

# OISTE ANNUAL REPORT 2024





# INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION	3
The OISTE Foundation	3
OISTE Projects 2024	4
2. COMMITMENT AND ADVOCACY OF THE OISTE FOUNDATION	6
3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2024	7
4. CRYPTOGRAPHIC ROOT	13
Data on the Cryptographic Root	13
Audit of the Cryptographic Root	15
5. OUTLOOK FOR 2025	16
6. NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OISTE.ORG FOUNDATION	17

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## *The OISTE Foundation*

OISTE is a non-profit foundation governed by Articles 80 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. It was founded in Geneva in 1998 with the aim of promoting the adoption of international standards designed to secure electronic transactions and protect the fundamental rights of Internet users. The foundation has set itself the challenge of increasing the use of digital certification and ensuring global interoperability of certification authorities. It works to advance complex issues related to digital identity management and the implementation of reliable electronic transaction systems.

Originally, OISTE developed a global trust framework for digital identity, federated by a Policy Approval Authority (PAA), in compliance with laws and procedures defined by states and supranational organizations. The foundation's main responsibility is the maintenance of a common cryptographic root for certification authorities and the oversight of issues related to electronic trust infrastructure on the Internet. Documentation regarding the operation and use of cryptographic roots is available on the foundation's website at: <https://oiste.org/repository>.

To implement its vision, OISTE was the first actor in this field to introduce a neutral cryptographic root by locating its operations in Switzerland and fully complying with the regulations and legislation of the X.509 standard of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Its activities mainly focus on promoting digital trust on the international stage, securing electronic transactions between countries, institutions, citizens, businesses, and interconnected devices, combating illicit trade and cybercrime, as well as respecting the right to privacy in cyberspace.

The foundation has been recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2013 and by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) as a member of the Non-Profit Operational Constituency (NPOC).

## OISTE Projects 2024

In 2024, the OISTE Foundation pursued several major projects at the intersection of technology and social engagement. It strengthened its One Humanity ID initiative, aiming to provide a secure and universal digital identity to every individual, thereby promoting digital inclusion. At the same time, it continued to advance the Declaration Against Illicit Trade, mobilizing international actors to combat a phenomenon with serious economic and human consequences. Finally, the Foundation innovated in philanthropy by using the WISe.ART platform to launch fundraising campaigns through NFTs, with proceeds directed to humanitarian organizations.

### 1.1 One Humanity ID Initiative

The OISTE Foundation fulfilled its commitments announced at the Clinton Global Initiative by creating the digital platform "ONEHumanityID.ch" to provide a digital identity to the most vulnerable people who lack legal identity. Indeed, since 2016, the United Nations has been seeking to develop scalable identity systems.



This initiative was launched at the first "ID2020 Summit – Harnessing Digital Identity for the Global Community," held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on May 20, 2016. Thus, the OISTE Foundation's "ONE Humanity ID" initiative embodies this bold vision focused on the urgent need to provide a secure digital identity to every individual on the planet. This initiative fits perfectly within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and more specifically, it resonates strongly with Goal 16.9, which aims to ensure legal identity for all by 2030.

In an increasingly connected world, access to a secure digital identity has become imperative for active participation in global society. The OISTE Foundation's "ONE Humanity ID" initiative strives to address this fundamental need by emphasizing equity, security, and inclusion. It aims to bridge the gaps that persist in access to digital identity, recognizing that possessing such an identity is often a prerequisite for access to essential services, fundamental rights, and economic participation.

By aligning its goal with SDG 16.9, the OISTE Foundation actively contributes to building more equitable, transparent, and accountable societies. The "ONE Humanity ID" initiative seeks to remove barriers related to the lack of legal identity, thereby creating a foundation for social and economic inclusion. By providing a secure digital identity, this initiative not only enables individuals to exercise their rights but also enhances security and trust in electronic transactions, thereby supporting sustainable development.

By engaging in this innovative initiative, the OISTE Foundation demonstrates its leadership in digital security and equitable access to technology. "ONE Humanity ID" goes beyond merely providing a digital identity; it embodies a catalyst for social, economic, and technological progress in alignment with the principles of the SDGs. By placing the individual at the heart of its mission, the OISTE Foundation paves the way for a future where every person, regardless of their background or status, can fully participate in building a fairer and more sustainable world.

