

## Global Digital Compact: comparison of Rev.1 and Rev.2 draft texts

Taken section by section, the Rev.1 text (the second draft GDC dated 15 May 2024) is provided first followed by the Rev.2 text (the third draft dated 26 June 2024). New text, revisions, amendments and significant text deletions are highlighted in red in Rev.2.

Mark Carvell (MC), EuroDIG Member and chair of EuroDIG's consultations on the GDC, has provided his personal comments following each section of the Rev.2 text.

### **Rev. 1**

*(preamble)*

1. Digital technologies are dramatically transforming our world. They offer immense potential benefits for the wellbeing and advancement of people, societies, and for our planet. They hold out the promise of accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We are determined to realize these opportunities. We can only achieve this through international cooperation that closes the digital divides between and within countries. We recognize the challenges that these divides pose for many countries which have pressing development needs and limited resources. Our cooperation must leave no one behind and increase the potential for all states, communities and individuals to fully harness the benefits of technology.
3. We recognize the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new possibilities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are not yet fully known. We recognize our shared responsibility to anticipate and mitigate risks and to govern technology in ways that put humans and their development at the centre, and enable the full enjoyment of human rights.
4. Our goal is an inclusive, open, sustainable, safe and secure digital future for all. This Global Digital Compact sets out the objectives, principles, commitments and actions we undertake to achieve it.
5. We have strong foundations on which to build. Our digital cooperation rests on international law, including the United Nations Charter and international human rights law, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We remain committed to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) reflected in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The United Nations provides an indispensable platform for the global digital cooperation we need.
6. Our cooperation must be agile and adaptable to the rapidly changing digital landscape. It is only by working in collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, international and regional organizations and the technical and academic communities, that we can realize the digital future we seek.

### **Rev.2**

*(preamble)*

1. Digital technologies are dramatically transforming our world. They offer immense potential benefits for the wellbeing and advancement of people, societies, and for our planet. They hold out the promise of accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

2. ~~(deleted: We are determined to realize these opportunities.)~~ We can only achieve this through **strengthened** international cooperation that closes **all** digital divides between and within countries. We recognize the challenges that these divides pose for many countries, **in particular developing countries which have pressing development needs and limited resources**. Closing digital divides will require adequate, sufficient and predictable means of implementation. ~~(deleted: Our cooperation must leave no one behind and increase the potential for all states, communities and individuals to fully harness the benefits of technology.)~~

3. We recognize the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new possibilities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are not yet fully known. We recognize ~~(deleted: our shared responsibility to anticipate)~~ **the need to identify and** mitigate risks and ~~(deleted: to govern technology in ways that put humans and their)~~ to ensure human oversight of technology in ways that put sustainable development at the centre, and enable the full enjoyment of human rights.

4. Our goal is an inclusive, open, sustainable, **fair**, safe and secure digital future for all. This Global Digital Compact sets out the objectives, principles, commitments and actions we undertake to achieve it.

5. We have strong foundations on which to build. Our digital cooperation rests on international law, including the United Nations Charter, international human rights law **and international humanitarian law**, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We remain committed to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) reflected in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The United Nations **provides a critical platform** for the global digital cooperation we need, **and we will harness existing processes** to do so.

6. Our cooperation must be agile and adaptable to the rapidly changing digital landscape. ~~(deleted: It is only by working)~~ **We will work in collaboration and partnership with all other stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities**, including the private sector, civil society, international and regional organizations and the technical and academic communities, **to** realize the digital future we seek.

## Rev.1

### **Objectives**

7. To achieve our goal, we will pursue the following objectives:

- (1) Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (2) Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all;
- (3) Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights;
- (4) Advance responsible and equitable international data governance;
- (5) Strengthen international governance of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for the benefit of humanity.

## Rev.2

### Objectives

7. To achieve our goal, we will pursue the following objectives:

- (1) Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (2) Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all;
- (3) Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights;
- (4) Advance equitable and **interoperable** data governance; ~~(deleted: responsible...international)~~
- (5) **Enhance** ~~(deleted: Strengthen)~~ international governance of **artificial intelligence and emerging technologies** for the benefit of humanity.

**MC comment:**

***The five GDC objectives are not substantially amended.***

## Rev.1

### Principles

8. Our digital cooperation will be guided by a set of cross-cutting and mutually-reinforcing principles:

- (a) Inclusive: The equitable participation of all states and other stakeholders is the cornerstone of this Compact. Our cooperation will close the digital divides within and between states and advance an inclusive digital environment that promotes and enables diversity;
- (b) Development-oriented: This Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda. Our cooperation will harness technologies to fast-track progress, eradicate poverty and leave no one behind. This includes targeted efforts to address the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states;
- (c) Human rights-based: This Compact is anchored in international law, including international human rights law. All human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms, must be respected, protected and promoted online and offline. Our cooperation will harness digital technologies to advance these rights, including the rights of the child, the right to development and the right to participation;
- (d) Gender equality and empowerment: The full, equal, and meaningful participation of all women and girls in the digital space is essential to close the gender digital divide and advance sustainable development. Our cooperation will empower all women and girls, encourage leadership of women, mainstream gender perspectives and prevent and eliminate sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;
- (e) Environmentally sustainable: Digital technologies unlock new capabilities and opportunities for measuring, monitoring and solving environmental challenges. The infrastructure required to deliver digital goods and services already consumes substantial resources and produces significant carbon

emissions as well as e-waste. Our cooperation will leverage digital technologies for sustainability while minimizing their negative environmental impacts, including increased resource consumption;

(f) Equitable: Inclusion in the digital economy requires tackling existing concentrations of technological capacity and market power. Our cooperation will aim to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly and equitably distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities.

(g) Accessible: Accessible and affordable digital technologies are essential to enable every person to participate fully in the digital world. Our cooperation will promote digital accessibility and support linguistic and cultural diversity in the digital space.

(h) Interoperable: Digital systems that communicate and exchange are critical catalysts for development. Our cooperation will advance interoperability between digital systems and approaches to their governance.

(i) Responsible: Emerging technologies offer new opportunities to turbocharge development if they are safe, secure and trustworthy. Our cooperation will advance responsible, accountable, transparent and human-centric design, development, deployment and use of digital and emerging technologies, with effective human oversight;

(j) Innovation-friendly: Creativity and competition drive digital advances. Our cooperation will foster innovation and the potential for societies and businesses, regardless of size or origin, to reap the benefits of digitalization and thrive in the digital economy;

(k) Multi-stakeholder: Governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international and regional organizations have roles and responsibilities in advancing an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future. Our cooperation will involve all stakeholders, according to their respective roles and responsibilities, functions and competencies and diversity of perspectives;

(l) Forward-looking: The digital world is evolving at pace. Our cooperation must be capable of identifying, assessing, tracking and adapting to emerging technologies so that we can seize opportunities and respond to new and emerging risks and challenges.

