



CARNEGIE
ENDOWMENT FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Glossary

Type of Legal Texts

Term	Definition
<i>Policy or Strategy</i>	A document used to set forth and define a government's vision for the development and implementation of digital technologies.
<i>Law</i>	A document prepared, approved, and enacted by a country's legislative body through its lawmaking processes regarding the digital economy.
<i>Regulation</i>	A document published by a country's relevant administrative agency that is used to clarify the agency's interpretation of a law and describe how the law will be enforced.

Digital Pillars

The core domains of the digital economy that underpin AfTech's analytical framework. They define the main categories of government action and provide a framework for understanding how different policy areas fit within the broader digital ecosystem. AfTech has four main digital pillars and nine sub-pillars.

Key Pillar	Sub-Pillar	Definition
<i>Digital Infrastructure</i>		Foundational digital elements that provide the means for people, businesses, and governments to get online and access digital services.
	<i>Physical Infrastructure</i>	The tangible structures that enable people and businesses to connect to the digital economy.
	<i>Invisible Infrastructure</i>	Systems and rules that enable physical structures that allow people to connect to a useful and safe digital economy.
<i>Digital Platforms</i>		Any software-based infrastructure that facilitates online exchanges, transactions, and access to public and private services.
	<i>Digital Government</i>	The use of digital technology to transform and optimize government services.
	<i>Digital Business</i>	The use of digital technology to optimize business models and operations.
	<i>Digital Financial Services</i>	The ability to pay, save, borrow, and invest through digital means, which is key to accessing digital services and increasing the rate of online transactions.
<i>Digital Skills</i>		Competencies required to access, manage, and utilize digital information and tools.
	<i>Basic Skills</i>	The knowledge and skills required to use information and communication technology (ICT) for work, leisure, learning, and communication.
	<i>Advanced Skills</i>	High-level skills that enable a country's citizens to participate in and contribute meaningfully to both the domestic and global digital economy.
<i>Digital Innovation</i>		The presence of an ecosystem that enables firms to develop new products and services by leveraging emerging technologies and innovative business models, thereby expanding and deepening digital economic transformation.
	<i>Technological Hubs</i>	A network of systems, environments, and stakeholders that foster technological innovation.
	<i>Digital Entrepreneurship</i>	The availability of channels and support mechanisms that facilitate the creation and scaling of innovative digital businesses and ventures.

Key Data Points

Thematic categories used in AfTech to classify and tag digital economy policies, laws, and regulations. They enable users to track policy priorities, identify linkages, and analyze trends across countries. AfTech has a total of twenty-five key data points clustered around three themes of digital applications, foundational infrastructure and safeguards.

Cluster I: Digital Applications	
<i>Artificial Intelligence</i>	The simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems, to perform tasks such as learning, reasoning, and problem-solving.
<i>Broadcasting and Multimedia Services</i>	The distribution of audio, video, or multimedia content to a wide audience through various means such as radio, television, or online platforms.
<i>Digital Identification</i>	A digital record or credential associated with an individual's identity and stored or verified through electronic systems.
<i>Digital Payments</i>	Electronic transactions for goods or services conducted over digital channels, often using digital currency or online payment platforms.
<i>Digital Signatures</i>	Electronic signatures that authenticate the identity of the signer and ensure the integrity of digital documents or messages.
<i>E-Applications</i>	The use of ICT and digital solutions in innovative ways to boost critical sectors such as health, agriculture, and education.
<i>E-Commerce</i>	Commercial transactions conducted electronically over the internet, involving the buying and selling of goods or services.
<i>E-Government</i>	The use of digital technologies, particularly the internet and ICT, by government institutions to provide services.
Cluster II: Foundational Infrastructure	
<i>Broadband Internet</i>	High-speed internet connectivity that allows for fast and reliable data transmission.
<i>Data</i>	The vast amount of information generated by digital interactions, including online activities, transactions, and user behavior.
<i>Data Centers and Cloud Services</i>	Facilities and services that provide storage, processing, and management of data and applications over the internet.
<i>First Mile</i>	The initial segment of internet infrastructure, such as undersea cables or satellites, that connects national networks to the global internet backbone.
<i>Internet Resources</i>	Resources and services necessary for the functioning of the internet, including IP addresses, domain names, and registration systems.
<i>Last Mile</i>	The final segment of internet infrastructure (such as internet service providers or fixed/mobile networks), which delivers connectivity from the service provider's network to end-users.
<i>Postal Services</i>	Systems and services for the digital delivery of mail, parcels, and packages between senders and recipients.
<i>Second Mile</i>	The intermediate segment of internet infrastructure (such as National Backbone or Metro links), which connects regional networks to the core internet networks.
<i>Spectrum and TV White Spaces</i>	Frequencies used for wireless communication, including television broadcasting and licensed use for various applications. White space refers to the unused portion of the spectrum between TV stations.
<i>Startups</i>	Entrepreneurial ventures that bring new and innovative technology-based products and services to the market.

<i>Tech Hubs</i>	Ecosystems or geographical areas that serve as crucial points for technology innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.
Cluster III: Safeguards	
<i>Data Protection</i>	Measures and practices aimed at safeguarding personal data from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure.
<i>Competition</i>	The rivalry between businesses providing goods or services in a digital economy.
<i>Consumer Protection</i>	Measures that safeguard buyers of goods and services, and the public, against unfair practices in the marketplace.
<i>Cybersecurity</i>	The protection of systems, networks, and data from digital attacks, unauthorized access, and damage.
<i>Quality of Service</i>	The performance and reliability characteristics of a telecommunications service or network, including factors like speed, latency, and availability.
<i>Universal Access</i>	Policies and initiatives aimed at ensuring equitable and affordable access to ICT for all individuals and communities.