## 1.2 WISe.ART Philanthropy Platform

The OISTE Foundation has developed an initiative with the NFTs platform WISe.ART, specializing in certified digital assets (NFTs), as well as with committed artists, to create new fundraising methods in support of humanitarian causes. This initiative is based on the creation and sale of unique NFTs authenticated and secured digital artworks, whose proceeds are donated to humanitarian organizations.

The goal is to leverage new technologies, particularly blockchain, to offer a transparent, innovative, and accessible way to support socially impactful projects. By enabling individuals to acquire these digital artworks, the OISTE Foundation aims to create a direct connection between artists, buyers, and donation beneficiaries.

Through this initiative, OISTE aims to support recognized organizations such as UNICEF and other institutions working in the fields of health, education, child protection, and the fight against inequalities. This model combines artistic creativity, technological innovation, and solidarity commitment to rethink philanthropy in the digital age.

## 1.3 Anti-illicit trade declaration

Adopted at the Zermatt Summit in 2018, the Declaration Against Illicit Trade remains a current initiative in 2024, actively promoted by the OISTE Foundation. Indeed, developed with several international partners, it starts from the observation that illicit trade—whether it involves counterfeiting, human trafficking, fraudulent medical products, or money laundering—constitutes a growing threat to societies worldwide.

The text calls for recognizing these activities as serious crimes within the framework of major international conventions, notably the United Nations conventions against transnational organized crime, corruption, and agreements related to intellectual property. It also highlights the need for technological tools to secure supply chains, such as the use of digital signatures and reliable authentication systems.

But beyond the technical aspects, the Declaration emphasizes the importance of a collective approach. It encourages close collaboration between governments, businesses, researchers, cybersecurity experts, and civil society members to build sustainable solutions against these traffics, which are often transnational and linked to well-organized criminal networks.

In 2025, as illicit trade continues to adapt to new technologies and illegal flows multiply through digital platforms, this declaration remains fully relevant. It provides a common foundation to raise awareness, legislate, and take action against a phenomenon that undermines economic stability, social justice, and state authority.

## 2. COMMITMENT AND ADVOCACY OF THE OISTE FOUNDATION

### 2.1 Amendment concerning Article 12 of the UN Charter

The OISTE Foundation considers the protection of personal data as a major issue in the context of new technologies. As our lives increasingly take place online, it becomes essential that fundamental rights are fully applied in cyberspace as well. Today, international legal frameworks, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, do not yet reflect this digital reality.

That is why OISTE proposes to amend Article 12 of this declaration to explicitly include digital privacy. The new article would state: **"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy, whether in the physical world or in cyberspace."** This initiative aims to ensure legal protection against surveillance, abusive data collection, or online reputational harm.

**Art 12.** *"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference **neither in the physical world nor in cyberspace** with his privacy, family, home, or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."*

By undertaking this action, the foundation seeks to adapt human rights to the challenges of the 21st century and promote ethical governance of the digital realm. For OISTE, it is crucial that technological development remains in service of dignity and individual freedoms.

### 2.2 OISTE Foundation Ethical Charter

The OISTE Foundation has developed a code of conduct aimed at guiding the use of new technologies in respect of human rights. It emphasizes the necessity to protect individuals' privacy and digital identity, calling for an explicit recognition of these rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The charter states that personal data exclusively belong to the individual and cannot be used without their consent. It encourages the widespread use of cryptographic technologies to ensure a reliable and secure digital identity.

Regarding artificial intelligence, OISTE advocates for ethical use, guided by the precautionary principle and placed under human oversight, particularly to protect children.

The foundation advocates for an open, international, and responsible governance of the Internet, and calls for strengthening the fight against illicit online trade by supporting the efforts of major international organizations.

In conclusion, the OISTE Foundation's charter represents a strong and visionary initiative to build a digital environment respectful of fundamental rights. Through its principles, it lays the foundation for ethical and responsible use of new technologies, focused on the protection of privacy, individuals' sovereignty over their data, and an open and inclusive governance of cyberspace.

In a world where digital technology is profoundly transforming our societies, this charter reminds us that innovation cannot come at the expense of freedoms. It calls for collective mobilization—by states, businesses, and civil society—to ensure that technological development remains aligned with human values, transparency, and the public interest. The vision championed by OISTE thus paves the way toward a safer, fairer, and more trustworthy Internet for all.

