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Statement submitted by

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the issues paper, and to participate and speak in this meeting.

My name is Christian Peukert and I am an associate professor at the University of Lausanne, specializing in the economics of digital markets and the economics of data.

I want to start with a general implication coming out of the work of my research community.

In the digital economy, data is the primary driver of innovation and development. While algorithms are critical tools for analysis and decision-making, it is the underlying data that holds the key to solving complex challenges. Algorithms can be duplicated and shared globally, but data reflects our diverse realities. It enables tailored solutions to specific local and global development challenges. Without high-quality data, we cannot hope to design effective policies or interventions.

Let me now underline two high-level policy issues that appear especially important from my academic perspective.

First, the release of micro-level public administration data is important for research and informed decision-making. Open access to government-held data can lead to breakthroughs in how we address social issues and allocate resources. This includes balancing personal privacy rights with greater societal benefits and creating the appropriate infrastructure.

Second, I think it is crucial to rethink education and how we invest in skills. Citizens in a modern society need to be literate in data - not only literate with digital technology. Investment in math and statistics education starting already in primary school is becoming ever more important in the digital economy. To unlock the benefits of data for society, every student needs to have a solid understanding of causality.

The policy frameworks of tomorrow should commit to principles that prioritize open data for the benefit of all while protecting individual privacy and limiting excess market power, and thereby supporting the global quest for sustainable development.