## Rev.2

### Principles

8. Our digital cooperation will be guided **by the purposes and principles of the Charter** and the following cross-cutting and mutually-reinforcing principles:

(a) Inclusive: The equitable participation of all states and other stakeholders is the cornerstone of this Compact. Our cooperation will close the digital divides within and between states **and advance an inclusive digital environment for all; (deleted: that promotes and enables diversity)**

(b) Development-oriented: This Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda **and takes into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities**. Our cooperation will harness technologies to fast-track progress, eradicate poverty and leave no one behind. This includes targeted efforts to address the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, **as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries;**

(c) Human rights: This Compact is anchored in international law, including international human rights law. All human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms, must be respected, protected and promoted online and offline. Our cooperation will harness digital technologies to advance all human rights, including the rights of the child, **the rights of persons with disabilities** and the right to development;

(d) Gender equality and empowerment: The full, equal, and meaningful participation of all women and girls in the digital space is essential to close the gender digital divide and advance sustainable development. Our cooperation will encourage leadership of women, mainstream a gender perspective and prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;

(e) Environmentally sustainable: Digital technologies unlock new capabilities and opportunities for measuring, monitoring and solving environmental challenges **and implementing multilateral environmental agreements**. The infrastructure required to deliver digital goods and services already consumes substantial resources and produces significant carbon emissions as well as e-waste. Our cooperation will leverage digital technologies for sustainability while minimizing their negative environmental impacts;

(f) Equitable: Meaningful inclusion in the digital economy requires tackling existing concentrations of technological capacity and market power. Our cooperation will aim to ensure that the benefits of digital cooperation are fairly distributed and do not exacerbate existing inequalities or impede the full achievement of sustainable development. ~~(including increased resource consumption)~~

(g) Accessible: Accessible and affordable **data** and digital technologies and services are essential to enable every person to participate fully in the digital world. Our cooperation will promote digital accessibility **for all** and support linguistic and cultural diversity in the digital space;

(h) Interoperable: Digital systems that communicate and exchange are critical catalysts for development. Our cooperation will advance interoperability between digital systems and **compatible governance approaches**;

(i) Responsible: Safe, secure and trustworthy emerging technologies, **including artificial intelligence**, offer new opportunities to turbocharge development. Our cooperation will advance responsible, accountable, transparent and human-centric design, development, deployment and use of digital and emerging technologies, with effective human oversight;

(j) Innovation-friendly: Creativity and competition drive digital advances. Our cooperation will foster innovation and the potential for societies and businesses, regardless of size or origin, to reap the benefits of digitalization and thrive in the digital economy;

(k) Multi-stakeholder: Governments **and other stakeholders**, including the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international and regional organizations, have roles and responsibilities in advancing an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future. **We will implement this Compact in a spirit of global solidarity and partnership**; ~~(Our cooperation will involve all stakeholders, according to their respective roles and responsibilities, functions and competencies and diversity of perspectives).~~

and (l) Forward-looking: The digital world is evolving at pace. Our cooperation must be capable of identifying, **anticipating**, assessing, **monitoring** ~~(tracking)~~ and adapting to emerging technologies so that we can seize opportunities and respond to new and emerging risks and challenges.

**MC comments:**

- i. No substantive changes to the previously agreed 12 principles.*
- ii. Addition of reference to UN Charter providing overarching guidance to digital cooperation establishes the UN authority context for this initiative.*
- iii. Addition of call for implementation of the Compact “in a spirit of global solidarity and partnership” can be interpreted as an inference of governments being in the lead: “Governments and other stakeholders” replaces the previous text “Our cooperation will involve all stakeholders”.*

**Rev.1**

## **Commitments and actions**

9. We commit to pursue meaningful and measurable actions to achieve our objectives.

### **Objective 1. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals**

#### *Connectivity*

10. We acknowledge the pivotal role of universal, reliable and meaningful connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We commit to connect all people to the Internet. We recognize that this will require strong partnerships and increased financial investments in developing countries from governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector. We recognize that innovative solutions can help deliver high-speed connectivity to remote and rural areas.

11. We commit by 2030 to:

- (a) Agree on common targets, indicators, and metrics for universal meaningful and affordable connectivity, building on the work of the ITU, and integrate these into international, regional and national development strategies (SDG 9);
- (b) Develop innovative and blended financing mechanisms and incentives, including in collaboration with multilateral development banks, relevant international organizations and the private sector, to connect the remaining 2.6 billion people to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity. We will aim for entry-level broadband subscription costs at less than 2 percent of average income of the bottom 40 percent of national populations (SDGs 1 & 9);
- (c) Invest in and deploy resilient and trustworthy digital infrastructure that provides network coverage to all areas, including rural, remote and ‘hard-to-reach’ areas. We will aim for universal access to a minimum speed of 10Mb/s (SDGs 9 & 11);
- (d) Map and connect all schools to the Internet, building on the Giga initiative of ITU and UNICEF, to provide students with reliable, safe and secure Internet (SDGs 3 & 4);
- (e) Develop, agree and reflect principles for environmental sustainability across the life cycle of digital technologies, including measures to reduce their energy, water and mineral consumption in national and industry strategies (SDGs 4, 6, 7, 8, 12 & 13);

- (f) Ensure that digital infrastructure and equipment are designed with sustainability in mind. Our target is net-zero telecommunications infrastructure and mobile devices (SDG 11, 12, 13 & 14);
- (g) Identify and include marginalized communities and persons in vulnerable situations and their respective needs in the development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies (SDGs 10 & 11);
- (h) Mainstream gender perspectives in digital connectivity strategies to address structural and systematic barriers to meaningful and affordable digital connectivity for all women and girls (SDG 5).

## Rev.2

### **Commitments and actions**

9. We commit to pursue meaningful and measurable actions to achieve our objectives.

#### **Objective 1. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals**

##### *Connectivity*

10. We acknowledge the pivotal role of universal and meaningful connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We commit to connect all persons to the Internet. We recognize that this will require strong partnerships and increased financial investments in developing countries from governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector. We recognize that innovative solutions can help deliver high-speed connectivity to, *inter alia*, *underserved*, remote and rural areas.

11. We commit by 2030 to:

- (a) **Develop** targets, indicators, and metrics for universal meaningful and affordable connectivity, building on existing work, **including** the work of the ITU, and integrate these into international, regional and national development strategies (SDG 9);
- (b) Develop innovative and blended financing mechanisms and incentives, including in collaboration with multilateral development banks, relevant international organizations and the private sector, to connect the remaining 2.6 billion people to the Internet and to improve the quality and affordability of connectivity. We will aim for entry-level broadband subscription costs at less than 2 percent of average income of the bottom 40 percent of national populations (SDGs 1 & 9);
- (c) Invest in and deploy resilient digital infrastructure, **including satellites and community networks**, that provides safe and secure network coverage to all areas, including rural, remote and “hard-to reach” areas. We will aim for universal access **at sufficient speeds** (~~deleted: a minimum speed of 10Mb/s~~) **and reliability to enable meaningful use of the Internet** (SDGs 9 & 11);
- (d) Map and connect all schools and hospitals to the Internet, building on the Giga initiative of ITU and UNICEF (~~deleted: to provide students with reliable, safe and secure Internet~~) (SDGs 3 & 4);
- (e) Develop principles for environmental sustainability across the life cycle of digital technologies, including **context-specific** measures to reduce their energy, water and mineral consumption in national and industry strategies (SDGs 4, 6, 7, 8, 12 & 13);

(f) Aim to ensure that digital infrastructure, **including data centres**, and equipment are **sustainably designed to be able to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050** (~~Our target is net-zero telecommunications infrastructure and mobile devices~~). (SDG 11, 12, 13 & 14);

(g) Include (~~Identify and include marginalized communities~~) the (~~their respective~~) needs of persons in vulnerable situations and **those in underserved, rural and remote areas** in the development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies (SDGs 10 & 11);

(h) Mainstream a gender perspective in digital connectivity strategies to address structural and systematic barriers to meaningful and affordable digital connectivity for all women and girls (SDG 5).