## 3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES 2024

In 2024, the OISTE Foundation strengthened its role as a leader in cybersecurity, digital governance, and the promotion of ethical artificial intelligence. Through active participation in major international events, the Foundation contributed to shaping key policies and initiatives for a safe and inclusive digital future. The diversity and scope of conferences and forums in which OISTE took part demonstrate its growing commitment to a safer and more equitable Internet. This report highlights the Foundation's main contributions over the past year.

### 3.1 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos

One of the key points raised by OISTE was the need for a global regulatory framework that balances technological innovation with the protection of digital rights. Additionally, the Foundation participated in working groups on cyber resilience and proposed solutions to secure digital transactions in the context of the increasing digitization of financial services.



The OISTE Foundation actively participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, where discussions focused on the impact of artificial intelligence and digital technologies on the global economy. The Foundation emphasized the importance of cybersecurity and digital trust to promote the responsible adoption of emerging technologies. By collaborating with business leaders, academics, and policymakers, OISTE advocated for the development of international rules and standards aimed at protecting personal and institutional data.

### 3.2 Clinton Global Initiative 2025

At the Clinton Global Initiative, the OISTE Foundation emphasized the protection of critical infrastructures and the need to strengthen cybersecurity capacities, especially for developing countries. OISTE collaborated with civil society actors, the private sector, and governments to develop resilience strategies against growing cyber threats. The importance of training and awareness was highlighted to ensure better protection of citizens and digital infrastructures.



The Foundation also launched a pilot cybersecurity program aimed at humanitarian organizations, providing them with tools and protection protocols adapted to emerging threats. This initiative fits into a long-term vision where international cooperation is essential to combat cybercrime and protect the most vulnerable populations.



### 3.3 United Nations Summit of the Future

At the United Nations Summit for the Future, the OISTE Foundation contributed to discussions on integrating cybersecurity standards into sustainable development policies. In a context of accelerating digitization, it is crucial that the United Nations adopt regulatory frameworks ensuring secure and equitable access to digital technologies. OISTE provided its expertise on data protection, AI governance, and the prevention of cyber conflicts.



OISTE also advocated for improved digital inclusion, emphasizing the importance of secure connectivity for marginalized populations. At the same time, the Foundation supported proposals to establish an international legal framework against transnational cybercrime.

### 3.4 AI for Good



The AI for Good event allowed the OISTE Foundation to promote an ethical approach to artificial intelligence. By collaborating with researchers and technology experts, OISTE highlighted the need for transparency rules and oversight of AI algorithms to prevent biases and misuse. The goal was to demonstrate how regulated and responsible AI can contribute to the common good without compromising fundamental rights.

Furthermore, OISTE engaged in discussions on the responsibility of companies developing AI solutions and proposed recommendations for human-centered AI. The Foundation also supported initiatives aimed at integrating cybersecurity principles into the development processes of AI technologies.

### 3.5 WSIS Forum

At the WSIS civil society briefing, the OISTE Foundation presented its initiatives supporting the digital resilience of non-governmental organizations and vulnerable communities. Drawing on concrete examples of applied cybersecurity, the Foundation proposed strategies aimed at enhancing the protection of information and communications in an ever-evolving digital environment.



A particularly discussed point was the need for a cybersecurity certification framework for civil society organizations. The Foundation also advocated for increased support for NGOs operating in high digital-risk environments.



### 3.6 Human right concert ONUart

The OISTE Foundation took part in the Human Rights Concert held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, within the prestigious setting of the United Nations. Invited as a special observer—a status it holds with the UN—the Foundation participated in this symbolic event celebrating the universal values of peace, dignity, freedom, and respect for human rights.

This concert, bringing together artists, diplomats, and representatives of international organizations, aims to highlight the importance of defending fundamental rights in a constantly evolving world. The presence of the OISTE Foundation demonstrates its active commitment to this cause, particularly regarding the promotion of digital rights, online privacy protection, and the adaptation of foundational human rights texts to the challenges of cyberspace.

By participating in this event, OISTE reaffirms its determination to contribute to ethical governance of technologies, maintaining constant dialogue with international institutions and civil society.



### 3.7 AI for Society – Human Technology Foundation

The OISTE Foundation actively participated in the AI for Society event, organized by the Human Technology Foundation in Paris. This event, which brought together experts, researchers, and leaders of international organizations, focused on the ethical and social challenges posed by artificial intelligence.

