Tech Diplomacy Global Institute

The Tashkent Statement on Tech Diplomacy in Asia

From Commitment to Capability

Co-Chairs' Statement · Inaugural Tech Diplomacy Asia Symposium · Tashkent, 14 October 2026

Introduction

1. On 14 October 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute, as Co-Chairs, convened the inaugural Tech Diplomacy Asia Symposium in Tashkent. Senior officials, diplomats, international organizations, academia, industry, civil society and youth from across Asia took part.

2. Meeting one year after the Samarkand Declaration on Tech Diplomacy, participants reviewed the progress achieved, identified the gaps that remain and set out the steps they are prepared to take together. The Co-Chairs issue this Statement to record the shared understanding reached in Tashkent and the commitments made, and will present it at the Global Assembly of the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute in Paris on 11 December 2026.

3. The Co-Chairs note with appreciation that tech diplomacy has begun to take institutional form across the region. They recognize, at the same time, that the distance between policy and implementation remains wide and that the capability to engage on technology is still unevenly distributed, within governments and between countries.

1. Diversity and Inclusion

1.1 The Co-Chairs affirm that the digital future must be shaped by all whom it affects. Women, young people, minorities and indigenous communities must have a meaningful voice in technology policy.

1.2 Participants underscored that digital and AI literacy should be recognized as a part of the right to education, and that technology must work for people, not the reverse.

1.3 The Co-Chairs welcome the proposal of the Youth Parliament under the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish a Youth Consultative Mechanism on AI Governance, with first input to the Global Assembly in Paris. They also welcome the commitments of the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan and of Women in Tech Mongolia to broaden the participation of women, young people, and minority and indigenous communities in AI and digital skills.

2. Structure

2.1 Tech diplomacy is now conducted at a wider table. Companies, investors, research institutions and standard-setting bodies increasingly determine outcomes that affect national interests, and global firms define geography by language and markets rather than by borders. Diplomacy must engage them all.

2.2 Within governments, foreign policy and digital policy are two parts of the same strategy. The Co-Chairs encourage ministries of foreign affairs and ministries responsible for digital technologies to act together, with clearly defined roles and preserved institutional memory, moving from a whole-of-government to a whole-of-nation approach. Countries of the region are encouraged to establish dedicated tech diplomacy capacity within their ministries.

2.3 The Co-Chairs welcome the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host a C5 meeting on tech diplomacy and to prepare, with the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute and regional partners, the first regional playbook for negotiations with global technology companies, for presentation in Paris. They take note with interest of its proposal for a regional declaration on the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

3. Capability

3.1 Participants identified capability as the defining priority for the region: professionals who speak two languages, diplomacy and technology, and who combine technical depth with the soft skills to work across disciplines.

3.2 The Co-Chairs welcome the proposal of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy to establish a Regional Hub for Technology Diplomacy, developed in cooperation with leading technical and IT universities, the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute and interested regional partners. The Hub will bring together students and faculty of diplomacy, law and information technology to work jointly on real policy cases, and will prepare trained graduates to support ministries and international partners.

3.3 They further welcome the Regional Initiative on AI Infrastructure Negotiations, led by the Center for the Development of Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with a curriculum to be co-designed by Central Asian governments and the

Tech Diplomacy Global Institute; and the commitments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan and of Sarbon University to strengthen the technology skills of diplomats and public servants.

3.4 The Co-Chairs commend the commitment of Women in Tech Azerbaijan to introduce tech diplomacy nationally, and invite partners to share expertise and materials with countries taking this step for the first time.

4. Trust

4.1 Trust between nations, and between states and global technology companies, is the foundation of lasting partnership. It rests on human rights-based governance of data and AI, trusted cross-border data flows, fair access to technology, and frameworks predictable enough to endure beyond political cycles.

4.2 Participants called for the joint development of a method to assess AI systems deployed in the region, enabling smaller states to strengthen the safety of the systems on which they rely.

4.3 The Co-Chairs support the establishment of a Regional Public-Private Working Group on Tech Diplomacy to advance dialogue on AI governance, infrastructure and cross-border data, offering business greater predictability and policymakers practical insight. They note with appreciation the readiness of TBC Bank Uzbekistan to take part.

