. This endorsement marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a more inclusive and equitable digital world.

The Compact serves as a blueprint for the future-one that leverages digital technologies to accelerate sustainable development, upholds human rights, and fosters a secure, open, and accessible digital space for all. It outlines principles and commitments to close the digital divide, protect human rights, and promote sustainable digital development. Key objectives include improving universal connectivity, ensuring data protection, promoting digital trust and security, and managing emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly and ethically. Emphasizing the importance of multistakeholder collaboration, the Compact calls for the active involvement of governments, the private sector, and civil society. It underscores the need for ongoing exchanges and cooperation across regions and sectors to drive progress and effectively address the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements.

# 2. Armenia's Institutional Roadmap to Digital Excellence

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As for the Government of Armenia, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry (HTI)<sup>4</sup> is primarily responsible for the country's digitalization efforts. This Ministry oversees the development and implementation of digital infrastructure, the promotion of innovation and technology, and the advancement of the digital economy. The high-level Government Digitalization Strategy 2021-2025 is in place.

Based on these strategic perspectives for implementing the digital transformation process, the country's blueprint is divided into three structured phases:

**1.** leveraging digital connectivity as a key driver of progress across the 2030 Agenda

**2.** 2018 to 2020, the "Digital Jump" phase focused on large-scale infrastructure investment and updating assets to build a solid foundation

**3.** 2021 to 2025, the "Digital Acceleration" phase aims to maximize productivity through targeted investments.

That said, the strategy's approach to the digitalization of companies is fragemented across various sections, lacking a consice definition, specific targets, or a detailed plan for firm-level interventions<sup>5</sup>. This Government Programme emphasizes digital authentication infrastructure to ensure transaction security. Key projects include a unified e-government services platform, a cybersecurity excellence center, an electronic tax filing system, and an e-health portal.

Looking ahead, from 2026 to 2030, the "Digitized Development" phase will place a strong emphasis on growth and innovation. Further, the draft legislation concerning "Cyber Security", having passed the public consultation stage, is expected to be sent to the National Assembly shortly; while the National Strategy for "Broadband Communications" is still being discussed but has yet to gain momentum<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1. 18</sup> September 2023 UN Secretary-General's to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

<sup>2.</sup> UN Digital Cooperation Roadmap

<sup>3.</sup> UN Global Digital Compact

<sup>4.</sup> Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia

<sup>5.</sup> Armenia: Digital Data, Resilience, and Policy Assessment

<sup>6.</sup> World Bank. Forthcoming. Policy Effectiveness Review of Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programs in Armenia

### 2.1 Prepared to Leverage Digital Transformation

#### Key Term: Digital Divide

The digital divide refers to the uneven distribution of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in society. It encompasses differences in both access and usage of computers and the Internet between industrialized and developing countries (global divide), various socioeconomic groups within single nation-states (social divide), and among users based on their political engagement on the Internet (democratic divide). This divide can result from various factors, including disparities in infrastructure literacy, financial costs, cultural and social norms, or the lack of relevant digital content. Digital divides are often linked to broader inequalities based on gender, economic status, geography, and age.

Armenia is ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the digital age, underlining the critical importance of continued investment and strategic planning in its digital agenda. This commitment is underscored by the comprehensive evaluation conducted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2021. Compared to regional peers such as Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, Armenia demonstrated notable resilience in network and internet service provider (ISP) infrastructure. The country's Development Index (IDI) saw an improvement of over two points in 2024, rising from 87% to 88.8%, just 1.9% shy of the universal meaningful score<sup>6</sup>. This progress points to Armenia's robust regulatory framework, where the country scored exceptionally high on regulatory authority, mandates, and competition framework, while there still remains room for enhancement in the regulatory regime.

The Ministry and the Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC) of Armenia illustrates good governance, showcasing an independent regulatory authority and extensive intra-government collaboration. This governance structure has earned Armenia a commendable score of 88.5 on the ITU's 2020 ICT Regulatory Tracker, placing it in the fourth generation of regulation, defined by integrated regulation driven by economic and social policy goals. These efforts and achievements position Armenia as a key player in the region, prepared to leverage digital transformation for its future development.

