FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT_ANITA GURUMURTHY ON BEHALF OF IT FOR CHANGE

Future of Rights and Citizenship in the Digital Age

IT for Change's Three-year Program for Research and Advocacy

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Synthesis

Today, data is both the basis of global economic production and the means of social governance. This new epoch brings with it new challenges, opportunities, and concerns for the questions of development and equity, and for justice-centered policy-making and regulation. This project aimed to undertake systematic, evidence-based research and advocacy that can inform economic, social, and digital policy directions to respond to the same, and work towards a citizen-oriented framework for data and algorithmic governance.

The project period, which spanned three years, saw pronouncements on digital policy and infrastructure initiatives from the Indian state addressing crucial areas such as digital infrastructure, agriculture, fintech, worker rights, health data, platform accountability, and data governance. Multiple intervention points within global/regional spaces, processes, and platforms of governance for the digital also opened up, including within United Nations (UN) agencies and fora, the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). We strove to have a finger on the pulse of these developments, producing meaningful research and policy engagements that helped to move the national and global discourse on digital governance in progressive directions. Our engagements through knowledge production, field building, and advocacy are elaborated upon in the report in detail.

Research Problem

Data governance debates have rapidly gathered momentum all over the world. In addition to personal data protection laws, nations are also devising policies for the data and artificial intelligence (AI) economy. Teasing out the value premises of these regimes and intervening in these nascent processes with normatively grounded governance frameworks is a vital opportunity for scholars and advocates in the digital domain. Data governance is not only a core vertical of future policy, but also a key aspect underpinning the reform of institutional norms and processes across the entire socio-economic spectrum. Competing and conflicting considerations between individual and collective rights in data — and between different social norms and rights — need to be effectively balanced. Against this context, the project posed the following research questions, focusing on three areas: gender justice, labor rights in the digital economy, and citizen rights.

1. What are the assumptions and value propositions underlying current data and algorithmic regimes (practices and policies)? Specifically, how do incumbent data and algorithmic regimes recode gender justice, labor power, and citizen rights?

2. What kind of normative principles are required to ensure that data and algorithmic regimes reflect feminist, labor justice and citizen rights standpoints?

Research Findings

This project was designed as an umbrella initiative, housing a range of research and policy engagements looking at issues of data governance and AI policy and its intersections with development. The project duration and its mandate allowed for both situated/deep-dive as well as topical short-turnaround research explorations in various sectors, including fintech, food systems, digital finance, worker rights, health data, and welfare issues. Highlights from some key research outputs undertaken in the project period are offered below:

- In a critical analysis of the proposed framework and regulatory mechanisms for Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) — India's proposed model for data governance to facilitate increased consent-centric data sharing across sectors such as health, telecommunications, and finance — we examined whether it serves as a genuine 'public good'. Our research found that the proposed framework focuses on increased datafication, without concomitantly developing basic infrastructure and regulatory systems, or accounting for possible technological exclusions.

- In August 2021, the Government of India launched e-Shram, a national database portal for the targeted delivery of social security entitlements to India's unorganized workers. The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) and IT for Change engaged in a dialogue with trade union representatives, researchers, practitioners working on informal sector issues, and digital rights activists on their experiences with using the portal, along with the impediments they and their constituents faced during this process. Based on the discussions at the roundtable, we brought out a strategy report that outlined a broad set of recommendations from civil society organizations (CSOs) for the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, on strengthening the design and implementation of the e-Shram portal for universal social security coverage.

- In a think piece looking at fintech models for credit scoring, we argued that there is a need to move beyond understanding algorithmic credit-scoring models as technological shifts underpinned by Big Data and machine learning, to recognizing them for the more fundamental political shifts they are. This is reflected in the willingness to dispense the task of shaping the normative framework of creditworthiness to a process of algorithmic datafication. We also raised through the piece, important questions about who is setting the terms around what constitutes creditworthiness, and who benefits from being made visible on these terms, pointing to the need to foreground concerns of structural inequalities and social injustices in the use of such infrastructures for meeting development goals.

