



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

# **Open Source as a Key Driver for Delivering on the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

2025

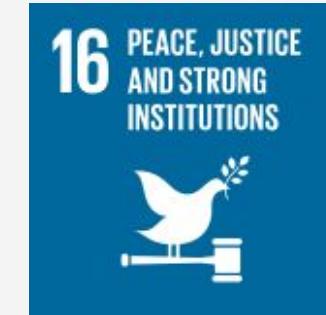
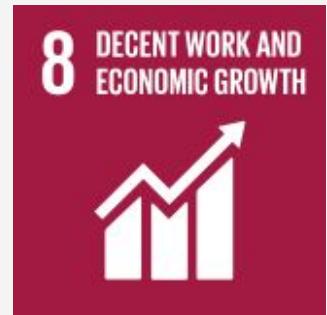


# From MDGs...



The 8 goals that UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015

# To SDGs...



THE GLOBAL GOALS

# Open Source to Lead the Way



“Set the target of creating 1 million “digital champions” for the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, a quarter of them in Africa,”

# Why Open Source?

## Transparency

allows users to understand how the software works and fix bugs



## Community

global diverse community collaborating through forums, documentation and code



## Innovation

freedom to modify by anyone fosters accelerated innovation and customization without vendor lock-in



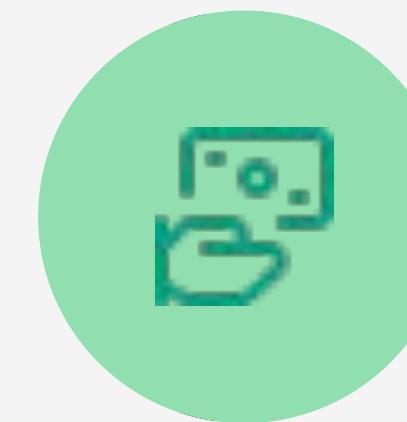
## Security

continuous scrutiny of the code, leading to rapid identification and patching of security vulnerabilities