To sustain and amplify this progress, Armenia must address digital inequality comprehensively. Notably, while fiber middle mile and last mile connectivity is available in Yerevan and other secondary cities, it is not present in many small markets and rural areas. Additionally, the country has low rates of fixed and mobile broadband adoption among lower-income households and small businesses. While 88% of its population is within 10 km of a fiber node, indicating superior regional performance. The fixed network's performance necessitates further improvement despite achieving full 4G and 3G mobile coverage.

The Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment (DECA) 2024<sup>7</sup> identified mid-2024 key challenges in digital

literacy, noting a lack of comprehensive data and efforts primarily concentrated in Yerevan, which has resulted in much lower internet access and digital literacy in rural areas compared to urban centers, further widening the digital divide. Persons with disabilities face additional barriers, such as limited assistive technologies and poor accessibility standards. According to the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2024, only 35% of women in Armenia possess basic digital skills compared to 55% of men, highlighting significant gender disparities in digital literacy, internet usage, and participation in the digital economy.

While the government aims to extend broadband access to all settlements by 2026, the DECA report highlights the need for comprehensive national strategies, improved ICT education, and expanded digital inclusion programs to improve digital literacy across all societal segments.

#### INTERNET USE

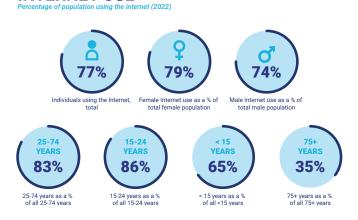


Figure 1. Internet Use in Armenia

# 2.2 Tier 3 Data Centers: A Backbone for the Country's Digital Future

The DECA 2024 outlines Armenia's ongoing efforts to enhance its digital infrastructure, including the development of Tier 3 data centers, which are highperformance facilities designed to ensure reliability, redundancy, and minimal downtime for critical digital operations. A notable example is Ovio, which launched its first data center in Abovyan, located 16 km from Yerevan, in June 2024. This Tier 3 facility, which offers high availability with multiple redundant systems to ensure 99.982% uptime, is part of the "Infrastructure for Investments" program supported by the Armenian government. It is designed to provide high-capacity, reliable data management services for both businesses and government entities.

As data centers expand, they significantly impact the country's power security due to their high energy and water demands. These facilities will likely compete with other sectors for limited power generation and grid capacity, emphasizing the need for strategic planning and investment in renewable energy and grid upgrades to prevent power shortages. Ensuring a reliable power supply is vital for Armenia's ongoing digital and economic growth.

<sup>6.</sup> Measuring digital development - ICT Development Index 2024

<sup>7.</sup> Digital Ecosystem Country Assessment (DECA)

#### 2.3 Strategic e-Government Initiatives

Armenia's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP)<sup>8</sup> has further enhanced the country's commitment to transparency and public engagement. The OGP initiatives have led to significant improvements in public service provision, effective management of public resources, and increased public trust.

In the 20249. United Nations E-Government Survey. Armenia achieved an E-Government Development Index (EGDI) score of 0.8422, ranking 48th out of 193 countries, improving from 64th place in 2022. This places Armenia in the "Very High 2 - EGDI" category. The EGDI is based on three components: Online Services, Telecommunication Infrastructure, and Human Capital Index. Key initiatives, including the establishment of a national data governance framework, a unified e-government services platform, and a cybersecurity excellence center, have contributed to this advancement. Furthermore, the country's commitment to enhancing digital authentication infrastructure and expanding online public services has strengthened its position among the Leading Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in digital transformation.

However, national Online Service Index (OSI) of 0.87 contrasts with Yerevan's Local Online Service Index (LOSI) of 0.6563, highlighting disparities in governance, digital service quality, and the population's ability to utilize e-government platforms effectively.