**MC comments:**

- i. Minor improving text changes.**
- ii. Valuable addition of reference to industry-led satellite and community network initiatives.**
- iii. The target connectivity speed has been removed.**
- iv. Addition of a net zero emissions target date of 2050 seems long term and lacking urgency.**
- v. The term “marginalised communities” has been removed here and subsequently in the text; there is new term: “underserved areas”.**

**Rev 1**

*Digital literacy, skills and capacities*

12. To fully harness the benefits of digital connectivity we must ensure that people can meaningfully use the Internet and safely navigate the digital space. We recognize the importance of digital skills and access to lifelong digital learning opportunities, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and people of all ages and backgrounds. These skills and capacities are critical for the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online.

13. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Establish and support national digital skills strategies, adapt education curricula at all levels and provide for adult training programmes for the digital age. Our target is to achieve at least 80 percent of persons with basic digital skills and at least 60 percent with intermediate or advanced digital skills (SDGs 4 & 5);

(b) Increase the availability of digital technology platforms, services, software and educational curricula in diverse languages and formats (SDGs 4 & 10);

(c) Target and tailor capacity-building for women and girls, children and youth, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to marginalized communities and persons in vulnerable situations, and take the views of each into account in the design and implementation of programmes (SDGs 5 & 10);

(d) Develop and undertake national digital inclusion surveys with systematic disaggregation of data and gender statistics, to identify learning gaps and inform priorities in specific contexts (SDGs 5 & 10);



(e) Prioritize and set targets for the development of digital competencies of public officials and institutions to enact, develop and implement strategies and policies for trusted, secure and user-centred digital public services, including the development of cybersecurity capacity and skills (SDG 16);

(f) Develop vocational training for workers in occupations impacted by digitalization and automation and mitigate potential negative consequences for workforces and promote decent work (SDG 8);

(g) Develop common digital competency frameworks and training standards to facilitate pooling of training resources, the mobilization of public and private funds in support of capacity-building and continuous adaptation of capacity-building programmes to address rapid technological change and the prevention of brain drain (SDGs 4 & 17).

## **Rev.2**

### *Digital literacy, skills and capacities*

12. To fully harness the benefits of digital connectivity we must ensure that people can meaningfully and securely use the Internet and safely navigate the digital space. We recognize the importance of digital skills and lifelong access to digital learning opportunities, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and persons of all ages and backgrounds.

*(deleted: These skills and capacities are critical for the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online). We recognize the need to scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries to support the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online and retain talent.*

13. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Establish and support national digital skills strategies, adapt teacher training and education curricula and provide for adult training programmes for the digital age. Our target is to achieve at least 80 percent of persons with basic digital skills and at least 60 percent with intermediate or advanced digital skills (SDGs 4 & 5);

(b) Increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of digital technology platforms, services, software and educational curricula in diverse languages and formats (SDGs 4 & 10);

(c) Target and tailor capacity-building for women and girls, children and youth, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities *(deleted: and persons belonging to marginalized communities)* and persons in vulnerable situations, and ensure their meaningful engagement in the design and implementation of programmes (SDGs 5 & 10);

(d) Develop and undertake national digital inclusion surveys with systematic disaggregation of age, disability and gender data, to identify learning gaps and inform priorities in specific contexts (SDGs 5 & 10);

(e) Prioritize and set targets for the development of digital competencies of public officials and institutions to enact, develop and implement strategies and policies for inclusive, secure and user-centred digital public services, including the development of cybersecurity capacity and skills in the non-military domain (SDG 16);

(f) Develop vocational, **upskilling and reskilling** training for workers in occupations impacted by digitalization and automation to mitigate potential negative consequences for workforces and promote decent work (SDG 8);

and (g) Develop (~~deleted: common~~) interoperable digital competency frameworks and training standards to facilitate pooling of training resources, the mobilization of public and private funds in support of capacity-building and its continuous adaptation to address rapid technological change and the prevention of brain drain (SDGs 4 & 17).

**MC comments:**

- i. New emphasis to “scale up international cooperation and financing for digital capacity development in developing countries.”***
- ii. First appearance of “non-military domain” language which is repeated subsequently in the text, presumably introduced by states that wish to make clear the Compact will not be relevant or applied to national/regional military or defence-related strategies/policies/objectives. This infers regrettably that commitments in the Compact will be discounted or over-ruled in conflict situations.***
- iii. Valuable introduction of “local content development” but there is a missed opportunity to add importance of increasing multilingualism online.***

**Rev.1**

*Digital public goods and infrastructure*

14. We recognize that digital public goods, which include open-source software, platforms, data, AI models, standards and content that can be freely used and adapted, empower societies and individuals to direct digital technologies to their development needs. These goods support the development of digital public infrastructure that can deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all.

15. We recognize that there are multiple models of digital public infrastructure, and that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its specific priorities and needs. Transparent, inclusive, safe and secure digital systems and safeguards can promote public trust and use of digital services.

16. We consider digital public goods and infrastructure to be key drivers of inclusive digital transformation. We recognize the need to increase investment in digital public infrastructure and their successful development through the participation of all stakeholders.

17. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Develop, disseminate and maintain, through multistakeholder cooperation, safe and secure opensource software, platforms and standards that benefit society as a whole (SDGs 8, 9 &10);

(b) Promote the adoption of open standards and interoperability to facilitate the use of digital public goods across different platforms and systems (All SDGs);

(c) Develop and decide on a set of safeguards for safe, inclusive, secure and responsible digital public infrastructure that can be adopted by and tailored to the specific needs of each society (SDG 16);

(d) Exchange and make publicly available best practices and use cases of digital public infrastructure to inform governments, the private sector and other stakeholders, building on existing UN and other repositories (SDGs 16 & 17);

(e) Increase investment and funding toward the development of digital public goods and infrastructure, especially in developing countries (SDG 17);

(f) Encourage the formation of partnerships that bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and international and regional organizations to design, launch and support initiatives that leverage digital public goods and infrastructure to advance solutions for the SDGs (SDG 17).

## **Rev.2**

### *Digital public goods and digital public infrastructure*

14. We recognize that digital public goods, which include open-source software, platforms, data, AI models, standards and content that can be freely used and adapted, empower societies and individuals to direct digital technologies to their development needs and can facilitate digital cooperation and investment.

15. **Resilient, safe, inclusive and interoperable digital public infrastructure has the potential to deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all.** We recognize that there are multiple models of digital public infrastructure, and that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its specific priorities and needs. Transparent, safe and secure digital systems and user-centred safeguards can promote public trust and use of digital services.

16. We consider digital public goods and digital public infrastructure to be key drivers of inclusive digital transformation and innovation. We recognize the need to increase investment in their successful development **with (deleted: through)** the participation of all stakeholders.

17. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Develop, disseminate and maintain, through multistakeholder cooperation, safe and secure opensource software, platforms, **data, AI systems** and standards that benefit society as a whole (SDGs 8, 9 &10);

(b) Promote the adoption of open standards and interoperability to facilitate the use of digital public goods across different platforms and systems (All SDGs);

(c) Develop and decide on a set of safeguards for safe, inclusive, secure and **user-centred (deleted: responsible)** digital public infrastructure that can be adopted by and tailored to the specific needs of each country (SDG 16);

(d) Exchange and make publicly available best practices and use cases of digital public infrastructure to inform governments, the private sector and other stakeholders, building on existing UN and other repositories (SDGs 16 & 17);

(e) Increase investment and funding toward the development of digital public goods and digital public infrastructure, especially in developing countries (SDG 17);

(f) Encourage the formation of partnerships that bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and international and regional organizations to design, launch and support initiatives that leverage digital public goods and digital public infrastructure to advance solutions for the SDGs (SDG 17).