## Cost-efficiency

reduces costs associated with software development and licensing fees

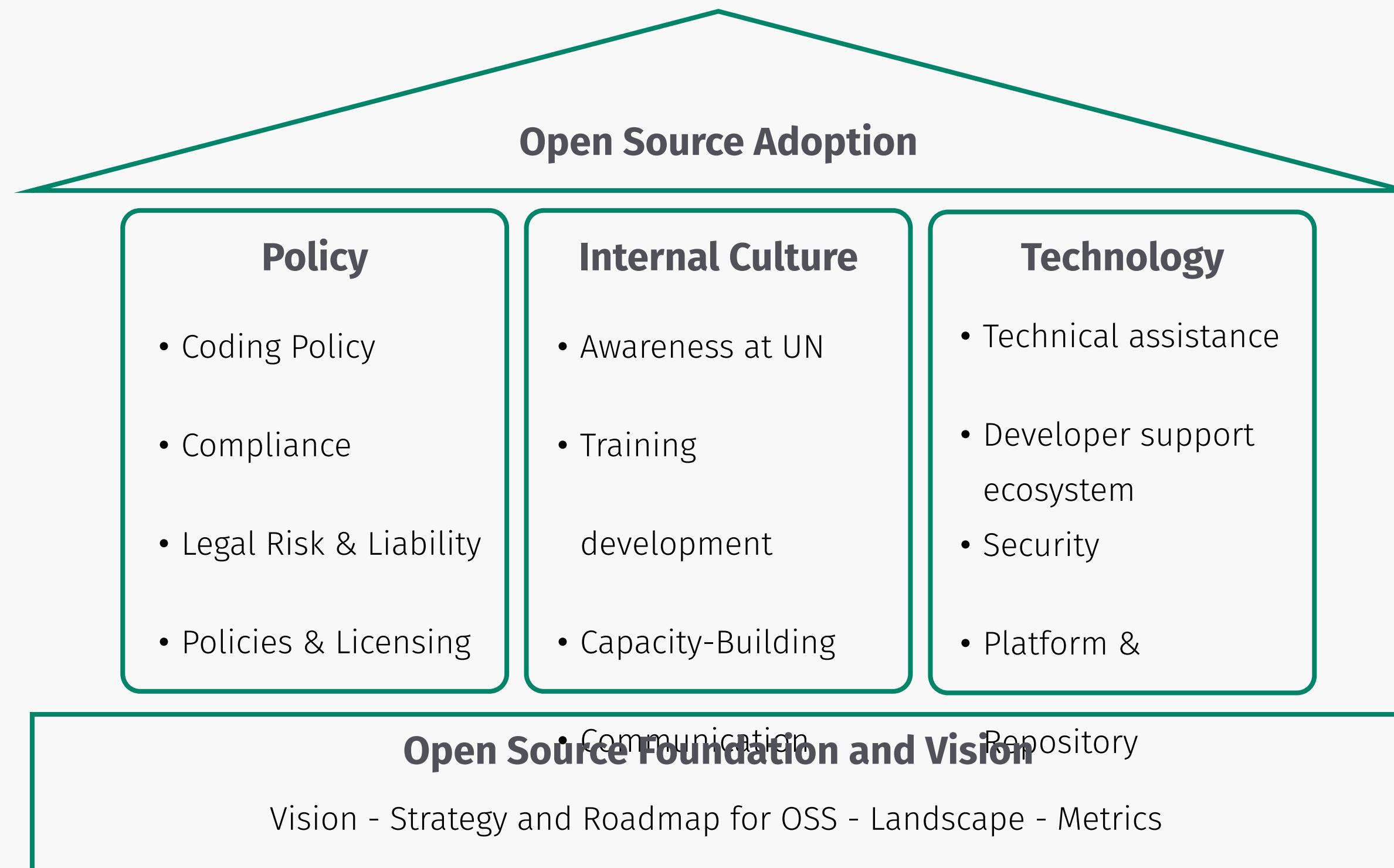


## Sustainability

distributed ownership by multiple stakeholders extends maintained lifetime well beyond initial support