The central hub, e-gov.am, consolidates multiple e-government services, including electronic tax filing, property registration, and online payments for state fees. This platform serves as the backbone for other specialized services such as the website, e-permits.am, which simplifies the construction permit process. Additionally, the website, e-request.am allows citizens to submit online applications, requests, or complaints to state bodies; while e-draft.am publishes legal act drafts for public discussion and feedback, fostering public participation in the legislative process. Additionally, the website, e-register.am, facilitates online business registration, enabling electronic application submission and tracking. The e-justice platform in Armenia is actively being implemented, with various components already operational; for example, electronic pre-trial proceedings and the e-penitentiary system have launched in certain regions. Lastly, e-procurement.am enhances transparency and efficiency in public procurement by allowing the electronic submission and management of procurement bids.

These platforms are encouraged to incorporate green procurement standards for ICT equipment, ensuring sustainability becomes a core focus in government purchasing decisions.

#### 2.4 The Digital Leap

As the country strives to position itself as a hub for technology and innovation, digital literacy becomes a cornerstone for success.

- 8. OGP-Armenia National Action Plan 2022-2024
- 9. UN-ilibrary (2024) United Nations E-Government Survey
- 10. Information Technology Sector in Armenia 2023

The share of adjusted value added<sup>11</sup> to the IT sector in the structure of adjusted GDP was around 5.7% in 2022 and approximately 7.3% in 2023. In 2023, 99.9% of the value added in the IT sector was generated by IT services, while only 0.1% was contributed by IT production. As of the end of 2023, the number of salaried or contract employees in the IT sector in Armenia reached 33,980, representing a 61.9% increase compared to the beginning of 2022. As a result, the share of foreigners in the structure of salaried or contract employees in IT rose from 4.1% in January 2022 to 27.3% in December 2023, largely due to an influx of foreigners, particularly citizens of Russia. Additionally, out of the 17 largest employers in the sector, 6 are companies that have relocated from Russia.

#### 2.4.1 A New Era of Innovation and Growth

According to the Global Innovation Index 2024, Armenia ranks 63<sup>rd</sup>, demonstrating consistency compared to its 72<sup>nd</sup> position in 2023; which indicates sustained efforts in technological development and a positive trend toward innovation<sup>12</sup>. Additionally, building digital skills remains critical for Armenia's workforce, particularly in adapting to emerging technologies, as emphasized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Interim Sub-Regional Innovation Policy Outlook 2022<sup>13</sup>.

The Enterprise Incubator Foundation and the Science and Technology Foundation of Armenia play an active role in the development of all startup ecosystem processes in Armenia. Key startup sectors include Biotech, Healthtech, Fintech, Agritech, and Advanced Materials. The effectiveness of the startup ecosystem and the growth of economic productivity are ensured by several important factors, including:

**1.** A large number of successful startups (PicsArt, Renderforest, Sololearn),

**2.** The presence of angel investor networks (Science & Technology Angels Network, Active Investment Company Alliance, Business Angel Network of Armenia),

**3.** The operation of incubation programs (SAP Startup Factory, Tech Ideation Incubation Program by TUMO Labs, Impact AIM AgriTech Accelerator, M1TQ hackathon program,

**4.** The venture funding availability.

However, the startup ecosystem faces challenges such as limited support for science-based startups, weak university incubators, a shortage of entrepreneurial talent, insufficient private Research & Development funding, and a lack of investor knowledge. Additionally, there is no dedicated strategy for digital ecosystem development.

According to Modex<sup>10</sup>, the turnover of the IT sector in 2023 amounted to USD 2.1 billion at current prices. This represents an increase of USD 650 million, or 43%, compared to the previous year. In 2023, 87% of the turnover of the IT sector or USD 1.9 billion, was realized in foreign markets.

<sup>11.</sup> Due to the establishment of many companies in the IT sector during 2022-2023 that were not included in the administrative register for technical reasons, the sector's output and value added were significantly miscalculated

<sup>12.</sup> World Intellectual Property Organization (2024) Global Innovation Index 2024.