- As part of our involvement in a working group of the Paris Peace Forum and Initiate: Digital Rights in Society, we contributed critical inputs to a white paper. **The paper recommends four key actions to move toward a less fragmented AI policy landscape that incorporates the interests and concerns of Global South civil societies. These include: i) democratic, multi-scalar dialogue towards concrete regulatory principles for AI governance, based on a vision of human rights as integrated and indivisible, ii) a global database that tracks and monitors AI legislation for human rights and**

development implications, facilitating contextual policy-making, iii) measures by Global South countries for accountability of transnational corporations in AI-based services, and iv) incentives to retain domestic AI talent in the Global South and build local research and development capabilities.

- In a policy brief on 'Cross-Border Data Flow with Data Rights', we proposed a new framework to govern data flows, incorporating three generations of rights to data — civil and political rights of data privacy and security, economic rights over data, and collective data rights, within data flows, thus addressing equity and sovereignty concerns of developing countries.

- In a working paper titled, 'Workers' Data Rights in the Platformized Workplace – A New Frontier for the Labor Agenda', we took stock of emerging debates in this frontier domain of workers' data rights, evaluating the efficacy of national-level legal-policy frameworks in addressing them, and highlighting the gaps that need to be bridged. Our paper spotlighted four critical considerations: recognition of algorithmic control as a key yardstick in the employment relationship, workers' right to explanation in automated systems for workplace decision-making, workers' data rights in social security programs, and collective data rights of workers in their aggregate data commons.

- In collaboration with FIAN International, we undertook a case study to explore emerging land and agricultural digitalization trends in India, and their impact on the tenure rights of marginal farmers, small-scale producers, and forest communities. We outlined the governance and policy interventions necessary to not only secure the rights of tenure and livelihoods of India's marginalized communities, but to also amplify the need to hold sustainability of farming, fishing, and forestry ecosystems as central to the argument of land ownership.

- In a policy brief on 'Digital Transformation for Development: A program of action on techno-institutional and human capabilities for LDCs', we examined the challenges that prevent Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from harnessing a capabilities-based approach to leveraging digital transformation for development. Our research pointed to the lack of financing for public digital innovation, trade, and Intellectual Property regimes that prevent the emergence of robust domestic digital economies, and the absence of a human-centered approach as key roadblocks.

- In an article on 'Taming the Intelligent Corporation: Why the Data Paradigm Necessitates a Re-think of Responsible Business Conduct Obligations of MNEs', we examined the context of 21st-century digital capitalism, and assessed the adequacy of guidelines for corporate conduct, such as the OECD guidelines in addressing the particular problems wrought forth by the rise of the digital corporations, including emerging forms of abuse of data power for anti-competitive and unethical labor practices globally.

Project Implementation and Management

We focused on expanding our track of work on national and global work on data and digital infrastructures, and using that as a mechanism for research and policy intervention. Through meaningful cross-pollination with other projects at IT for Change, we were able to engage in impactful research, input into key national consultations, forge new alliances and networks, generate knowledge, and continue to expand the field.

Financial Aspects

In previous reporting periods, IT for Change had experienced substantial underspending on personnel costs (which have been elaborated in the previous reports), which we have sough to adjust over the project duration. In the last reporting period, over expenditure under this line allowed for the absorption of savings of last reporting periods as well as reallocation of funds from travel and research, which dwindled down in the final leg of the project.

Project Outputs and Dissemination

Over the project period, we worked on and brought out a number of outputs, including policy submissions, research outputs, media pieces, and more. In a sustained manner, we tracked and made interventions into a rapidly evolving national and global policy landscape on data governance, AI, and digital infrastructure. The cornerstone principles of our research and advocacy have included democratized access, control, and institutional oversight over digital resources, rail guards against corporate takeover and extractivist datafication, the primacy of public/social value over private, citizen-centric visions of digital innovation, and a no-person-left-behind approach to digitalization. Our interventions were guided by concerns of equity and developmental justice, grounded in a Southern standpoint.