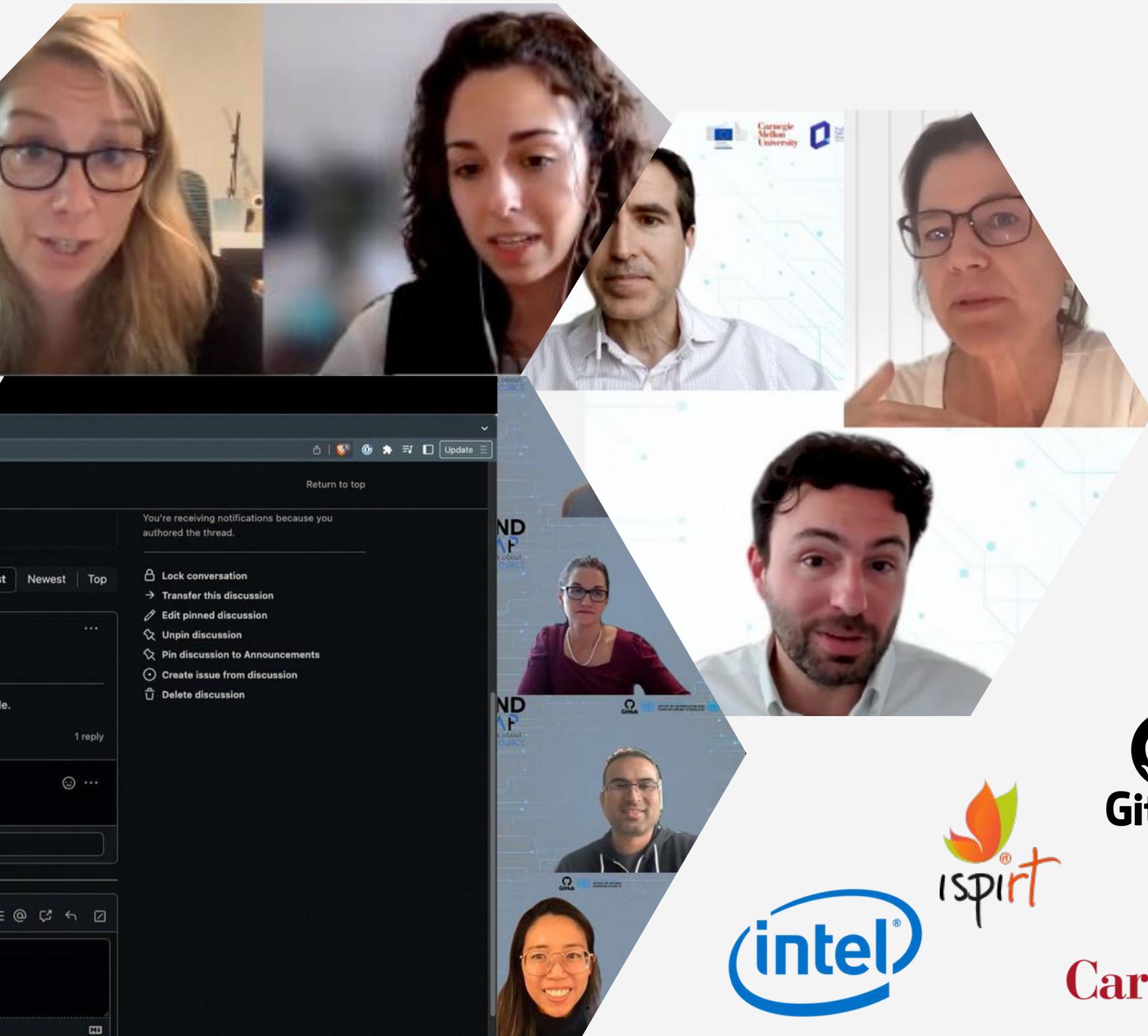
# UN Open Source Strategy



# From Open Source to Open Culture



# Mind the Open Source Gap



## Global Participation

~ Over 600 UN personnel registrations for each session



# Internal OSCoP

## Open Source Heroes

>500 members from diverse entities united by open source

## UNLocked

Newsletter disseminating latest updates, innovations and trends of the open source landscape. Now in its 16th edition

## Open Source Community Member Call

Open-ended call to touch base on open source practices across the organization with presentations on open source projects

The screenshot shows the November 2023 issue of the UNLocked newsletter, issue #10. The header features the UN logo and the title <UNLocked/>. Below the header, the tagline is "Unlocking the power of open source software within the UN." The main content includes:

- INSIDE**:
  - Open Source MS Word**: Microsoft in shambles?
  - Inbound and outbound licenses**: There's more to it than MIT
  - License of the day: EUPL**: Bespoke OSS license for government
- CKAN Architecture**: A diagram showing the CKAN architecture layers: Plugins, Views, Logic, and Models, connected to an Internet layer and various databases.
- Case study: CKAN**: An article about CKAN, the Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network, highlighting its role in humanitarian data exchange and disaster response.
- LangChain Data Ecosystem**: A diagram illustrating the LangChain ecosystem, showing integrations between Data Connectors (over 120), Structured Data (Databases like MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, Neo4j, Oracle, and BigTable), and Vector Storage (like Elasticsearch, AWS Kendra, and Azure Search). It also shows Transformations and Embeddings (over 25).
- Open vs. closed AI**: A section comparing open and closed AI, noting that open source can reduce bias through transparency, audits, and community involvement. It links to <https://builtin.com/artificial-intelligence/ai-should-be-open-source>.
- LangChain: Open AI apps**: An article about LangChain, an open source framework for AI development, linking to <https://www.langchain.com>. It highlights its use in developing LLM-powered applications like OpenAI's GPT-4.
- License of the day: AGPL v3.0**: An article about the GNU Lesser General Public License v3.0 (LGPL-3.0), linking to <https://choosealicense.com/licenses/lgpl-3.0>. It explains the license's purpose of allowing developers to link their proprietary software with libraries released under the LGPL-3.0 without requiring the proprietary software to adopt the same open source license.
- LGPL Free Software Free as in Freedom**: A logo for the LGPL, featuring the text "LGPL Free Software Free as in Freedom".

At the bottom right, a note states: "This content has been made available for informational and educational purposes only."