**MC comment:**

**Minor text adjustments only.**

**Rev.1**

**Objective 2. Expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all**

18. We recognize that equitable and affordable access to digital technologies can unlock the potential of the digital economy for every society. We recognize digital access to encompass opportunities for the acquisition and development of knowledge, research, and capacity as well as technology transfers on mutually agreed terms.

19. Advancing digital inclusion requires an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment that supports innovation, protects consumer rights, nurtures digital talent and skills, promotes digital entrepreneurship, and enhances consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy. Such environments, at international and national levels, support investment and the transfer of digital technologies on mutually agreed terms to developing countries.

20. We consider that robust cyber-security standards and capacity are also essential to facilitate commercial transactions and enable safe, secure and trustworthy online environments.

21. We commit by 2030 to:

- (a) Foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory digital environment for all;
- (b) Support international, regional and national efforts to develop enabling environments for digital transformation, including legal, regulatory and policy frameworks, and sharing of best practices (SDGs 10 & 16);
- (c) Conduct national digital readiness assessments to inform actions to address gaps and needs in digital transformation (All SDGs);
- (d) Call on regional and multilateral organizations and governments, where requested, to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in line with national digital transformation needs and priorities (SDGs 17);
- (e) Promote knowledge-sharing and technology transfer initiatives on mutually agreed terms (SDG 17);
- (f) Encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including among universities, research institutes and the private sector to accelerate digital knowledge development and access to research capacity (SDG 17);
- (g) Pool knowledge and best practices on digital enterprise to support innovation programmes and local technological solutions in developing countries (SDG 9);
- (h) Foster innovation and entrepreneurship, including among women, youth, and other traditionally under-represented entrepreneurs with the goal of increasing the number of digital start-ups and small and medium enterprises in developing countries (SDGs 8 & 9);

(i) Promote cybersecurity-related capacity building and skilling in national digital transformation strategies (SDG 9).

## **Rev.2**

### **Objective 2. Expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all**

18. We recognize that equitable and affordable access to digital technologies can unlock the potential of the digital economy for every society. We recognize digital access to encompass opportunities for the acquisition and development of knowledge, research, and capacity as well as technology transfers on mutually agreed terms.

19. Advancing digital inclusion requires an enabling **environment that encompasses policy, legal and regulatory frameworks** that support innovation, protect consumer rights, nurture digital talent and skills, promote digital entrepreneurship, and enhance consumer confidence and trust in the digital economy. Such environments, at international and national levels, **accelerate digital transformation**, support investment and the transfer of digital technologies on mutually agreed terms to developing countries.

20. We consider that robust cyber-security standards and capacity **in the non-military domain** are also essential to facilitate commercial transactions and enable safe, secure and trustworthy online environments.

21. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory digital environment for all **that enables micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to access and compete in the digital economy** (SDG 9);

(b) Support international, regional and national efforts to develop enabling environments for digital transformation, including **predictable and transparent policy**, legal and regulatory frameworks, and sharing of best practices (SDGs 10 & 16);

(c) Conduct national **and regional (deleted: digital readiness)** assessments to inform actions to address gaps and needs in digital transformation **and strengthen the collection and use of data to inform decision making** (All SDGs);

(d) Call on all stakeholders, **(deleted: regional and multilateral organizations and governments)** where requested, to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in line with national digital transformation policies and priorities (SDGs 17);

(e) Promote knowledge-sharing and technology transfer initiatives on mutually agreed terms (SDG 17);

(f) Encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including among universities, research institutes and the private sector, to accelerate digital knowledge development and access to research capacity (SDG 17);

(g) **Exchange** knowledge and best practices on digital enterprise to support innovation programmes and local technological solutions in developing countries (SDG 9);

(h) Foster innovation and entrepreneurship, including among women, youth, and other underrepresented entrepreneurs with the goal of increasing the number of digital start-ups and

micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and facilitate their access to markets through the use of digital technologies (SDGs 8 & 9);

and (i) Promote cybersecurity-related capacity building and skilling in the non-military domain in national digital transformation efforts (deleted: strategies) (SDG 9).

**MC comments:**

- i. Valuable affirmation that governments and regulators have key roles in establishing an enabling environment through their “policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.”*
- ii. First recognition here (and subsequently throughout the text) of importance of digital tech to sustaining micro businesses (usually defined as a sole proprietor or a business with a maximum of two employees) in addition to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).*

**Rev.1**

**Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights**

*Human rights*

22. We recognize that human rights and sustainable development are interdependent enablers for closing digital divides. We commit to respect, protect and promote the human rights of everyone in the digital space. We will apply international human rights law throughout the life cycle of digital and emerging technologies so that users are protected from harm, bias and all forms of discrimination and can fully and equally benefit from digitalization. We recognize the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavour and call on the private sector, to uphold the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

23. We commit to:

(a) Ensure that national legislation relevant to digital technologies is compliant with international law, including international human rights law (All SDGs);

(b) Establish appropriate safeguards to prevent and address any adverse impact on human rights arising from the use of digital and emerging technologies and protect individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through conducting human rights due diligence. (All SDGs);

(c) Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect children and their rights online, in line with international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (All SDGs).

24. We support the Secretary-General’s call for a UN Digital Human Rights Advisory Service within OHCHR to provide, upon request and through voluntary resources, expert advice and practical guidance on human rights and technology issues to governments, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders (All SDGs).

25. We call on:

(a) Digital technology companies and developers to respect and apply human rights law and principles, including through the application of human rights due diligence and impact assessments, , across the technology life cycle (All SDGs);

(b) Digital technology companies, developers and social media platforms to comply with and respect human rights online, be accountable for and take measures to prevent abuses, and to provide access to effective remedy in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant frameworks (SDGs 5, 10 & 16);

## Rev.2

### **Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights**

#### *Human rights*

22. ~~(We recognize that human rights and sustainable development are interdependent enablers for closing digital divides.)~~ We commit to respect, protect and promote human rights ~~(of everyone)~~ in the digital space. We will uphold ~~(apply)~~ international human rights law throughout the life cycle of digital and emerging technologies so that users can safely ~~(fully and equally)~~ benefit from digital technologies and are protected from violations, abuses ~~(harm, bias)~~ and all forms of discrimination. We recognize the ~~(roles and)~~ responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavour and also call on the private sector to apply ~~(uphold)~~ the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

23. We commit to:

(a) Ensure that the development and implementation of national legislation relevant to digital technologies is compliant with obligations under international law, including international human rights law (All SDGs);

(b) Establish appropriate safeguards to prevent and address any adverse impact on human rights arising from the use of digital and emerging technologies and protect individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through ~~(conducting)~~ human rights due diligence and establishing effective oversight and remedy mechanisms. (All SDGs);

(c) Strengthen legal and policy frameworks to protect the rights of the child in the digital space, in line with international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (All SDGs).

**NEW (d) Refrain from imposing restrictions on the free flow of information and ideas that are inconsistent with obligations under international law (All SDGs).**

24. We take note of OHCHR's ongoing efforts to provide, upon request, expert advice and practical guidance on human rights and technology issues to governments, the private sector and other ~~(relevant)~~ stakeholders, including through the establishment of a UN Digital Human Rights Advisory Service within existing resources.