As a key player in the field of digital rights and technological ethics, the OISTE Foundation shared its commitment to responsible and ethical AI aligned with individuals' fundamental rights. It particularly emphasized the need to develop AI technologies that respect users' privacy and security, ensuring transparent governance and decision-making based on human and ethical principles.



This participation allowed OISTE to strengthen its role in the global dialogue on the future of AI and to promote technological solutions that place humans at the center of concerns.



### 3.8 Event Sponsoring Fundación Internacional para la Libertad

This sponsorship allowed us to make progress towards a potential collaboration with the Fundación Internacional para la Libertad, aligned with its goals of defending individual freedoms, the rule of law, and promoting digital inclusion through concrete technological solutions.

Thus, this collaboration focused on using the OISTE Root of Trust to establish a sovereign digital identity for citizens, as well as on authenticating content and official documents through digital certificates, in order to combat misinformation and identity theft.



#### *Conclusion*

The year 2024 was marked by strong involvement of the OISTE Foundation in major global debates on cybersecurity and digital governance. Through its commitments, OISTE strengthened its influence and contributed to shaping essential public policies and international initiatives for a more secure digital environment.

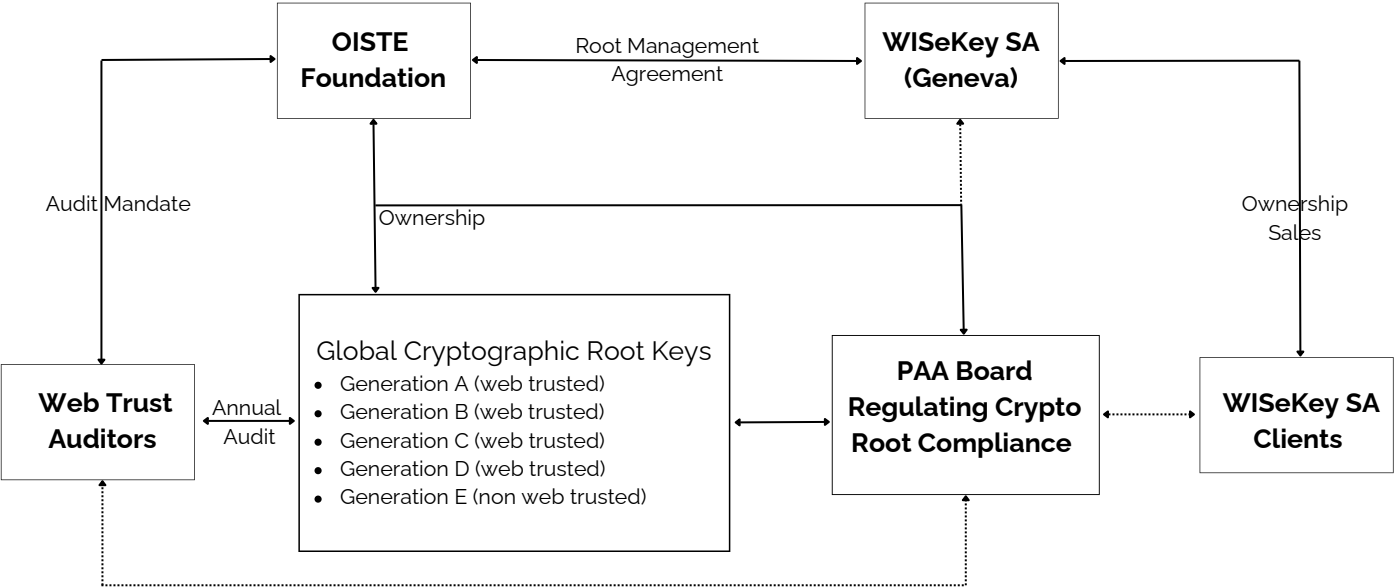
The future promises to be even more demanding in terms of regulation and international cooperation. The OISTE Foundation will continue to commit itself to ensuring a safe, ethical, and inclusive Internet, while supporting concrete actions in training, awareness, and innovation in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