# OSS4SDGs

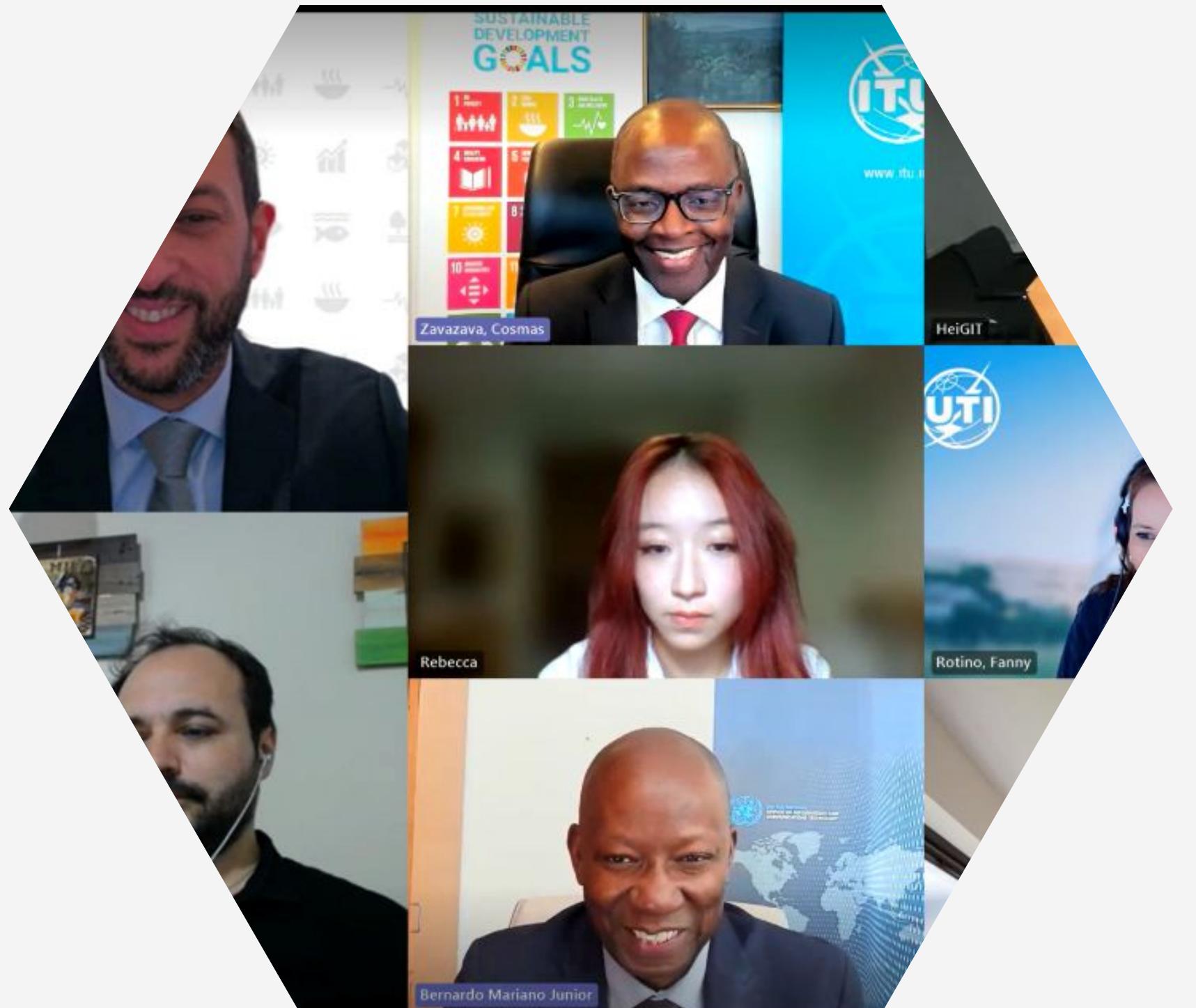
- DTN CoP led
- Hackathons to promote Open Source for Good
- Targets one SDG each time
- Month-long with mentorship and winners

## Fully Virtual

The challenges are hosted, and solutions are judged on Unite Ideas

## Fully Open

Each solution is required to be Open Source with a requisite license



# Reboot the Earth



First edition was held in 2019 at Malaysia, India, Egypt, Germany, NY & virtually

Second edition was held in 2024 in NYC, India, Ethiopia, Morocco & virtually

**It takes collective effort of diverse  
agencies to harness the full potential  
of open source for meaningful impact.**