<sup>13.</sup> Interim Sub-regional Innovation Outlook 2022: Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

## 2.5 Securing an Environmentally Sustainable Digital Future

Armenia's digital transformation provides a unique opportunity to advance a green digital economy. A key focus moving forward is the promotion of a digital circular economy, where businesses are encouraged to adopt recyclability measures and minimize electronic waste. The country is also exploring the implementation of digital product passports, which would enable full lifecycle tracking of digital products and ensure compliance with EU Green Deal standards. With the right incentives and partnerships—such as those developed under the EU4Environment and GREEN Armenia platforms—Armenia is well-positioned to capitalize on these opportunities and become a leader in sustainable tech innovation.

By adopting renewable energy solutions, waste reduction technologies, and Al-driven climate tools, Armenia can significantly reduce the environmental footprint of its growing IT sector. For instance, the progress in solar power development, including the Masrik-1 Solar Plant, the largest in the country, serves as a strong model for sustainably powering its digital infrastructure. Additionally, initiatives like the EU4Environment program are helping the government address e-waste management, promoting recycling and resource-efficient practices, although further expansion is necessary to fully address the issue at scale.

### 2.6 Diaspora: Catalysts for Tech Growth and Education

The Armenian diaspora significantly impacts the IT sector by investing, sharing knowledge, and connecting the sector with global markets. Companies like Service Titan<sup>14</sup>, a billion-dollar Armenian-founded tech unicorn, have development teams in Armenia, boosting the local tech scene. The diaspora's influence is further supported by favorable government policies, including tax incentives and digital transformation efforts. Key initiatives, such as the diaspora-backed Granatus Ventures<sup>15</sup>, help startups like Cognaize<sup>16</sup> secure funding, while institutions like the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies<sup>17</sup> foster innovation and education, also driven by diaspora involvement.

# 3. UN - Armenia: Accelerating Digital Equity

#### N. S. Harris

The UN Armenia Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (UNSDCF) strategically commits to "supporting digitalization and innovative solutions to close the digital divide", recognizing digital connectivity as a transformative entry point with catalytic and multiplier effects across all SDGs and reflecting the objectives of the Global Digital Compact.

### 3.1 Systemic Impact - Bridging the Digital Divide

As stated by the International Telecommunication Union in 2023, a key factor affecting Armenia's digital landscape is the low rate of fixed and mobile broadband adoption among lower-income households and small businesses. This lack of access can be attributed to affordability issues, insufficient infrastructure, and limited digital literacy. According to a study published by the UN<sup>18</sup> in 2023, achieving inclusive digitalization between 2023-2030 for low and lower-middle-income countries like Armenia requires an annual investment of about 17% of GDP, or USD 416 per capita.

### 3.2 UN Results: Beyond the Standard Sectoral Approaches

The United Nations in Armenia is advancing innovative, cross-sectoral solutions to strengthen digital connectivity and inclusion, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

#### 3.2.a Driving Digital Transformation through

Supportive Policies and Strategic Investments As the country progresses up the digital value chain and its domestic digital sector matures, effective regulatory frameworks are key. In the context of social services and strengthening food systems, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP have been instrumental in advancing Armenia's social protection system. Their efforts focus on strengthening institutional frameworks and developing digital public infrastructure to enhance service delivery. A key priority is the establishment of digital early warning systems, enabling swift and targeted responses to sudden needs and vulnerabilities, particularly among poor and food-insecure populations.

The government approved the Food Systems Strategy (2021-2026) in June 2023, with WFP providing key policy support to integrate AI into agricultural training and practices, fostering efficiency and sustainability through inter-ministerial collaboration.

As part of the e-government strategy, UNDP supported the establishment of the Digital Forensic Laboratory (DFL) for the Armenian State Revenue Committee (ASRC) in July 2024. Equipped with advanced cloud forensic tools and mobile software, the lab enhances ASRC's capacity to manage digital documents and combat tax evasion and fraud.

In 2023, the number of road deaths increased by about 17%, reaching 362 fatalities. To address this, the Armenia SDG Innovation Lab, supported by UNDP and UNICEF, developed a digital tool for road crash data analysis, significantly enhancing road safety efforts. This initiative aims to reduce road deaths by 50% by 2030, aligning with broader goals of improving road safety through data-driven interventions.