25. We call on:

(a) Digital technology companies and developers to respect ~~(deleted: and apply)~~ international human rights ~~(deleted: law)~~ and principles, including through the application of human rights due diligence and impact assessments **throughout** the technology life cycle (All SDGs);

(b) Digital technology companies, developers and social media platforms to ~~(deleted: comply with and)~~ respect human rights online, be accountable for and take measures to mitigate and prevent abuses, and to provide access to effective remedy in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant frameworks (SDGs 5, 10 & 16);

**MC comments:**

- i. Large number of text amendments, some possibly due to legal technicalities review.***
- ii. Deletion of previous overarching statement that “human rights and sustainable development are interdependent enablers for closing digital divides” could be a significant negative de-linking of Compact objectives.***
- iii. New commitment (d) by states to “refrain from” restricting the free flow of information “and ideas” is a valuable one that links to freedom of expression but this could be worded more strongly as policy not to restrict.***

**Rev.1**

*Internet governance*

26. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. To fully benefit all, it must be stable, secure and unfragmented.

27. We recognize the need to address the governance of the Internet in a global manner, with the participation of all states and other stakeholders. We recognize the role of the Internet Governance Forum as the central forum for multistakeholder discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet.

28. We commit to:

(a) Promote an open, global, interoperable and reliable Internet and take concrete steps to maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all (SDG 9);

(b) Uphold and support the Internet Governance Forum including through the provision of financial support and continue efforts to increase diverse participation in it, especially by governments and the private sector, particularly from developing countries (SDG 9 & 10);

(c) Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet in a timely manner (SDG 16);

(d) Refrain from Internet shutdowns and ensure that any restrictions are in full compliance with international law, including with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination (SDG 16).

**Rev.2**

*Internet governance*



26. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. To fully benefit all, it must **be open, global and interoperable. The stable and secure (deleted: unfragmented) functioning of the Internet is critical to ensure this.**

27. We recognize that the governance of the Internet must **remain global in nature, with the full involvement (deleted: participation) of all states and other stakeholders in accordance with the Tunis Agenda. We reaffirm multilateral and multistakeholder approaches to Internet governance and the central role of the Internet Governance Forum for multistakeholder discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet, as well as the NETmundial principles.**

28. We commit to:

(a) Promote an open, global, interoperable and reliable Internet and take concrete steps to maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all (SDG 9);

(b) Uphold and support the Internet Governance Forum through the provision of financial support and continue efforts to increase diverse participation **(deleted: especially)** by governments and **(deleted: the private sector) stakeholders (deleted: particularly)** from developing countries (SDG 9 &10);

(c) Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet in a timely manner (SDG 16);

and (d) Refrain from Internet shutdowns **and measures that target Internet access**, and ensure that any restrictions **on access to Internet services and freedom of expression** are in **(deleted: full)** compliance with international law, including with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination (SDG 16).

**MC comments:**

- i. This has become a problematic section in the text with the alteration and softening of language in Rev.2 that possibly reflects a pushback in the negotiations by some member states on the primacy of multistakeholder policy approaches endorsed by the WSIS process. There is for example the vocabulary change from “participation...” to the less precise or definitional “involvement...of other stakeholders”.***
- ii. Furthermore, the new text “We reaffirm multilateral and multistakeholder approaches” infers a limitation of the applicability of the multistakeholder principle. There is no supporting rationale for this duality and no explanation is given of when inter-governmental approaches are justified and necessary, and how they would intersect with open multistakeholder approaches without undermining the influence of the latter.***
- iii. The deletion of the objective to ensure an “unfragmented” Internet is also worrying because it appears to cut across stakeholder consensus on a key principle of Internet governance.***
- iv. The commitment by states to “refrain from Internet shutdowns” should in view of their impact on rights, human welfare, freedom of expression, free flow of ideas etc be more strongly rephrased e.g. “desist from...” or “cease to resort to...”.***
- v. On the positive side, there is now valuable recognition of the NETmundial principles.***

## **Rev.1**

### *Digital trust and safety*

29. We must urgently prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, all forms of hate speech and discrimination, mis- and disinformation, cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse. We acknowledge our collective responsibility to establish and maintain robust risk mitigation and redress measures that also protect privacy and freedom of expression.

30. We commit by 2030 to:

- (a) Create a safe and secure online space for all users by defining and adopting common standards, guidelines and industry actions that are in compliance with international law, promote safe civic spaces and address harmful content on digital platforms, taking into account work underway by UN entities, regional organizations and multistakeholder initiatives (SDGs 3, 5, 9, 10, 16 & 17);
- (b) Prioritize, as governments, the development and implementation of national online child safety policies and standards, in compliance with international human rights law. (SDGs 3, 5 & 10);
- (c) Institutionalize regular collaboration between national online safety institutions to exchange best practices and develop shared understandings of actions to protect privacy, freedom of expression and access to information while addressing harms (SDG 17);
- (d) Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology in areas such as surveillance and encryption, are in compliance with international law (SDGs 10 & 16);
- (e) Develop, through multistakeholder consultations, effective methodologies to measure, track and counter sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology; (SDG 5);
- (f) Monitor and review digital platform policies and practices on countering child sexual exploitation and abuse which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology (SDG 3).

31. We further urgently:

- (a) Call on digital technology companies and developers to engage with users of all ages and backgrounds to incorporate their perspectives and needs into the life cycle of digital technologies (SDGs 5 & 10);
- (b) Call on digital technology companies and developers to increase transparency around their systems and processes and to co-develop industry accountability frameworks, in consultation with governments and other stakeholders, that, inter alia, define responsibilities and commit to standards as well as auditable public reports (SDGs 9 & 17);
- (c) Call on social media platforms to provide online safety-related training materials and safeguards to their users, and in particular children and youth who engage in their services (SDG 3);
- (d) Call on social media platforms to establish safe and secure reporting mechanisms for users and their advocates to report potential policy violations, including special reporting mechanisms for children (SDG 3).

## **Rev.2**

## *Digital trust and safety*

29. We must urgently counter and address **all forms of violence, including** sexual and gender-based violence, which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, all forms of hate speech and discrimination, mis- and disinformation, cyberbullying and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

~~(deleted: We acknowledge our collective responsibility to)~~ We will establish and maintain robust **national, regional and international** risk mitigation and redress measures that ~~(deleted: also)~~ protect privacy and freedom of expression.

30. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Create a safe and secure online space for all users by defining and adopting common standards, guidelines and industry actions that are in compliance with international law, promote safe civic spaces and address **unlawful and** harmful content on digital platforms, taking into account work underway by UN entities, regional organizations and multistakeholder initiatives (SDGs 3, 5, 9, 10, 16 & 17);

(b) Prioritize ~~(deleted: as governments)~~ the development and implementation of national online child safety policies and standards, in compliance with international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (SDGs 3, 5 & 10);

(c) Establish ~~(deleted: institutionalize)~~ regular collaboration between national online safety institutions to exchange best practices and develop shared understandings of actions to protect privacy, freedom of expression and access to information while addressing harms (SDG 17);

(d) Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology in areas such as surveillance and encryption, are in compliance with international law (SDGs 10 & 16);

(e) Develop, **in consultation with all relevant stakeholders** ~~(deleted: through multistakeholder consultations)~~, effective methodologies to measure, monitor and counter **all forms of violence including** sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology (SDG 5);

and (f) Monitor and review digital platform policies and practices on countering child sexual exploitation and abuse which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology (SDG 3).