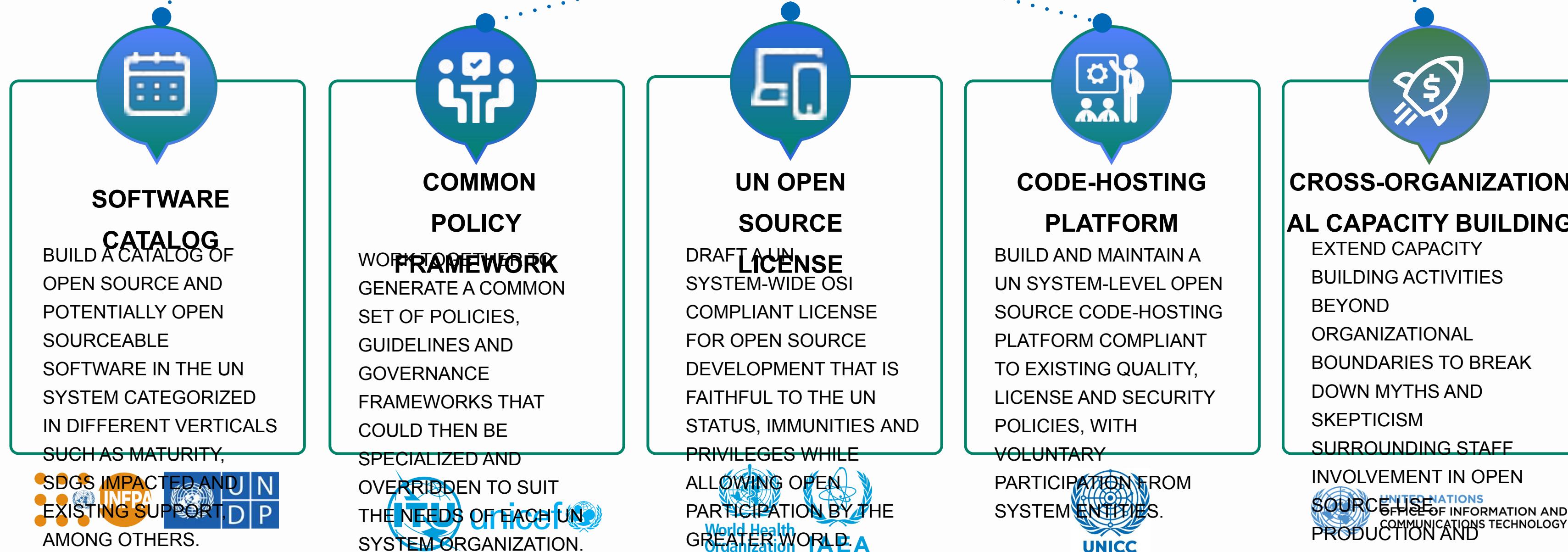
That's why we created OSS CoP for all UN agencies