1. Policy Submissions and Interventions-National

Intervention	Submitted to	Year
Response to Strategy for National Open Digital Ecosystems (NODE) White Paper	Government of India	Jun '20
Input to NITI Aayog on COVID-19: Impact on Women and Girls	NITI Aayog	Jul '20
Input to Public Consultation on the Draft Health Data Management Policy	Government of India	Sep '20

Submission to the AI Standardization Committee, Department of Telecommunications on the Indian Artificial Intelligence Stack	Department of Telecommunications, Government of India	Oct '20
Joint submission for public consultation of the Ministry of Labour and Employment on the draft Code on Social Security Rules, 2020	Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India	Dec '20
Input to the Public Consultation on the Draft National Geospatial Policy, 2021	Department of Science and Technology, Government of India	May '21
Submission to Consultation Paper on India Digital System of Agriculture (IDEA)	Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer Welfare, Government of India	Jul '21
Response to Public Consultation on the Proposed Amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India	Jul '21
Response to the National Health Authority Consultation Paper on the Unified Health Interface (UHI)	National Health Authority, Government of India	Aug '21
Response to consultation on proposed National Health Data Retention Policy by the National Health Authority (NHA) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)	National Health Authority, Government of India	Jan '22
Input to Draft Data Accessibility and Use Policy	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India	Mar '22
Input to Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy	MeitY, Government of India	Jun '22
Submission to Part-I and Part-II of the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021	MeitY, Government of India	Jul '22

[Submission to the National Health Authority on the Data Sharing Guidelines Draft for the National Insurance Scheme](#)	National Health Authority, Government of India	Jul '22
[Submission to the Public Consultation on the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill](#)	MeitY, Government of India	Dec '22
[Response to draft Amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021](#)	MeitY, Government of India	Mar '23

2. Policy Submissions and Interventions-Global

Intervention	Submitted to	Year
[Feedback on the EU Consultation for the New Competition Tool and the Digital Services Act Package](#)	EU	Jun '20
[Submissions to Call for Inputs by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association](#)	UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association	Jun '20
Submission to the South African Competition Commission on the public consultation for Competition in the Digital Economy	South African Competition Commission	Oct '20
[Input to EU Consultation for the New Competition Tool](#)	EU	Nov '20
[Input to Feedback on EU Digital Services Act Package](#)	EU	Nov '20
[Input to EU Draft Data Governance Act, 2020](#)	EU	Feb '21
[Response to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Call for Comments and Textual Suggestions on the Draft Convention on The Right to Development](#)	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Aug '21

Policy Input for ILO Meeting of Experts on Decent Work in the Platform Economy	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Oct '22
Innovation to Tackle Gender Inequality-A Back-to-Basics Roadmap	UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW67)	Oct '22
Response to 'Guidelines for Regulating Digital Platforms'	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Jan '23
Input to 'Consultation Draft: Targeted update of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and their Implementation Procedures.'	OECD	Mar '23
Submission to the Global Digital Compact	UN Secretary-General	Apr '23

3. Research Outputs

During the project period, we examined issues of data governance and AI policy and its intersections with development through both situated/deep-dives as well as topical short-turnaround research explorations in various sectors, including fintech, food systems, digital finance, worker rights, health data, and welfare issues.