5. Impact

5.1 The value of technology is measured by the benefit it brings to citizens. Participants emphasized citizen-centered digital public services, the growing convergence of services for consumers and citizens, and the urgency of closing the gap between policy and implementation.

5.2 The Co-Chairs welcome the commitment of UNDP Uzbekistan to support a Central Asia Peer-Learning Track on Trusted AI and Citizen-Centered Digital Public Services, which aims within twelve months to publish a regional practice note and identify country-led pilots that can be scaled across the region. Interested governments and digital networks are invited to join.

5.3 They also welcome the continued support of the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan in translating global digital commitments into national action.

6. The Way Forward

6.1 The Co-Chairs will present this Statement at the Global Assembly of the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute in Paris on 11 December 2026, where progress will be reviewed and

connected to the work of the Institute's Expert Councils on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum technologies and space.

6.2 The Tashkent Symposium opens a series of regional convenings. The Co-Chairs encourage future editions to be hosted across Asia, and invite governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia and civil society to join in implementing the outcomes set out above.

Acknowledgments

The Tashkent Symposium concludes a three-part conversation carried from New York to Central Asia. On 23 September 2026 the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute convened “The Implementation Gap: Who Delivers Global AI Governance?”, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. On 24 September it convened “Sovereign AI: What Do States Actually Control?”, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and Mia AI. Both were held in New York alongside the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly, as Affiliate Sessions of the Digital@UNGA 2026 programme of the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The Co-Chairs record their appreciation to the ITU and UNDP, to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and Estonia, and to Mia AI, for carrying this conversation from New York to Tashkent. It now travels to Paris.

> *National transformation and regional collaboration, innovation and the principle of leaving no one behind, technical and human skills must advance together, with technology as an enabler of security and sustainable development, not an end in itself. Samarkand gave tech diplomacy its commitment. Tashkent begins to give it capability. From Tashkent to Paris and beyond, we carry forward a shared conviction: technology diplomacy must serve human flourishing, peace and our shared humanity.*

Annex: Commitments and Requests

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan

Commitment: Bring a wider circle of diplomats into tech diplomacy training and dialogue.

Ministry of Digital Technologies, Republic of Uzbekistan

Commitment: Advance the participation of young people and women in responsible AI and digital skills through international cooperation.

Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction, Republic of Uzbekistan

Commitment: Prepare an action plan to develop the next generation of tech ambassadors in public service.

Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development, Republic of Kazakhstan

Commitment: Host a C5 meeting on tech diplomacy; prepare a C5 negotiation playbook for engagement with global technology companies; propose a regional declaration on the responsible use of AI.

Request: Support from universities, the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute and regional partners.

Center for the Development of Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Economy, Republic of Uzbekistan

Commitment: Launch a regional initiative pooling expert training on AI infrastructure negotiations.

Request: Central Asian governments and the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute to co-design the curriculum.

Youth Parliament under the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Republic of Uzbekistan

Commitment: Establish a youth consultative mechanism on AI governance.

UNDP Uzbekistan

Commitment: Support a Central Asia peer-learning track on trusted AI and citizen-centered digital public services; publish a regional practice note and identify country-led pilots within 12 months.

Request: Interested governments and digital networks to join and share experience.

United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan

Commitment: Continue supporting the translation of global digital commitments into national action.

Request: Joint work on inclusive digital public services, skills, institutions and human rights-based governance of data and AI.

University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Request: Support for a Regional Hub for Technology Diplomacy at UWED, with technical and IT universities, the Tech Diplomacy Global Institute and regional partners.

Sarbon University

Commitment: Contribute AI skills training for diplomats.

TBC Bank Uzbekistan

Commitment: Take part in a regional public-private working group.

Request: Establish the working group on digital policy.

Women in Tech Azerbaijan

Commitment: Introduce tech diplomacy in Azerbaijan through a cross-sector session; join regional initiatives.

Request: Expertise and materials.

Women in Tech Mongolia

Commitment: Extend digital and AI literacy to indigenous and minority communities.

Anonymous contribution

Request: A joint method to assess AI systems deployed in the region, strengthening AI safety for smaller states.

Anonymous contribution

Commitment: Encourage countries of the region to build tech diplomacy capacity within ministries.

Request: More joint initiatives and regular convenings.