AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE G20
ON DIGITALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The G20 Summit, which this year focuses on 'Shaping an Interconnected World', is an important opportunity for G20 countries – which together constitute almost two-thirds of the global population, more than 80 per cent of global GDP and three-quarters of worldwide trade - to affirm their collective commitment to ensuring that human rights are a fundamental part of the framework of interconnectivity that is developing and envisaged, thus setting an important example to the rest of the world.

Amnesty International welcomes the focus on making progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the summit. Implementation of the Agenda should ensure universal respect for human rights and human dignity and recognize that in our increasingly interconnected world, economic policy and development must be developed and targeted in ways to reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind whilst promoting effective accountability for all stakeholders. In this respect, we urge all members of the G20, to pay particular attention to Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

DIGITALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Everyone, including human rights defenders, are benefiting from the opportunities provided by digital technology to connect us faster and more effectively. While recognizing the important role that digitalization plays in the global economy, fundamental principles of human rights must be at the centre of discussions regarding the economic opportunities of digitalization and must underpin and shape any regulatory frameworks put in place. In this regard, we note the recognition of the need to strengthen trust in the digital economy, including in relation to privacy and security, in the G20's Roadmap for Digitalisation[1].

The organization also wishes to draw attention to potentially adverse human rights impacts relating to the economic opportunities afforded by artificial intelligence (AI). If human rights are not at the heart of ethical and policy discussions about how AI should be put at the service of humanity, we risk entrenching global inequality on a scale which will result in massive political and social upheaval and disruption, the complete antithesis of the aims of the 2030 Agenda.

AI is already being used in some circumstances in healthcare, policing and criminal justice systems. Within a generation, the use of AI will become much more widespread in many workplaces, in healthcare, in education, and across public services, providing huge benefits to many, but not for all as many across the globe may also see their jobs disappear as the use of AI in the workplace increases. The military applications of AI such as Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS) are alarming. The use of AWS could change the entire nature of warfare; it would pose serious challenges in holding accountable those responsible for serious violations and could entrench impunity for crimes under international law. AWS could also transform the nature of policing, with serious implications for protecting the right to life and other human rights. Accordingly, Amnesty International supports the call for a pre-emptive ban on the development, transfer, deployment and use of AWS.

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[1] A Roadmap for Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future, Annex Paper 1 to the Declaration of the Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy on Shaping Digitalisation For An Interconnected World, adopted in Düsseldorf, 6 – 7 April 2017, available at http://www.de.digital/DIGITAL/Redaktion/EN/Downloads/g20-digital-economy-ministerial-declaration-english-version.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

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The organization urges all G20 member states to ensure that discussions on these issues and the final summit communiqué:

- **Respect international human rights law and standards on the right to privacy and to access information;**

- **Do not seek to unduly limit individuals' access to encryption technologies through which they can maintain their privacy;**

- **Recommend an end to indiscriminate mass surveillance laws and practices, including bulk data collection and storage by private companies;**

- **Ensure that discussions around the use of artificial intelligence in all aspects of life are based in a human rights framework, work towards reducing, not increasing, inequalities, respect the right to life, and enhance the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.**