Amid the rising number of gender-based violence (GBV) cases in Armenia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been instrumental in establishing a digitalized case registry for domestic violence (DV) through the Nork Technology Centre<sup>19</sup>. This platform

19. Nork Technology Center – the Social Services Technology and Awareness Center Foundation is registered as a non-governmental organization but maintains foundational ties to the Armenian government and plays a significant role in its social protection and labor-related e-projects.

<sup>14-17.</sup> Service Titan, Granatus Ventures, Cognaize, Tumo Center

<sup>18.</sup> UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

empowers service providers to support evidence-based policy development, with initial results anticipated in 2025 to strengthen GBV services in response to the urgent needs of victims.

#### 3.2.b Access to Digital Economy

Digital connectivity is being utilized strategically to address key priorities such as poverty reduction, food security, health, education, gender equality, resilient infrastructure, and climate adaptation. These efforts, driven by collaboration among multiple UN agencies including UNDP, FAO, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, and WHO—in partnership with national ministries, focus on fostering sustainable progress through innovation and strenghtend institutional frameworks.

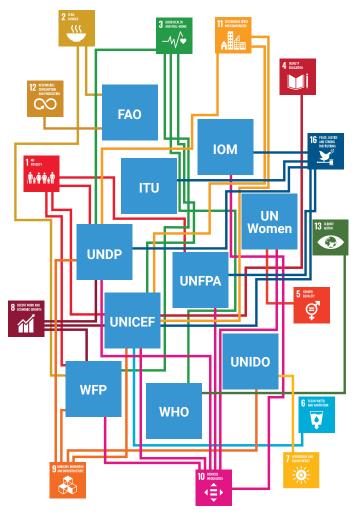


Figure 2. SDG Impacts of UN Digitilazation Program

#### Capacity Building at Scale – Expanding Inclusion

Strengthening Armenia's digital governance requires equipping public officials and institutions with advanced digital skills. The UN System in Armenia is advancing digital skills and capacity development through initiatives such as the Electronic Case Management System (ECMS) for the Health and Labour Inspection Body (HLIB) to improve complaint management and reporting, and a mobile app to enhance occupational safety and health. These efforts modernize labor inspections and strengthen worker protections, supporting Armenia's digital transformation. Armenia is advancing in cybersecurity, ranking in the "Evolving" tier of the 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index. While strong in legal frameworks and international collaboration, the country is addressing gaps in technical measures and capacity development. The Ministry of High-Tech Industry, with ITU and UNICEF, leads child online safety initiatives through the Child Online Protection program. Hosting the ITU Cyber-Drill in Yerevan (December 2024) highlights Armenia's commitment to enhancing cybersecurity, protecting digital services, and building public trust.

#### **Digital Economy and Market**

The current technology commercialization efforts have recently experienced significant growth in IT services exports. However, beyond the IT sector, there remains a lack of a systematic approach to technology commercialization, with substantial unmet demand for technological advancements in the country, particularly in non-tech sectors.

The United Nations addresses this challenge in partnership with Armenia through the development of dynamic and inclusive technological ecosystems. The Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS), with support from IOM, has strengthened the digital infrastructure of the State Population Registry, including the refugee registration database, enhancing both governance and crisis response, and launched workpermit.am, which served over 11,000 applicants in 2023. Complementing these efforts, FAO has leveraged digital technologies to strengthen rural value chains, piloting innovations like the farmer registry in the grape sector to promote sustainable development and improve livelihoods.

#### 4. Way Forward

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Armenia supports the key principles of the Global Digital Compact, which was adopted in September 2024 at the Summit of the Future.

Key recommendations, based on the Compact, include:

**1. Closing the Digital Divide:** Prioritze expanding high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural and remote areas, ensuring affordability and reliability for low-income households, while also increasing digital literacy to bridge the remaining connectivity gaps.

**2. Data Protection:** Strengthen its existing data protection frameworks by implementing more robust enforcement mechanisms, advancing digital literacy initiatives, and introducing regulations that address the evolving challenges of technologies like artificial intelligence and big data.