# 4. CRYPTOGRAPHIC ROOT

Data on the Cryptographic Root



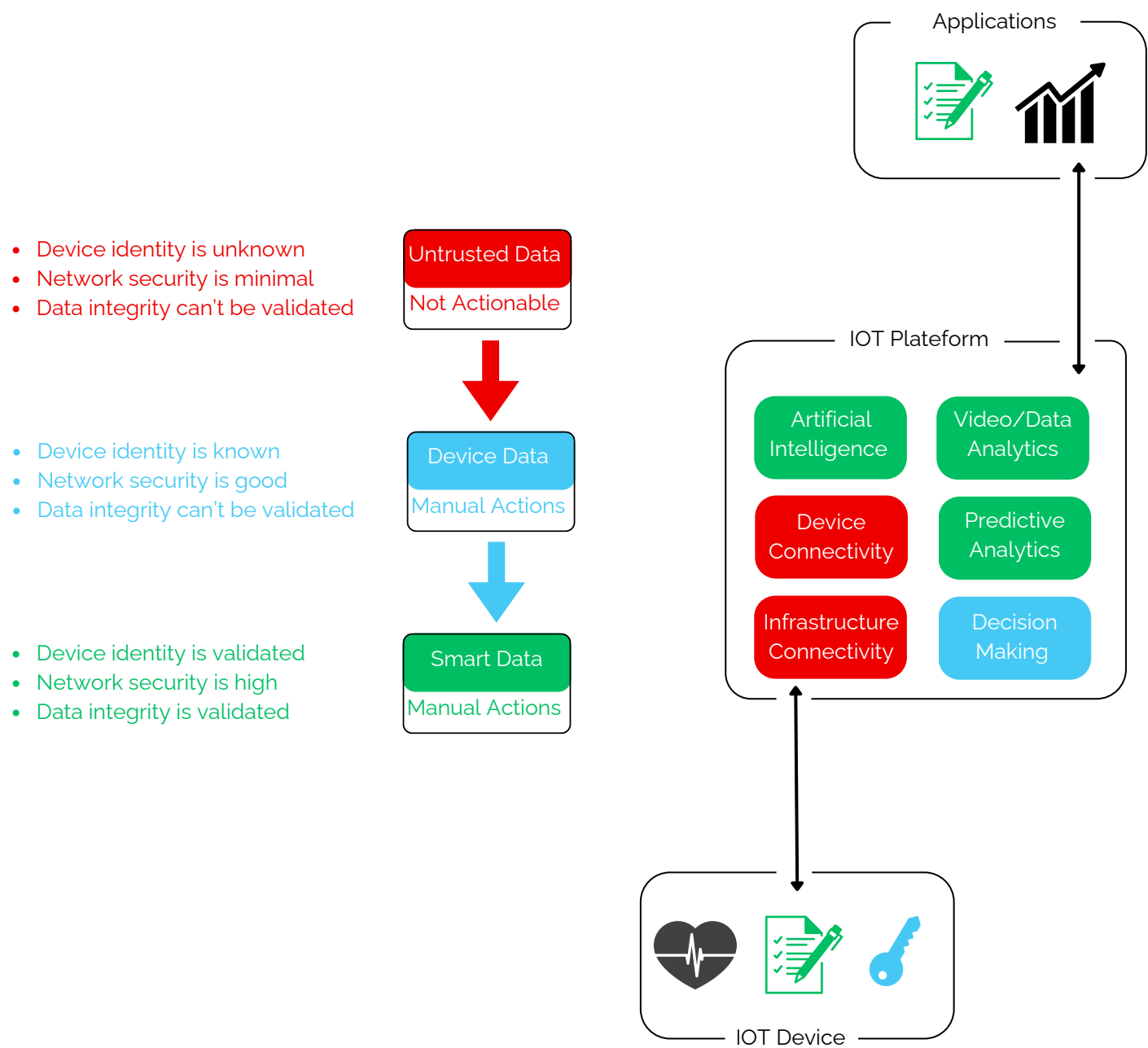
## OISTE “Policy Approval Authority Board (PAA)”



OISTE cryptographic roots are used by WISeKey as part of a partnership agreement renewed in June 2018. Here is some information to help understand the purpose of this cryptographic root:

The OISTE cryptographic root will become increasingly important over the coming years due to the growing demand for IoT (Internet of Things) devices. Indeed, the Internet of Things and the new classes of connected objects are having an ever greater impact on our daily lives. From smart refrigerators to autonomous vehicles, everything is becoming more connected, which creates new attack vectors and risks. This is not only about trusting the data but also about making automated decisions based on data sent or received from these connected devices, which can even put human lives at risk.

