

# Tech4Trust Virtual Roadshow

Trust Valley

**Remarks by  
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Video

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Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this very important and timely event. At the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) we are very proud to be a founding member of the Trust Valley. We look forward to developing our collaboration with the whole Trust Valley ecosystem even further in order to mobilise more synergies and seize the opportunities it offers.

Let me share with you some of my thoughts on the new Swiss Digital Foreign Policy Strategy 2021-2024 and its relevance for the Arc Lémanique. I will make three points:

*1. Promoting a more inclusive approach to digital governance*

There is a need today to promote a more inclusive and global approach to digital governance. Because digital technologies are mostly developed by the private sector, private companies and the scientific world should be better integrated into the global digital governance scheme. Instead of states regulating after the effects of digitalisation have been observed, a more opportune model would be to include companies and scientists in the process of shaping global digital governance in order to prevent the misuses and malicious uses of digital technologies. The public-private partnership model has shown promising results at the global level. The Geneva-based examples of Gavi and the World Health Organisation demonstrate that governments and private actors can work together to make a better world. I am convinced that the Trust Valley, with its diverse members, can be a powerful actor in this regard.

*2. The role of International Geneva as a place where we can make a real difference!*

International Geneva is very well positioned to play a major role in digital governance. It is a recognised global governance hub, it benefits from having the private sector, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, the UN and government representatives in one place, and it is located in a region with excellent research facilities and universities working on digital and related technologies. However, apart from the Trust Valley, there is currently very little coordination of the resources available to examine digital issues in general, let alone digital governance specifically. A lot of work is currently being done in silos, which means missing out on many potential synergies. Today, we should all reflect on effective mechanisms that would take stakeholders out of their silos and create incentives to cooperate.

*3. The role of foresight and dialogue*

As the development of digitalisation is exponential, International Geneva and Switzerland should also invest more in foresight and polymath thinking in order to prevent misuses of future technologies before they occur. Polymath thinking is about promoting multidisciplinary approaches that combine both hard and soft sciences. This is exactly what we try to achieve at the GCSP.

Science diplomacy should be encouraged in order for governments to better understand the repercussions of emerging technologies. International Geneva and Switzerland can play an important role in this respect, and particularly in developing dialogue activities to (1) help in solving current digital governance

issues; (2) contribute to the development of innovative concepts and ideas; and (3) offer a neutral ground for bringing governments, the science and tech communities, the private sector, and civil society together.

The GCSP is well positioned to call for and implement such approaches. We are known for providing a safe space with an inclusive approach, allowing different stakeholders to come together, join forces and find common solutions to current and future crises. It is therefore only natural that we are part of the Trust Valley.

Thank you for your attention.