Title	Type of Output	Year
The Macro Frames of Microwork: A study of Indian women workers on AMT in the post-pandemic moment	Research Report	Jun '21
Socializing Data Value: Reflections on the State of Play Based on a virtual roundtable	Event Report	Jul '21
Reclaiming a Feminist Digital Public Sphere from the Margins	Journal Article	Aug '21
Building Back Better with E-Commerce: A Feminist Roadmap	Research Report	Sep '21

Title	Type of Output	Year
[Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture: Side-Stepping Empowerment for Convenience?](#)	Policy Brief	Dec '21
[A Civil Society Agenda for e-Shram](#)	Research Report	Dec '21
[Beyond the North-South Fork on the Road to AI Governance: An Action Plan](#)	White Paper	Nov '21
[Credit Scoring Algorithms as Tools for Financial Inclusion A Development Perspective](#)	Think Piece	Feb '22
[Encoding Digital Technologies for a Feminist Social Contract](#)	Policy Brief	May '22
[Digital Public Goods for an Inclusive Digital Future: A Roadmap Towards 2030](#)	Policy Brief	May '22
[Workers' Data Rights in the Platformized Workplace – A New Frontier for the Labor Agenda](#)	Working Paper	Jun '22
[Cross-border 'Data Flow with Data Rights'](#)	Policy Brief	Sep 22
[Recasting Land Tenure Rights in the Data Epoch: Insights from a Country Case Study of India](#)	Research Report	Oct '22
[Taming the Intelligent Corporation: Why the Data Paradigm Necessitates a Re-think of Responsible Business Conduct Obligations of MNEs](#)	Essay	Dec '22
[Digital Transformation for Development: A program of action on techno-institutional and human capabilities for LDCs](#)	Policy Brief	Mar '23

4. Media Outputs

With a view to widening discourse building on these issues and creating more accessible knowledge, we brought out a number of media outputs, published both in the mainstream media as well as in IT for Change's alternative media outlet Bot Populi. We furthered the debates in the space by producing media articles, analysis, commentary, and op-eds addressing several topics, including AI strategies in India, the political economy of data and digitalization, gender justice in a data-driven post-pandemic context, and more.

Title	Output	Outlet	Year
Covid-19 Lockdown Exposes Gaping Holes in E-commerce and Farm Food Supply Chains	Commentary	Hindu Business Line	Apr '20
MayDay special series on labor in the digital economy: 'Crowds as Code' in the Global Data Value Chain How Public Sector Workers and Unions can Shape the Digital Economy Uncertainties Galore in the Post-Pandemic Labor Market It's a No-Win for Gig Workers in the Covid-19 Moment A Catch-22 for On-Demand Cleaners in the Philippines Networked Desolation in Indonesia's Platform Tourism Industry Securing Data and Labor Rights in the Post-Covid Digital Era Precarity in Times of Pandemic A 3-Point Agenda for Platform Workers; as if the South Matters	Media article	Bot Populi	May '20
A Plan for Indian Self-Sufficiency in an AI-Driven World	Commentary	Livemint	Jul '20
Data is an Economic Resource. GK Committee Report Shows How Its Value Can Be Shared, Governed	Commentary	Indian Express	Jul '20

Title	Output	Outlet	Year
[Treating Data as Commons](#)	Commentary	The Hindu	Sep '20
[Constitutionalising Data Redistribution](#)	Essay	Indian Journal of Law and Technology blog	Nov '20
[What is the problem with AI governance today?](#)	Video Interview	Engage Media	Nov '20
[A Data Rights Agenda for Platform and Gig Economy Workers](#)	Media Article	Hindustan Times	Dec '20
[Democratizing data for a fair digital economy](#)	Interview	MIT Technology Review	Mar '21
[WhatsApp Challenges Govt: Breaking End-to-End Encryption Will Lead to Security Issues but Timing of Petition Circumspect](#)	Media Article	Free Press Journal	May '21
[Inputs to a discussion on Gig Work and Organizing for Platform Labor in an episode with Nagrik Learning](#)	Podcast	Nagrik Learning	Jul '21
[Interview series: A New Social Contract for the Data Age](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Oct '21
[Monetising Data- For Whose Good?](#)	Media Article	Deccan Herald	Oct '21
[Platform Capitalism and Edtech](#)	Media Article	EPW	Jan '22
[The Gig Podcast S2E3: Who Cares? The Permanent Wave](#)	Podcast	The Gig podcast	Jan '22
[The crypto assets conundrum](#)	Op-ed	The Hindu	Jan '22
[Digital Infra: How Can we Realise Budget 2022's Ambition?](#)	Op-ed	Hindustan Times	Feb '22