31. We further urgently:

(a) Call on digital technology companies and developers to engage with users of all backgrounds and abilities to incorporate their perspectives and needs into the life cycle of digital technologies (SDGs 5 & 10);

(b) Call on digital technology companies and developers to co-develop industry accountability frameworks, in consultation with governments and other stakeholders, **that** increase transparency around their systems and processes, ~~(deleted: that inter alia)~~ define responsibilities and commit to standards as well as auditable public reports (SDGs 9 & 17);

(c) Call on digital technology companies and social media platforms to provide online safety-related training materials and safeguards to their users, and in particular children and youth who **utilize** their services (SDG 3);

and (d) Call on social media platforms to establish safe, secure **and accessible** reporting mechanisms for users and their advocates to report potential policy violations, including special reporting mechanisms **adapted to** children **and persons with disabilities** (SDG 3).

**MC comments:**

- i. Minor text amendments.***
- ii. Valuable recognition of reporting mechanisms for persons with disabilities.***

**Rev.1**

*Information integrity*

32. Access to relevant, reliable and accurate information and knowledge is essential for an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation and interference of information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and create risks for international peace and security.

33. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of mis- and disinformation online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with human rights.

34. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Design and roll out digital training curricula to ensure that all users have the skills and knowledge to safely and critically interact with content and with information providers and to enhance resilience against the harmful impacts of mis- and disinformation (SDG 4);

(b) Promote diverse and resilient information ecosystems, including by strengthening independent public interest media (SDGs 9 & 16);

(c) Provide, promote and facilitate access to and dissemination of independent, fact-based, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information to counter mis- and disinformation (SDGs 3, 4, 9 & 16);

(d) Promote access to reliable and accurate information in crisis situations, to protect and empower marginalized communities and persons in vulnerable situations (SDG 10).

35. We further urgently:

(a) Call on social media platforms to enhance the transparency and accountability of their systems, including terms of service and content moderation policies and handling of users' personal data in local languages, to empower users to make informed choices and provide informed consent (SDGs 9 & 10);

(b) Call on social media platforms to provide researcher access to data, with safeguards for user privacy, to ensure transparency and accountability to build an evidence base on how to address mis- and disinformation that can inform government and industry policies, standards and best practices (SDGs 9, 16 & 17);

(c) Call on digital technology companies and communities to continue to develop solutions and publicly communicate actions to mitigate risks arising from AI-generated deceptive information and

ensorship, including by identifying AI-generated material, authenticity certification for content and origins, watermarking and other techniques (SDGs 10, 16 & 17).

## Rev.2

### *Information integrity*

32. Access to relevant, reliable and accurate information and knowledge is essential for an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation and interference of information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and **amplify (delete: create)** risks for international peace and security.

33. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect in the digital space, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of mis- and disinformation **and hate speech** online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with **international law (deleted: human rights)**.

34. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Design and roll out digital media and information literacy curricula to ensure that all users have the skills and knowledge to safely and critically interact with content and with information providers and to enhance resilience against the harmful impacts of mis- and disinformation (SDG 4);

(b) Promote diverse and resilient information ecosystems, including by strengthening independent and public interest media, **and supporting journalists and media workers** (SDGs 9 & 16);

(c) Provide, promote and facilitate access to and dissemination of independent, fact-based, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information to counter mis- and disinformation (SDGs 3, 4, 9 & 16);

and (d) Promote access to relevant reliable and accurate information in crisis situations, to protect and empower persons in vulnerable situations (SDG 10).

35. We further urgently:

(a) Call on digital technology companies and social media platforms to enhance the transparency and accountability of their systems, including terms of service, content moderation **(deleted: policies) and algorithms** and handling of users' personal data in local languages, to empower users to make informed choices and provide **or withdraw** informed consent (SDGs 9 & 10);

(b) Call on social media platforms to provide researchers access to data, with safeguards for user privacy, to ensure transparency and accountability to build an evidence base on how to address mis- and disinformation **and hate speech** that can inform government and industry policies, standards and best practices (SDGs 9, 16 & 17);

and (c) Call on digital technology companies and developers to continue to develop solutions and publicly communicate actions **to counter potential harms, including hate speech and discrimination, (deleted: to mitigate risks arising) from AI-enabled deceptive information and censorship. Such measures include incorporation of safeguards into AI model training processes, identification of AI-**

generated material, authenticity certification for content and origins, **labelling**, watermarking and other techniques (SDGs 10, 16 & 17).

**MC comments**

- i. Minor text amendments.***
- ii. Valuable additions of online hate speech and “AI-enabled deceptive information and censorship” as challenges to be countered.***

**Rev.1**

**Objective 4. Advancing responsible and equitable international data governance**

*Data privacy and security*

36. We recognize that data governance has evolved in a fragmented and uncoordinated manner. Diverse regulatory frameworks, conflicting incentives and data-driven technological acceleration have contributed to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacities to use it. We recognize that responsible data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation, and promote economic growth. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including by AI systems, may amplify risks in the absence of effective data protection and privacy norms.

37. We recognize the urgent need for strengthened international data governance with the equal participation of all countries to unlock the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We recognize that this will require the development and implementation of regional and national data governance frameworks that maximize the benefits of data use while protecting privacy and securing data. We call on the United Nations to play a key role in promoting cooperation and harmonization of data governance initiatives.

38. We commit by 2030 to:

- (a) Draw on existing international and regional guidelines on the protection of privacy in the development of data governance frameworks (All SDGs);
- (b) Strengthen support to all Member States to develop effective national data governance frameworks (All SDGs);
- (c) Empower individuals and groups with the ability to consider, give and withdraw their consent to the use of their data and the ability to choose how that data is used, including through legally mandated protections for data privacy (SDGs 10 & 16);
- (d) Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices are transparent, secure and in compliance with international law (All SDGs);
- (e) Develop skilled workforces capable of collecting, processing, analyzing, storing and transferring data safely and securely (SDGs 8 & 9).

**Rev.2**

**Objective 4. Advancing equitable and interoperable data governance**

### *Data privacy and security*

36. We recognize that data governance and data regulation have evolved in uncoordinated ways, contributing to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacities to use it (~~deleted: Diverse regulatory frameworks, conflicting incentives and data-driven technological acceleration have contributed to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacities to use it.~~) We recognize that responsible and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation, and promote economic growth. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including in AI systems, may amplify risks in the absence of effective personal data protection and privacy norms.

37. We recognize the urgent need for strengthened international data governance with the equal participation of all countries to unlock the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We recognize that this will require capacity-building for developing countries and the development and implementation of regional and national data governance frameworks that maximize the benefits of data use while protecting privacy and securing data. We call on the United Nations system to play a key role in promoting cooperation and harmonization of data governance initiatives.

38. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Draw on existing international and regional guidelines on the protection of privacy in the development of data governance frameworks (All SDGs);

(b) Strengthen support to all Member States to develop effective and interoperable national data governance frameworks (All SDGs);

(c) Empower individuals and groups with the ability to consider, give and withdraw their consent to the use of their data and the ability to choose how that data is used, including through legally mandated protections for data privacy and intellectual property (SDGs 10 & 16);

(d) Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices are (~~deleted: transparent~~) safe, secure and proportionate for necessary, explicit and legitimate purposes, in compliance with international law (All SDGs);

and (e) Develop skilled workforces capable of collecting, processing, analyzing, storing and transferring data safely (~~deleted: and securely~~) in ways that protect privacy (SDGs 8 & 9).

