



Hybrid public event

## GOVERNING THE DIGITAL FUTURE: GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**7 May 2026**  
**15:00 – 16:30**

Istituto Affari Internazionali  
Via dei Montecatini, 17  
Rome - Italy

*Working language: English*

The event is organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) within the framework of the **Horizon Europe Project ENSURED**, which aims to understand how the EU and its Member States can defend and transform the multilateral system to make it stronger, more effective and democratic, and capable of adapting to a complex and ever-changing world.

The discussion will take stock of **recent developments in digital governance**, highlighting both emerging **challenges** and ongoing **efforts** to drive the way forward at national and international levels. Particular attention will be devoted to the role of **multilateral fora amidst growing geopolitical fragmentation, as well as on their concrete impact in shaping global governance in the field.**

The event will present findings from the **ENSURED project workstream on digitalisation**, alongside contributions from international **researchers, experts, and policymakers** actively engaged in multilateral processes, who will share their insights and first-hand experience. They will be joined by scholars and practitioners from academia and think tanks, invited to contribute to the discussion on recent developments and emerging trends.



<https://www.ensureurope.eu/>

## PROGRAMME

14:45-15:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

15:00-15:05 Kick-Off Introduction

MARCO SIMONI

Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

15:05-15:20 Session I  
From Research to Policy: Insights from ENSURED Horizon Europe Project

FEDERICA MARCONI

Researcher, Multilateralism and Global Governance Program, IAI

WADE HOXTELL

Head of operations, Global Public Policy Institute and Berliner Institut für Governance & Leadership

15:20-16:00 Session II  
Shaping Global Digital Governance: Rising Challenges, Ongoing Efforts

TOMMASO GIARDINI

Associate Director of the Digital Policy Alert, St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade

MOLLY LESHER

Head, Digital Connectivity, Economics and Society Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

NOSIPHO NAUSCA-JEAN JEZILE

Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Italy, and Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies in Rome

VALENTIN WEBER

Senior Associate Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

16:00-16:30 Open discussion and Concluding Remarks

*Moderation and Concluding Remarks:*

ETTORE GRECO

Executive Vice-President, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)