Title	Output	Outlet	Year
[Forging a Social Contract for Data](#)	Commentary	The Hindu	Mar '22
[Declaration of Digital Rights and Principles: A reality check](#)	Blog Post	CONCORD Europe	May '22
[Notes from the Field| Recording the Unorganized Sector: Reflections on the e-Shram Database](#)	Blog Post	Organization website	Apr '22
[The Big Wave of Platform Regulation is Here – What's Next?](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Aug '22
[Can Public Goods be the Answer to Fixing E-commerce?](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Sep '22
[A Southern Perspective: The Missing Piece in ERFs](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Nov '22
[Gender-based Abuse on the Metaverse: The New Internet is Being Coded on a Toxic Palimpsest](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Jan '23
[The Global Debate on Food Security Data: More Open-washing?](#)	Media Article	Bot Populi	Mar '23

Impact

Through the course of the project, we contributed to the digital infrastructure and policy discourse in India and globally and made our presence felt in key national data policy spaces and global forums through research and developed interventions, amplified ideas at a number of events, and also worked with other networks to forge long-term connections and productive exchange. We have grown our networks of engagement and spheres of influence across a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including government ministries, CSOs and digital rights organizations, union federations, and members of the academic community.

Total number of national policy interventions made during project period	17
Total number of global policy interventions made during project period	12
Total number of research outputs produced during project period	15
Total number of media engagements (podcasts, interviews, articles) made during project period	37
Total number of events, panels, and presentations attended/organized during project period	112

A snapshot view of our impact

Making a dent in the national digital policy space. We have made critical interventions into the national policy space, participating in over 15 policy consultation processes and multiple civil society engagements through the project. Of note among these:

- Our input to the public consultation of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, on the draft Code on Social Security Rules, 2020, was circulated widely prior to submission and a total of eight trade unions, 12 civil society organizations, and three academics endorsed the same. Several media outlets covered the statement, including The News Minute, NDTV, News Click, Money Control, and Indian Lekhak.

- When the Karnataka State Open Data Policy framework was announced without public consultation in October 2021, in collaboration with DataMeet and Environment Support Group, we raised a range of concerns around the policy – the lack of public consultation, and anonymization being an insufficient safeguard for citizen privacy in data-sharing arrangements. We wrote an op-ed for the Deccan Herald articulating these concerns, which tipped the scales. The Karnataka state government announced that it was revisiting this framework in early November. The additional chief secretary e-Governance, also used the illustration we had used in the op-ed to allay civil society concerns about Big Tech capture of public datasets.

- In August 2022, we co-convened a roundtable consultation in Delhi to discuss NITI Aayog's report 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy - Perspectives and Recommendations on the Future of Work'. The deliberations from this consultation were sent to NITI Aayog in the form of a set of recommendations to feed into a 'Platform India' roadmap of the government.

- We worked closely with traditional civil society groups in various sectors to understand the issues relating to digitalization and data rights in the given sector — a process that has enabled us to

galvanize broad-based engagement with the Indian government on various sectoral data policy initiatives such as in agriculture, e-commerce, and health. We also collaborated with the Internet Freedom Foundation and Bharatiya Krishak Samaj to co-organize a workshop in Delhi, in April 2022, under the conceptual rubric of 'Right- Digitalization' (a term forcing civil society to move from a negative agenda to a positive one). The workshop brought activists in five sectors — health, education, agriculture, online commerce, and labor rights — together, along with digital rights groups to synergistically build a common national platform for sharing critical digital policy developments in traditional policy areas. An important outcome of this workshop has been that we were approached by the Chief Knowledge Officer, and Adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture, reshaping the IDEA initiative for agriculture (digital ecosystem), to clarify ideas about economic aspects of data governance.

