



Data Diplomacy: Making International Diplomacy More Accessible and Equitable Through Data Science

Remarks delivered by HE Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Colleagues,

I am very pleased to be here with [Marco] Ambassador Marco Suazo, Head of UNITAR and my fellow colleague [Ronaldo] Ambassador Ronaldo Costa, Permanent Representative of Brazil at this side event on Data Diplomacy Project in the margins of the STI Forum which seeks to optimize the practice of multilateral diplomacy. Malta is honoured to be part of this introduction to this project.

I also wish to welcome the three academics at the heart of this project, Professors Henry Iure de Paiva Silva and Rafael Mesquita and Mr. Antonio Henrique Pires dos Santos.

When we usually talk about science in diplomacy, we usually refer to the provision of scientific advice and evidence to inform and support decision making in policies. However, today's digital innovations unleash a potential on a whole other level.

Malta is very much engaged in the digital diplomacy. In November 2022 the Summit on Digital Diplomacy and Governance was held in Malta, organized by the DiploFoundation on the occasion of its 20th year anniversary. The Summit aimed to provide insights into the ever-changing digital geopolitics, how to negotiate new digital topics on the diplomatic agenda, and how to effectively utilize new tools such as social media, data, AI, and the metaverse in diplomacy. Additionally, the Summit played a significant role in providing an open consultation



for the intergovernmental process for a Global Digital Compact, which will establish shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future for everyone and with its accompanying negotiations to be finalized ahead of the UN Summit of the Future in 2024. Furthermore, bilaterally we continue to support leadership training in digital diplomacy [with Namibia and Rwanda].

Shortly we will be hearing about three innovative tools in the areas of multilateralism, energy, and security, which seeks to cater to various stakeholders, including diplomats, UN personnel, and researchers. By fostering collaboration among international relations experts, data scientists, and UN practitioners, the project supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular number 17, which focuses on reinforcing global partnerships. The initiative further advances regional and international cooperation, as well as access to science, technology, and innovation. Through the facilitation of knowledge sharing, improved coordination among existing mechanisms, and the establishment of a global technology facilitation mechanism, the Data Diplomacy Project strives to make a significant impact in the world of diplomacy. Furthermore, such projects work towards making a level playing field in multilateral arenas.

I look forward to hearing about the three proposed tools: EXENTRIX, presented by Prof. Henry Iure de Paiva Silva; THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE PLATFORM, presented by Antonio Henrique Pires dos Santos; and THE EVOLUTION OF THE U.N., presented by Prof. Rafael Mesquita. This event is only the start of a partnership bringing together, the worlds of diplomacy, academia, data and digitalization together for the good of multilateral diplomacy.

Thank you