#### **MC comment:**

***Minor text amendments that reaffirm the leading role of the UN in fixing the widespread problem of ineffective international coordination and harmonisation.***

### **Rev.1**

#### *Data exchanges and standards*

39. We acknowledge that data divides, including gender data gaps, can lead to unequal distribution of benefits and the misuse and misinterpretation of data.

40. We recognize that shared data standards and interoperable data exchanges can increase the accessibility and sharing of data and help close data divides. We will enable open data and data

commons that support states, communities, groups and individuals, respectively, to utilize and leverage data for their development and wellbeing.

41. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Develop data and metadata standards designed to prevent and address bias, discrimination or human rights violations and abuses throughout the data life cycle, including through regular data auditing (SDGs 3, 5, 10 & 16);

(b) Establish basic definitions and data classifications to promote interoperability and facilitate data exchanges;

(c) Develop common definitions and standards on the use and reuse of data for public good (All SDGs).

## **Rev.2**

### *Data exchanges and standards*

39. We acknowledge that data divides, including gender data gaps, can lead to **inequitable** distribution of benefits, the misuse and misinterpretation of data **and biased results**.

40. We recognize that common data standards and interoperable data exchanges can increase the accessibility and sharing of data, and help close data divides. We will enable open data **initiatives** (~~deleted: and data commons~~) that support (~~deleted: states~~) **all stakeholders, including** communities (~~deleted: groups~~) and individuals, to utilize and leverage data for their development and wellbeing.

41. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Develop data and metadata standards designed to prevent and address bias, discrimination or human rights violations and abuses throughout the data life cycle, including through regular data auditing (SDGs 3, 5, 10 & 16);

(b) **Develop** basic definitions and data classifications to promote interoperability and facilitate data exchanges (All SDGs); and

(c) Develop common definitions and standards on the use and reuse of data for public **benefit** (All SDGs).

### **MC comment:**

#### ***Minor text amendments.***

## **Rev.1**

### *Data for development*

42. We recognize that quality data is critical for tracking, targeting and accelerating progress across the SDGs as well as responding effectively to crises. We commit to strengthen international cooperation to close the current serious gaps on data for development, to increase the public availability of SDG data. We will champion the responsible use and sharing of data within and between countries to advance progress across the SDGs.



43. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Increase financing for data and statistics and enhance efforts to build capacity in data and related skills, as well as responsible data use, particularly in developing countries. We will aim for a 50 percent increase in financing for sustainable development data (SDG 17);

(b) Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, while respecting privacy and data protection. We will aim for a 50 percent increase in the data available to monitor the SDGs, disaggregated by gender and other relevant characteristics (SDGs 5 & 10);

(c) Develop open and accessible data systems to support effective disaster early-warning and crisis response (SDG 11);

(d) Create international data collection systems and shared data sets, to advance monitoring and actions against global pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change and other sustainable development goals. Our goal is the establishment of quality standard datasets such as a global environmental data set on the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (SDGs 12 & 13).

44. We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, to initiate deliberations during the 79th session towards a framework for international data governance, based on the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, with a view to reaching consensus by 2030 on areas including principles and common standards on data governance, including the collection, storage, processing, use and transfer of data; best practices and proposals to support interoperability between existing national, regional and international data systems and governance frameworks; and criteria to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows as it relates to development (All SDGs).

## **Rev.2**

*Data for **sustainable** development*

**NEW 42. We consider that safe and secure data systems and capacity are critical for evidence-based policy making and the delivery of public services. Underinvestment in public data systems and statistical activities can hamper progress in achieving sustainable development.**

43. We recognize that quality data is critical for tracking, targeting and accelerating progress across the SDGs as well as responding effectively to crises. We commit to strengthen international cooperation to close the current serious gaps **and** increase the public availability of SDG data. We will champion the responsible use and sharing of data within and between countries to advance progress across the SDGs.

44. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Increase financing for data and statistics, including through mobilization of domestic resources, and enhance efforts to build capacity in data and related skills, as well as responsible data use, particularly in developing countries. We will aim for a 50 percent increase in financing for sustainable development data (SDG 17);

(b) Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, while respecting privacy and data protection. We will aim for a 50 percent increase in the data available to monitor the SDGs, disaggregated by **income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location** and other characteristics relevant **in national contexts** (SDGs 5 & 10);

(c) Develop open and accessible data systems to support effective disaster early-warning, **early action** and crisis response (SDG 11);

and (d) Create international data collection systems and shared data sets, to enhance monitoring and actions (**deleted: against global pollution, biodiversity loss and.... life below water, life on land**) for climate change and other sustainable development goals. Our goal is the development of quality standard datasets such as a global environmental data set on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (SDGs 12 & 13).

**(DELETED: all of Rev.1 para. 44 on appointing co-facilitators for international data governance etc.)**

#### **MC comments**

- i. Now with stronger emphasis on sustainable development.***
- ii. Notable for the removal of the proposal in Rev.1 to set up process to develop a framework for international data governance (reason for this is not known).***

#### **Rev.1**

##### *Cross-border data flows*

45. Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social, economic and development benefits of responsible, secure and trusted cross-border data flows, in particular for small and medium enterprises. We will identify innovative, interoperable and inclusive mechanisms to enable data to flow with trust within and between countries while respecting relevant data protection and privacy norms.

46. We commit by 2030 to:

(a) Advance multistakeholder consultations to better understand commonalities, complementarities, convergence and divergence on how to facilitate cross-border data flows with a view to developing publicly available knowledge and best practices (SDG 17);

(b) Promote and support interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks through the use and sharing of cross-border data where relevant (SDGs 8,9 & 10).

#### **Rev.2**

##### *Cross-border data flows*

45. Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social, economic and development benefits of (**deleted: responsible**) secure and trusted cross-border data flows, in particular for **micro**, small and medium enterprises. We will identify innovative, interoperable and inclusive mechanisms to enable data to flow with trust within and between

countries while respecting relevant data protection and privacy (~~deleted: norms~~) safeguards and applicable legal frameworks.

46. (= Rev.1 46 (a)) We commit by 2030 to advance (~~deleted: multistakeholder~~) consultations among all relevant stakeholders to better understand commonalities, complementarities, convergence and divergence between regulatory approaches on how to facilitate cross-border data flows with trust a view to developing publicly available knowledge and best practices (SDG 17).

47. (= Rev.1 46 (b)) We will promote and support interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks (~~deleted: through the use and sharing of cross-border data where relevant.~~) In this context, we look forward to the outcomes of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development's multistakeholder dialogue on the fundamental principles of data governance at all levels. Building on these outcomes, as well as the ongoing work of other relevant bodies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission, we request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, by no later than the 81st session, to initiate inclusive deliberations towards international data governance arrangements. These arrangements could include principles and common standards of data governance, including access, collection, storage, processing, use and transfer of data and related liabilities; proposals to support interoperability between national, regional and international data systems; and options to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows relevant for development (All SDGs).

**MC comment**

***Strong text in support of secure and trusted free flow of data that now anticipates the results of the CSTD's current initiative to define key principles. This is an exemplar of a successful inclusive multistakeholder process.***

**Rev.1**

**Objective 5. Enhance international governance of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for the benefit of humanity**

47. We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of new and emerging technologies, with the full and equal participation of all countries.

