



The conference organisers

France, rallying support for digital solidarity

The first OECD country to become a founding member of the DSF, for several years France has played a pioneering role in the fight against the digital divide. One example of its work is the ADEN project (Aid for Digital Connectivity), which is helping break the isolation of African rural areas with the creation of 60 public Internet centres; another example is its decentralised cooperation action which provides financial support to around fifteen local digital solidarity projects.

The Global Digital Solidarity Fund and the World Digital Solidarity Agency: new multi-stakeholder organisations to narrow the digital divide

The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) and the World Digital Solidarity Agency (DSA) are multi-stakeholder organisations that have been created following the Geneva and Tunis World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS). Through their complementary actions (promoting digital solidarity, seeking innovative financing, providing expertise and catalysing projects), they are working to reduce the digital divide at the local community level.

The DSF is a foundation governed by Swiss law and headquartered in Geneva. It has 27 founding members, including France, Senegal, the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Urban Community of Lyon. Its president is currently Alain Madelin, former French Minister of the Economy and Finance.

The DSA is an association governed by French law and based in Lyon. It is currently presided over by Gérard Collomb, Senator-Mayor of Lyon and President of the Urban Community of Lyon.

The Rhône-Alpes Region and the Urban Community of Lyon: local authorities at the heart of digital solidarity

The Rhône-Alpes Region and the Urban Community of Lyon were the first European local authorities to actively promote digital solidarity, when they organised the 1st World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society, in 2003. This support was formalised when they became founding members of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund in 2005. The Urban Community of Lyon is also a member of the World Digital Solidarity Agency, which it has supported and presided over since its creation in July 2006.