

6G · GCOT · THE NEXT DECADE OF NETWORKS

The 6G Coalition and What It Means for Your Phones

Australia helped found the coalition now writing the security rules for 6G, and 2026 has been its busiest year. Most of it will not touch your business for years, but one part of it should change what you buy today.

The Global Coalition on Telecommunications (GCOT) was established in October 2023 by Australia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States as an officials-level forum on telecommunications policy, supply chain diversification, security and resilience, skills and standards. **2026 has been a busy year:** Finland and Sweden joined on 3 March, the same day GCOT endorsed its **Security and Resilience Principles for 6G**, containment, confidentiality, integrity, resilience and regulatory compliance. The European Union became a strategic partner in May, Australia joined a US-led initiative with more than 20 governments on secure, interoperable, AI-supported 6G, and **Telstra and Ericsson signed a letter of intent** in May 2026 to collaborate on 6G research and trials in Australia.

The short version

When	What	Why it matters
3 March 2026	Finland and Sweden formally joined GCOT at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.	Both are home to major network equipment vendors. Adding them moves GCOT from a like-minded buyers' club towards including the people who build the gear.
3 March 2026	GCOT endorsed its Security and Resilience Principles for 6G .	The first attempt by this group to state security expectations for 6G <i>before</i> the architecture is fixed rather than after.
May 2026	The European Union became GCOT's first strategic partner.	Aligns the coalition with the largest regulatory bloc in telecommunications, which materially raises the odds these principles show up in real rules.
May 2026	Telstra and Ericsson signed a letter of intent to collaborate on 6G research, trials and network innovation in Australia.	Australia stops being purely a policy participant and starts hosting actual 6G research.
March 2026	Qualcomm and other industry leaders committed to a 6G trajectory towards commercialisation from 2029 onwards.	The clearest public timeline yet, and the one to plan against.
July 2026	Australia joined more than 20 governments in a US-led initiative, launched by the NTIA, on secure, interoperable and AI-supported 6G networks.	Broadens the coalition of countries aligned on 6G security beyond GCOT's core membership.

Also worth knowing

Principle	What it means	Why it is being said now
Containment	A compromise in one part of the network should not become a compromise of the whole thing.	Flat networks are how a single foothold turns into a national incident. Segmentation has to be designed in, not bolted on.
Confidentiality	What crosses the network stays private, including the metadata about who spoke to whom and from where.	Metadata is often more revealing than content, and historically less protected.
Integrity	Traffic and configuration cannot be tampered with undetectably.	As networks become software, the attack surface becomes software supply chain, and integrity is what defends it.
Resilience	The network keeps working during failure and attack, and degrades gracefully.	Australia has had a string of expensive lessons in what happens when a national network stops.
Regulatory compliance	Networks must be buildable in a way that meets legal obligations across jurisdictions.	Lawful interception, emergency calling and data protection all have to work in the architecture, not despite it.

Why supply chain diversification is first on the list

The global market for mobile network equipment is dominated by a very small number of vendors. When several of those became geopolitically contentious, countries discovered how little room they had to manoeuvre. Diversification, including work on **Open RAN**, where network components from different vendors interoperate rather than coming as one locked bundle, is the structural response, and GCOT published voluntary Open RAN certification principles in January 2025 alongside its first principles on AI adoption in telecommunications.

Questions the full guide answers

- ☐ What is the Global Coalition on Telecommunications?
- ☐ What are the GCOT Security and Resilience Principles for 6G?
- ☐ When will 6G actually be available in Australia?
- ☐ Should any of this change what I buy in 2026?
- ☐ Is 6G just going to be faster mobile internet?
- ☐ What is Open RAN and why does the coalition care about it?
- ☐ Why does network sovereignty keep coming up in these discussions?

This is the summary. The guide has the detail.

Every point above is worked through in full on our site, with the Australian context, the numbers and the exceptions. If you would rather talk it through, call **1300 881 662** or visit **unidenvoice.com/get-started**.