Marking our presence in the global advocacy landscape. Through multiple interventions, we continued to impact the global advocacy landscape and bring our digital justice agenda to global policy processes.

- We drew attention to the very problematic language on: i) 'data flows with trust', and ii) multistakeholder approach to digital policy-making in the document that was being negotiated for the 15th session of the UNCTAD in 2021. As recognition of our deep domain expertise, we were also invited to be a reviewer for the draft Digital Economy Report, 2021.

- In May 2021, we were invited by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to be part of a new group of 10 renowned experts to support the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The group will advise on the ways of harnessing science, technology, and innovation to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- In September 2021, we were invited to an expert working group on Global South and North Convergences and Divergences by the Paris Peace Forum and Initiate: Digital Rights in Society. The objective of the working group was to discuss and outline areas of convergence and divergence between communities in the Global South and North in their experience of and regulatory approaches toward algorithmic governance.

- In December 2022, we mobilized our advocacy networks to register our protest against the Global North hegemony in tech policy circles and its percolation into critical policy decisions pertaining to digital rights in the region. In partnership with Public Services International (Asia & Pacific) and the Third World Network, we organized a campaign to reject pinkwashing in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). Our campaign was a huge success and our statement received over 60 endorsements from organizations globally.

- Over 2022 and 2023, we actively engaged in the G20 agenda on digital economy. Through the C20 summit parallel events and side events, members of IT for Change took part in several events, including a panel discussion on Cross-Border Data Flows and one on 'Data for Development: Role of G20 in Advancing the 2030 Agenda'.

- We participated in deliberations of the working group convened by the Forum on Information and Democracy, which published a report in February 2023, highlighting ways to ensure pluralism of news and information in curation and indexing algorithms. Pursuant to our inputs, the report includes a recognition of the potential of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as a normative basis to impose human rights obligations on platforms and to govern the working of their recommender systems. The report also voiced our concern that platform recommender systems can hinder individual autonomy and have a long-term impact on users' ability to participate in democracy in their capacity as citizens.

- We made a strong impact at the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) in March 2023 through two major launches and active participation in various panels in New York. Our contributions to the draft text of the CSW Outcome Document focused on building alternate visions of new feminist institutional structures and rejecting the outdated idea of techno-solutionism. Through our participation in the Women's Rights Caucus meetings and leveraging our existing networks with feminists in the Global South, we were able to reach our suggestions to the delegations of Argentina, South Africa, and many European countries. Our perspectives on gender-inclusive public digital innovation and penalization of corporate impunity for women's human rights violations in the digital age were appreciated by the CSW Co-Chair, Mathu Joyini. Furthermore, our colleagues were also actively involved in numerous other stimulating panels and discussions throughout the course of CSW67.

Coordinating a global response to The Global Digital Compact. The UN Secretary-General's Common Agenda has proposed a Global Digital Compact (GDC), outlining "shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future for all". The Global Digital Compact is to be agreed at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 through a multistakeholder consultative process which began in 2023. Recognizing that the GDC has the potential to revitalize international cooperation vis-à-vis digital technology, we played a key role in coordinating a global civil society response to the consultative process. Bringing together Global South and North CSOs, coalitions, and digital rights organizations under the aegis of the Global Digital Justice Forum, we submitted an input for the GDC in April 2023. Our submission recommended that the GDC unequivocally reject the 'equal footing' multistakeholder model that has dominated digital cooperation processes, leading to an entrenchment of corporate power. Instead, we emphasized that the GDC build on World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) outcomes and set up a new democratic global digital governance framework founded in a human rights-based constitutionalism that acknowledges the legitimate role of governments in digital policy-making. This submission was co-constructed by the group through several months of dialogue, deliberation, and consultation with several communities in the Global South. In the lead-up to the consultation submission, at CSW67 we also launched a Charter of Demands in relation to integrating a gender equality agenda into the UN GDC.