# Open Source CoP - UN System

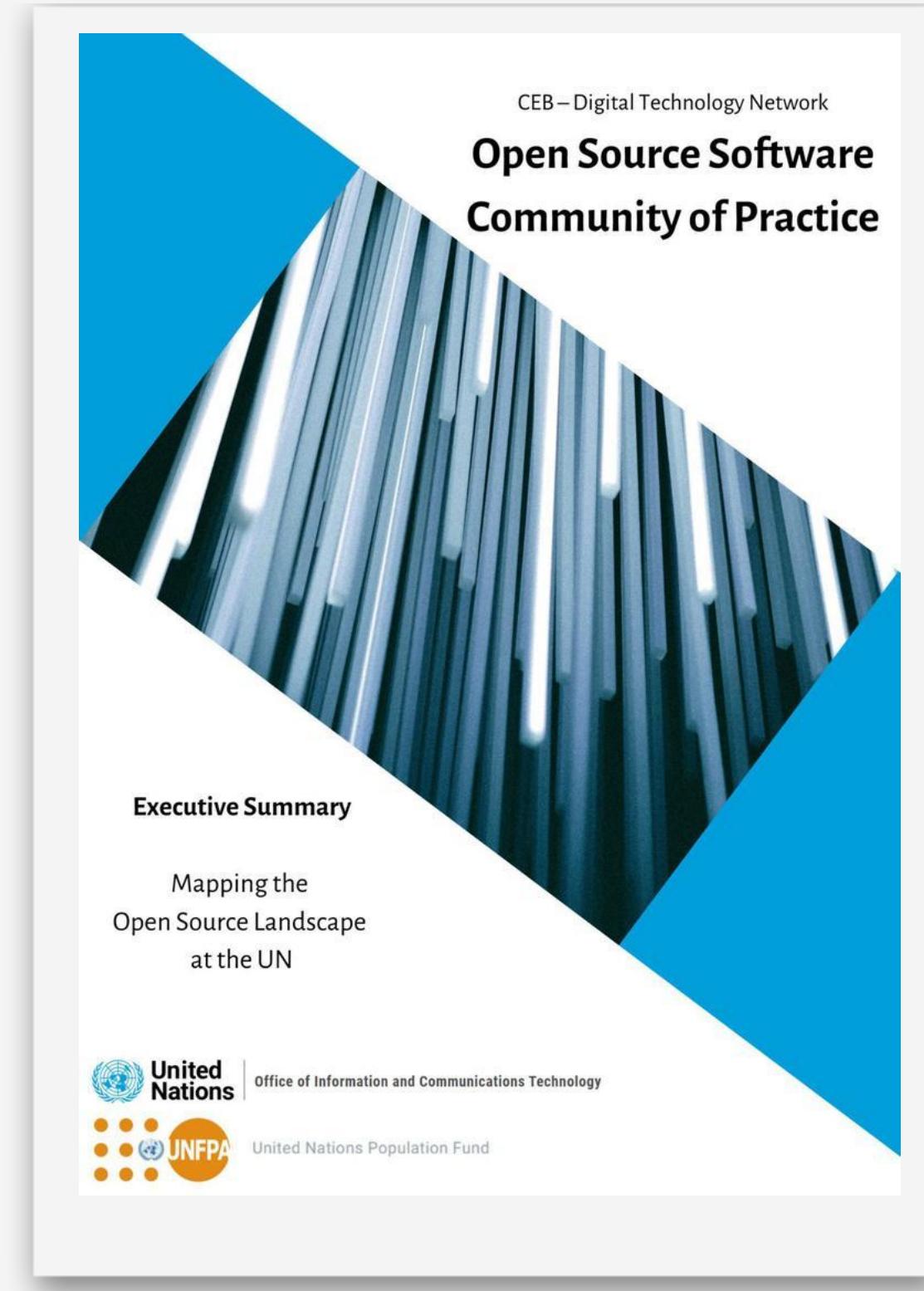
## Key opportunities

Deep Dive: Team leads to proactively prepare questionnaires ahead of retreat, ensuring thorough exploration of recommendations. Additionally, provide insights on timeline for implementing the below recommendations.



# Open Source CoP - UN System

The executive summary of the survey is available at  
[bit.ly/unosscop](http://bit.ly/unosscop)