There are three classes of data sent by IoT devices, which require different levels of trust :





For data to be fully usable (i.e., to make decisions based on them), we must absolutely trust this data, and this can only be achieved when we are certain that :

- We can trust the Device Identity,
- We can ensure that the firmware running on the device has not been tampered with.
- We can ensure that the data sent by the device has not been tampered with at any point during the process.

To achieve the above, traditional digital identity may be insufficient to protect an IoT device, as additional security mechanisms are needed to ensure that the encryption, operations, and secret keys used for encryption and digital signatures remain trustworthy throughout the device's entire lifecycle.

Thus, a complete Root of Trust like OISTE's provides the following advantages:

- [1] It serves as a "central anchor" that establishes the chain of trust for devices.
- [2] It enables the protection of firmware code and data.
- [3] It ensures secure boot protection, guaranteeing that the operating environment has not been tampered with.

The OISTE root is also promoted during conferences, presentations, interviews, and other public appearances by Carlos Moreira. It is likewise mentioned in press releases issued by WISeKey. An inventory of these can be found at :

[https://www.wisekey.com/investors\\_press-release/](https://www.wisekey.com/investors_press-release/)

<https://www.wisekey.com/events/>

## ***Audit of the OISTE Cryptographic Root***

Information about the audits of the OISTE cryptographic root can be found on the foundation's website: <https://oiste.org/repository/>. The root is audited annually in accordance with the AICPA/CPA Canada WebTrust standards.

The 2023 audit is available at <https://www.wisekey.com/accreditations/>



## 5. OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Looking toward 2025, the Foundation anticipates a major acceleration in the use of digital identities, which have become a fundamental pillar to ensure trust, security, and interoperability within an ever-expanding digital ecosystem. The growing integration of artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT) is transforming human-machine interactions, making ethical, sovereign, and inclusive governance of digital identifiers indispensable.

At the same time, the emergence of threats related to quantum computing requires increased vigilance and a shift toward post-quantum standards to ensure the long-term resilience of identification systems.

Cyberspace, now at the heart of social, economic, and institutional dynamics, demands robust and equitable trust frameworks. The Foundation asserts itself as a representative of the public interest on these critical issues, actively continuing its engagement with the United Nations and other international bodies. It advocates a vision grounded in the protection of identity, digital sovereignty, and technological justice for all.

In this rapidly evolving global context, the Foundation reaffirms its mission: to act as an independent trusted third party, guaranteeing the integrity, security, and longevity of digital identities in service of the common good.

## 6. NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OISTE FOUNDATION

*Geneva, July 2, 2025*

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

As Secretary General of the OISTE Foundation, I am delighted to address you at a time when digital transformation is accelerating at an unprecedented pace. Our shared responsibility is clear: to ensure that this evolution benefits humanity.

Since its creation in Geneva in 1998, OISTE has been working for the ethical and inclusive use of digital technologies, affirming that privacy is a fundamental right. With consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC, the foundation promotes international cooperation, digital ethics and the protection of digital identities.

At the heart of our action: the Global Cryptographic Root Infrastructure, managed by OISTE in partnership with WISEKey SA. This neutral, sovereign technological foundation enables secure authentication, encryption and digital signatures on a global scale. Thanks to our long-standing collaboration with WISEKey, this infrastructure has become one of the world's most robust digital trust models, deployed in over 1.6 billion connected devices. It also serves as the basis for the development of post-quantum solutions, essential for securing the digital future.

Our cooperation with SEALSQ Corp. takes on a strategic dimension. This company, expert in cybersecurity and semiconductors, is collaborating with OISTE to implement post-quantum protocols compliant with NIST standards, adapted to critical and constrained environments.

*"This alliance illustrates the ability of public interest foundations and private players to prepare together for the quantum era, while respecting privacy and inclusion."*

In 2025, we are strengthening our commitment through initiatives such as the HUMAN-AI-T framework launched in Geneva, and digital inclusion projects in the most vulnerable regions. We also advocate ethical technological governance, centered on human dignity, cultural diversity and individual autonomy.

I invite each and every one of you to contribute to this ecosystem of trust. Together, let's make digital a force for the common good.

With gratitude,

**Carlos Moreira**  
**General Secretary**  
**OISTE Foundation**  
[www.oiste.org](http://www.oiste.org)