Recognition of expertise. In the course of the project period, members of IT for Change co-hosted and/or participated in over 100 online and face-to-face events, in their capacity as experts in the data policy domain and were called upon to provide interventions in various formats – capacity-building lectures and learning sessions, masterclasses, workshops, webinars, keynote lectures – for a wide range of audiences – CSOs, philanthropy foundations, academia, policymakers. In these platforms, we have strived to weave in research from the project to inform our inputs. Key instances of these are mentioned below:

- In November 2020, we were invited to teach a masterclass on 'Economies Through Data: Southern Feminist Perspectives', as part of the World Social Forum of Transformative Economies, 2020, organized in collaboration with DAWN and Escuela de Economia Feminista.

- In March 2021, we were invited to deliver the keynote at the University of Tokyo for the inaugural event of 'B'AI Global Forum: Research on norms, ethics, and praxis for a truly gender equal society and a guarantee of rights for minorities in the AI age', a multi-year project at the Institute for AI and Beyond.

- As part of a global consortium of digital policy research institutes and organizations, we co-organized the first Annual Conference of the Platform Governance Research Network in March 2021. This three-day online conference brought together an interdisciplinary group of researchers to share ongoing work.

- In association with Third World Network, we co-hosted a learning session on 'Decoding Digital Sequence Information: A Development Perspective' to equip Global South scholars and activists to understand the issues at stake for the global governance of digital genomics. This was organized in response to the need for informed perspectives in the lead-up to the UN Biodiversity Conference, 2021.

- We were invited in March 2021 to serve as a rapporteur for the Canadian think tank, CIGI's research working group on Global Platform Governance Network, which identifies areas of research where governments should be investing, looking at barriers, and considering ways in which governments can help research efforts.

- In September 2021, we organized four closed-door roundtables on 'Impact of Digital Technology on Workers, Labor and the Economy' in collaboration with the Ford Foundation. The series, an important gathering of experts from across the world on the issue, fed into a critical report to advise the philanthropic sector on programming in the Future of Work domain.

- In February 2022, we were invited by the Civil Society Group on Financing for Development to participate in the Friends of Monterrey Retreat and present our analysis on the technology section of the draft Financing for Development Report. We were able to underscore the importance of official development assistance (ODA) for digital infrastructure development and binding rules for a new global data and AI constitutionalism grounded in human rights and development justice, in our

briefing to policymakers who attended.

- In June 2022, we organized a workshop in Berlin to compare and contrast the EU and Indian approaches to data governance. The workshop brought together leading academics working on competition law in data markets, resource governance of data, knowledge commons, and data economy valuation from the EU with technologists from India and representatives from UNCTAD, and diplomats working closely with the South Centre in Geneva.

Recommendations to IDRC

The goal of this project has been to articulate the directions for data and algorithmic governance through a two-track research and advocacy program, primarily focusing on India, in addition to drawing from global scholarship to produce policy insights with greater validity and nuance. To this end, we believe we have made significant progress towards this goal and strived to forward a citizen-centric vision of data and algorithmic justice through deep and sustained engagement with the digital policy ecosystem. But as we had outlined in our proposal for this project, the effective regulation of the digital – network-data ecosystems increasingly based on algorithms – continues to be a moving target for regulators and governments. More needs to be done in the field and **sustained funding for policy work in this area continues to be an important need.**

Regulatory measures for data, AI, and the digital economy at large, have gained an unprecedented momentum since the time this exploration started and are only poised to become more critical to how the future of the economy will be shaped. The fortunes of the platform economy have also waxed and waned over the period. We are confronted with a time of great flux and uncertainty in 2023 with the macro environment shifting against Big Tech's 'Move Fast and Break Things' innovation trajectory. The last few months have also seen the rapid rise of generative AI or GenAI in the form of technologies such as ChatGPT, GPT4, Bard, and more. In equal measures, optimism and concerns have soared, coalescing around the positive and negative potential of this next generation of the digital. **We recommend that IDRC build this important thematic into its programming for the coming years and support much-needed public research and advocacy on this front.**