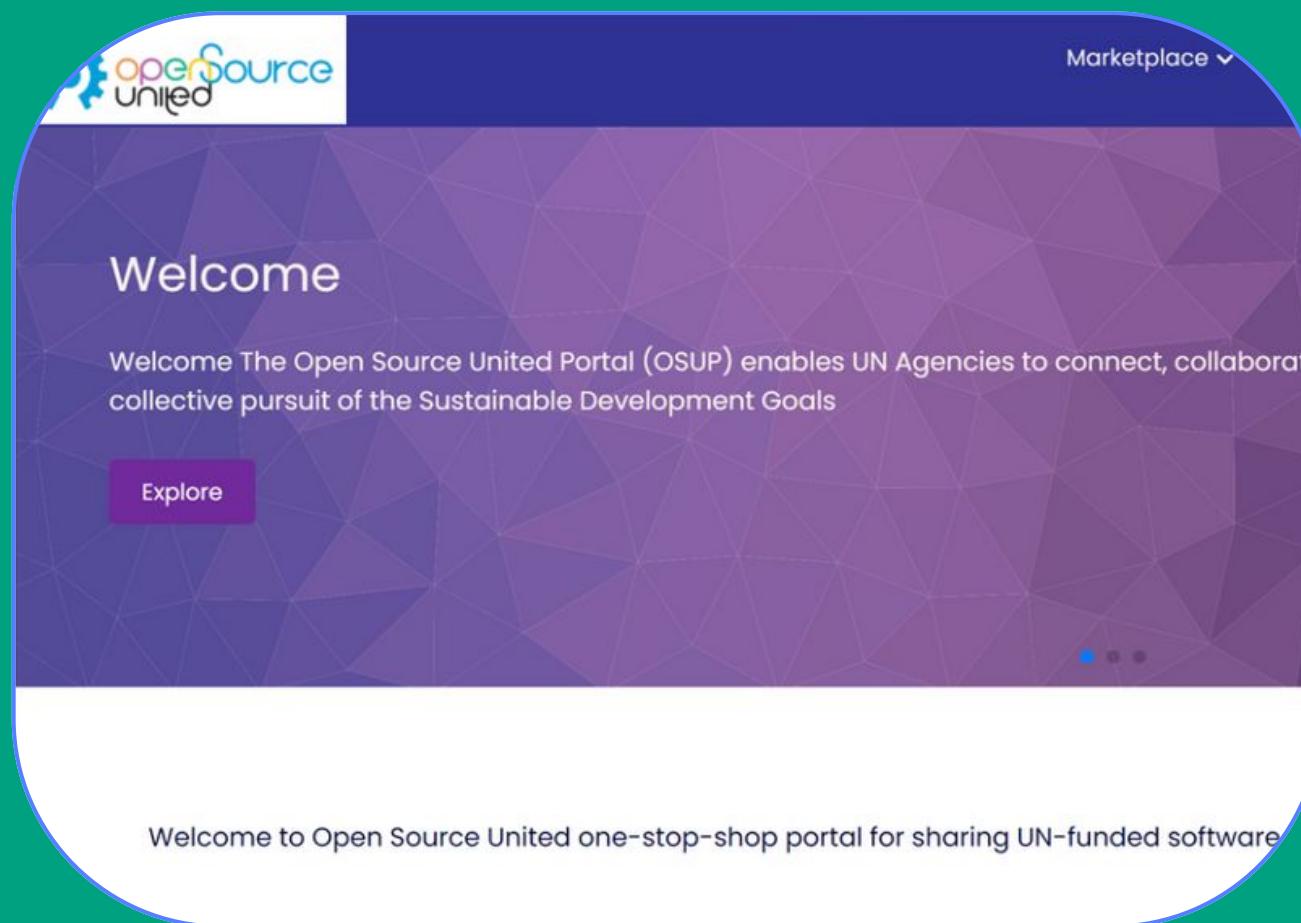


# UN Open Source Principles



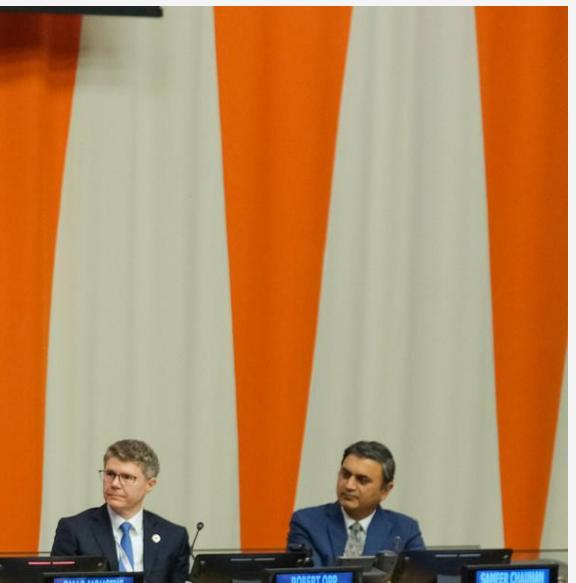
Interested in endorsing?  
Scan me!

# UN Open Source Portal



One stop shop of all the open source projects at the UN, providing a unique destination for the open source community to coordinate development

# OSPOs for Good 2024



# CloudNativeHacks 2024

## First ever hackathon at KubeCon

Advances SDGs through open web and AI applications

**19-21 March, Paris**

Runs alongside Kubecon+CloudNativeCon, the flagship open source and cloud-native conference with over 10k devs from all around the world

**10 challenges, 10 SDGs**

Each challenge targets a subset of the SDGs and were provided by our partners



# Partners



World Health Organization



OpenForum  
Europe



Inclusive Innovation Initiative



Research Institutes of Sweden



United Nations  
Office of the Secretary-General's  
Envoy on Technology



CLOUDFLARE



Digital  
Public  
Goods  
Alliance



open source  
initiative®



# Thank you!