**3. Human Rights Online:** Continue upholding the principle that human rights, including freedom of expression and privacy, apply both online and offline, fostering a safe online space free from censorship and surveillance. This includes the ethical development and governance of AI technologies, adopting practices that prioritize transparency, fairness, and respect for human rights in the digital sphere.

#### 4.1 Key priorities UN Armenia

### 4.1.a Collaborative Framework for Sustainable Development

To maximize the impact of digital initiatives, Armenia will benefit from a collaborative Framework engaging government agencies, civil society, the private sector, and international partners. This collaboration will facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and capacity building, ensuring effective integration of digital tools into development strategies.

### 4.1.b Digital Literacy, Education, Inclusion, and Environmental Stewardship

The country is positioned to lead in green digital transformation by leveraging digital tools to promote education and behavior change for healthier lifestyles. These tools can also provide training on sustainable livelihoods in key sectors like agriculture, energy, and forestry, aligning its digital growth with its environmental objectives. Integrating education on digital risks—such as e-waste management, energy efficiency, and the environmental impacts of technologies—into the national curricula offers an opportunity to build a future-ready workforce that champions both digital innovation and sustainability. This strategy reinforces Armenia's role in global sustainability efforts.

#### **Inclusive Access for Non-Digital Populations**

To uphold the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) commitment, Armenia's digital transition must prioritize policies mandating non-digital access options and training programs for basic digital navigation. These measures will ensure inclusivity for underserved groups, such as the elderly, safeguarding their access to essential services. Complementary solutions include hybrid service models with in-person public centers and community support networks, enabling digitally literate volunteers to assist non-digital users, further promoting accessibility and inclusiveness.

#### 4.1.c Leveraging Innovative Technologies – Digital Public Admininstration Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Armenia is making significant progress in leveraging digital technologies to fulfill its commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement. The country is actively updating its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), targeting a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, supported by initiatives like EU4Climate. However, while Armenia has initiated projects to integrate digital tools for environmental monitoring, ongoing technological and financial support will be essential for scaling these efforts.

#### DRR - Early Warning Systems

Armenia is actively developing early warning systems (EWS), utilizing satellite remote sensing to monitor water levels and forest health to improve disaster preparedness and strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR). As AI technology gains prominence globally, Armenia is aligning with these innovations to provide real-time alerts for climate-related hazards such as floods and wildfires, ultimately enhancing the country's resilience. However, the country requires further support to fully implement and optimize these systems for effective climate adaptation and disaster management.

#### **Agriculture Sector**

The Farmer Registry and Value Chain Traceability System is central to building a comprehensive agricultural e-Government Framework. Additionally, the "Digital Villages Initiative" (DVI) strengthens farmers, rural communities, and youth-led Agritech startups to embrace digital advancements, ensuring that even small-scale farmers can modernize and benefit from innovation and sustainable practices.

#### **Social Protection and Labour**

As part of the Public Administration Reform Strategy, the government aims to enhance public service delivery through digital transformation. Supported by the UN's broader goals, the initiative will centralize the Population Register, serving as a single digital source for data on citizens, migrants, and asylum seekers. This effort will strengthen social protection and labor systems, aligning with the UN's focus on inclusive and technology-driven development.

### 4.1.d Driving Innovation and High-Tech Development

The UN is supporting efforts to build a cohesive national strategy for its high-tech sector, with a focus on artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. This strategy aims to position Armenia as a regional leader in innovation. By promoting collaboration between the government, industry, and international partners, the UN's efforts align with broader goals of leveraging technology for sustainable development and economic growth.

In closing, Armenia's journey toward digital transformation underscores the critical role of forward-looking policies and the strategic integration of innovative technologies across all sectors. With strong partnerships and support, Armenia is well-positioned to strengthen its digital infrastructure and improve public service delivery, addressing current challenges while paving the way for a more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable future aligned with its national and global development goals.

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"On September 22, 2024, we took a historic step with the adoption of the Global Digital Compact, ensuring that technology benefits everyone.

With its universal agreement on AI governance and a commitment to fairness and inclusivity, we have unlocked the door to a more connected, equitable future. Now, it is our shared responsibility to walk through it." –Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General.

