

Call to Action: Building virtual worlds including the metaverse for a people-centred, connected and inclusive Europe

We the participants of the Special Session of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Focus Group on metaverse and co-creation workshop at the 5G Techritory conference held on 18 October 2023 in Riga, Latvia:

- *Recalling* ITU Resolution 98 on enhancing the standardization of the Internet of Things and smart cities and communities for global development and the EU initiative on Web 4.0 and virtual worlds.
- *Acknowledging* the importance of the ITU Resolution 200 on the Connect 2030 Agenda and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- *Emphasizing* the importance of a transparent and collaborative international standards development process for the metaverse.
- *Committing* to working together with standards developing organizations such as the ITU-T, industry fora and other key stakeholders to develop metaverse standards that are open, safe, secure, interoperable and inclusive.
- *Acknowledging* the declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles.
- *Recalling* Europe's Digital Decade: digital targets for 2030 and its emphasis on skills, business, and government.

We call on the European region to leverage the opportunities presented by the ITU Focus Group on metaverse and join us in the development and standardization of an open, inclusive and secure metaverse for the benefit of all, including the following key points of action:

- **Integration of Healthcare and Technology:** Emphasize Europe's social welfare and unified health system as a key for leveraging the metaverse, showcasing Europe's expertise in data protection and privacy, positioning it as a leader in secure healthcare solutions within the metaverse.
- **Innovation in Real Estate and Construction:** Highlight the significance of Europe's digital infrastructure implementation and human-centric approach for improved operational efficiencies in the metaverse, to advocate for government involvement and cooperation to drive widespread adoption of metaverse technologies across diverse asset portfolios.
- **Cultural Integration in Tourism, Hospitality, National Heritage, and Arts:** Showcase Europe's rich cultural heritage and diversity through immersive experiences in the metaverse, highlighting the importance of collaborating with EU countries, content owners, and stakeholders within the tourism and cultural sectors to ensure comprehensive integration.
- **Language and Communication Enablement:** Emphasize the crucial role of language in effective communication within the metaverse, stressing the significance of localization to ensure that content is accessible to a diverse audience across various languages.
- **Collaborative Governance and Resource Allocation:** Propose the establishment of common language data spaces and effective data legislation to facilitate seamless communication and language support, while highlighting the need for collaborative governance and a comprehensive approach to data management in the metaverse.

We urge all stakeholders in the European region to join us, as we continue our metaverse journey, leveraging Europe's strengths, fostering strategic partnerships, and emphasizing collaborative governance and resource allocation for successful integration and leadership in the metaverse.

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