Increasing levels of technology protectionism and digital nationalism threaten to balkanize technology, data and internet policies around the world with negative impacts for U.S. innovation leadership and competitiveness. At the same time, countries are grappling with legitimate concerns regarding the security of data and supply chains, responsible uses of technology, and potential employment and economic disruptions from innovation and automation. These developments threaten to disrupt the flow of ideas, people and capital that have historically defined and fueled U.S. dynamism on the global stage.

International leadership in technology and innovation is a core American strength — a driver of prosperity and catalyst of opportunity. The Administration can advance U.S. interests by reinvigorating global engagement to set global data and technology policy standards and by reinvesting in the fundamentals of inclusion, access and collaboration that drive innovation at home.

The benefits of enhancing American innovation fully materialize at home when key foreign markets are open to U.S. products and services and legitimate policy concerns such as data security are effectively addressed by governments without interfering unnecessarily with the responsible uses of technology. To fuel American jobs and prosperity, our domestic strengths in innovation and technology policy leadership should be exercised through multilateral cooperation and sustained engagement with key partners around the world. U.S. leadership to advance global data and technology governance policies that are consistent with democratic values will accelerate innovation and promote shared prosperity through a fair, democratic and flourishing global innovation landscape.

1. **Work to establish global consensus on governance of data and technology.**

The U.S. government should increase engagement and collaboration with key allies and other partners while strengthening U.S. leadership on global data and technology policies. This work includes taking the following actions:

   a. Establish new, dedicated coalitions with like-minded countries to prioritize and sustain free cross-border data flows, promote the economic and societal value of data and digital trade, foster digital ethics, and actively address key concerns about data governance.

   b. Establish and support international partnerships to promote joint research collaboration to advance U.S. technology and innovation priorities, such as COVID-19 recovery, global climate change, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, supply chain resilience and other research fields.

   c. Partner with U.S. industry stakeholders to enhance U.S. participation in international technology standards-setting bodies (e.g., the 3rd Generation Partnership Project, International Telecommunication Union, International Organization for Standardization) and continue to support a strong, private-sector-led presence in these bodies.
d. Work with allies to implement a funding mechanism to support the deployment of open and interoperable network infrastructures and fund capacity-building in developing countries and regions where connectivity is poised to rapidly expand.

2. Establish and strengthen international agreements around digital trade.

The U.S. government should engage in multilateral and bilateral negotiations with trading partners to set the rules of digital trade and enforce international commitments. The U.S. government should leverage the high-standard digital commitments in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as a model to facilitate the movement of data and address data localization measures and other market access barriers to support continued U.S. innovation leadership. This work includes taking the following actions:

   a. Negotiate bilateral and multilateral commitments that protect cross-border data flows, prevent data localization requirements, support cooperation on the development and deployment of new and emerging technologies, and protect intellectual property rights.

   b. Continue leadership in multilateral negotiations, including World Trade Organization e-commerce negotiations, to establish and enforce rules and norms that promote an open internet, open markets and tariff-free nondiscriminatory digital trade.

   c. Support Trade Promotion Authority policy priorities and negotiating objectives to prevent data localization and onshore data storage requirements and support cross-border data flows modeled on the USMCA, while exploring additional avenues to promote trade in and use of emerging technologies as well as responsible use of technology through trade agreements.

3. Work multilaterally to ensure that export controls on technology that is essential to national security are effective and support U.S. innovation leadership.

The U.S. government should use export controls in ways that are consistent with the policies and provisions in the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, including by prioritizing the use of multilateral controls and ensuring their targeted use for chokepoint technologies of concern that are not widely available outside of the United States. To ensure that current and new export controls advance national security and preserve U.S. economic competitiveness and innovation leadership, use of export controls should be consistent with the following principles:

   a. Multilateral export controls improve efficacy, reduce enforcement costs and prevent technology leakage to countries of concern.

      i. Unilateral export controls over widely available commercial items harm the U.S. industrial base and are not effective at preventing the proliferation of controlled items to countries of concern. Investment in and the development of such technologies simply migrates from the United States to other countries, which then supply the technologies to countries of concern.

      ii. Unilateral export controls on well-established and widely used categories of technology could significantly and negatively affect U.S. national security by undermining American research, commercial and service industries and placing them at a disadvantage to their foreign counterparts.
b. Controls tailored to end uses and end users of concern are preferable to controls over entire categories of technologies because they allow continued development with trusted partners and export for beneficial uses.

c. To address the challenges of scaling export controls around the world, new technologies may help to make end-use and end-user controls more effective, more dynamic and more comprehensive while preserving U.S. technological leadership, especially when exporting products and technology to allies. These technologies could include software- and hardware-based tools to enforce and monitor government-imposed restrictions on users and uses and to secure the infrastructure surrounding these technologies.