48. We recognize international, regional, national and industry efforts underway to advance the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems. We urgently need to inclusively assess and address the potential impact and risks of AI systems on all societies and individuals. International cooperation on AI governance is required to promote coordination, compatibility and environmental sustainability of emerging AI governance frameworks.

49. We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing AI benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law, and voluntary instruments such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

50. We recognize the immense potential of AI systems to accelerate progress across all the SDGs. This potential will not be realized automatically. We will govern AI in the public interest and ensure that the application of AI fosters diverse cultures and languages and supports locally-generated data for the benefit of countries and communities' development. This includes international cooperation

to support developing countries in developing AI capacities as well as efforts to address the potential negative impacts of emerging technologies on labour and employment.

51. We consider that international governance of emerging technologies requires an agile, multidisciplinary and networked multistakeholder approach. We recognize the vital role of the UN in supporting and facilitating such governance.

52. We have a unique opportunity, through this Compact, to advance international governance of AI and other emerging technologies in ways that complement international, regional, national and industry efforts. We will:

(a) Assess the future directions and implications of AI and emerging technologies and promote scientific consensus;

(b) Support compatibility of AI governance approaches and interoperable norms, safety standards as well as risk management;

and (c) Help build capacities, especially in developing countries, to access, develop, use and govern AI systems and emerging technologies and direct them toward the pursuit of sustainable development.

53. We therefore commit to:

(a) Establish, under the auspices of the UN, an International Scientific Panel on AI and Emerging Technologies to conduct independent multi-disciplinary scientific risk and evidence-based opportunity assessments. The Panel will issue reports, drawing on national and regional horizon-scanning initiatives; and contribute to the development of common assessment methodologies, AI definitions and taxonomies as well as mitigation measures.

(b) Initiate, under the auspices of the UN, an International Contact Group on AI Governance that brings together expert representatives of government responsible for AI safety and governance on an annual basis in the margins of relevant major UN conferences and meetings to build shared understandings on safe, secure and trustworthy governance and risk management and safety frameworks. Such exchanges would promote interoperability across governance approaches and good practices on AI safety that are human-centric, sustainable and comply with international human rights law. The work of this contact group should be supported by multistakeholder engagement on AI governance including the annual AI for Good Summit with a view to fostering inclusive partnerships and collaboration.

54. We therefore Request the President of the General Assembly to appoint at the 79th session of the General Assembly co-facilitators to consult with Member States and other relevant stakeholders on terms of reference and modalities for the establishment and functioning of the International Scientific Panel on AI and Emerging Technologies and modalities for an International Contact Group on AI Governance for the adoption by the General Assembly.

55. To reinforce interoperable governance approaches we call on international, regional and national standard-setting organizations, building on work by ITU, to collaborate to promote the development and application of AI standards that uphold safety, reliability, sustainability, gender equality and human rights (SDGs 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16 & 17).

56. We encourage the development of international partnerships on AI capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, promote AI governance and risk management guidance for the

public sector, facilitate AI model training and development, and to enable small and medium enterprises to participate in the digital economy (SDG 4 & 17).

57. We will leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building, especially ITU's AI for Good Summit, UNESCO's Readiness and Ethical Impact Assessment Methodology, WHO's digital health initiatives and other relevant efforts to bridge the AI divide and facilitate access to AI applications (All SDGs).

58. We will promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration to support the development of representative quality data sets, compute capacity, local solutions, use cases and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries (SDGs 4, 9, 10, & 17).

59. We encourage public and private investment to support AI capacity building and governance, especially in developing countries. We call on stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute financial and other resources to this effort (SDG 17).

60. We further request the Secretary-General to establish under his authority a Global Fund for AI and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development to build and deliver AI skills-based training in collaboration with technology companies and technical and academic communities, support the development of compute capacity, catalyze the development of quality standard data sets to inform the use of AI at scale and promote AI-based solutions for the SDGs.

61. This Fund should be put into operation with an initial amount of 100 million US dollars at launch in 2025, financed by voluntary contributions from public, private and philanthropic sources. To this end, the Secretary-General should initiate consultations among potential donors and report on progress of the Fund in the context of annual reporting on the Global Digital Compact.

## **Rev.2**

### **Objective 5. Enhance international governance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, for the benefit of humanity**

48. We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of emerging technologies, with the full and equal **representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and meaningful participation of all stakeholders.**

49. We recognize international, regional, national and multistakeholder efforts underway to advance safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) systems **in the non-military domain.** We urgently need to inclusively assess and address the potential impact, **opportunities** and risks of AI systems on **(deleted: all societies and individuals)** sustainable development and the wellbeing and rights of individuals. International cooperation **is required to promote coordination and compatibility (deleted: and environmental sustainability)** of emerging AI governance frameworks.

50. We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing AI benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law, and taking into account other relevant frameworks such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of artificial intelligence.

51. We recognize the immense potential of AI systems to accelerate progress across all the SDGs **(deleted: This potential will not be realized automatically.)** We will govern AI in the public interest and ensure that the application of AI fosters diverse cultures and languages and supports locally-

generated data for the benefit of countries and communities' development. This includes, **in particular**, international cooperation to support developing countries in developing AI talent, data and compute capacities as well as efforts to address potential negative impacts of emerging digital technologies on labour and employment **and on the environment**.

52. We consider that international governance of emerging digital technologies requires an agile, multi-disciplinary and **(deleted: networked) adaptable** multistakeholder approach. We recognize that the UN has a **critical role to play in (deleted: facilitating) enabling and** supporting such governance.

53. We have a unique opportunity, through this Compact, to advance international governance of AI and other emerging digital technologies in ways that complement international, regional, national and **(deleted: industry)** multistakeholder efforts. We will:

(a) Assess the future directions and implications of AI systems and promote scientific **(deleted: consensus) understanding** (All SDGs);

(b) Support compatibility of AI governance approaches and interoperable norms, safety standards as well as risk management (All SDGs);

(c) Help build capacities, especially in developing countries, to access, develop, use and govern AI systems and direct them toward the pursuit of sustainable development (All SDGs);

**NEW and (d) Promote transparency, accountability and robust human oversight of AI systems in compliance with international law (All SDGs).**

54. We therefore commit to:

(a) Establish, under the auspices of the UN, an International Scientific Panel on AI **(deleted: and Emerging Technologies) with balanced geographic representation** to conduct independent multi-disciplinary evidence-based impact and risk **(deleted: opportunity)** assessments. The Panel will issue **annual** reports, drawing on national and regional horizon-scanning initiatives and research networks; and contribute to **identifying knowledge gaps and areas of emerging opportunities and challenges (deleted: the development of common assessment methodologies, AI definitions and taxonomies as well as mitigation measures)**. (SDG 17);

(b) Initiate, under the auspices of the UN, **(deleted: an International Contact Group on AI Governance that brings together expert representatives of government responsible for AI safety and governance on an annual basis in the margins of relevant major UN conferences and meetings.....Such exchanges would promote interoperability across governance approaches and good practices on AI safety that are human-centric, sustainable and comply with international human rights law. The work of this contact group should be supported by multistakeholder engagement on AI governance)** an Annual Global Dialogue on AI Governance that brings together Member States to build shared understandings and emerging best practices on AI governance **(deleted: on safe, secure and trustworthy governance and risk management and safety frameworks)**. This dialogue would be informed by the reports of the International Scientific Panel on AI and the inputs of relevant stakeholders, and could take place in the margins of relevant major UN conferences and meetings as well as ITU's AI for Good Summit **(deleted: with a view to fostering inclusive partnerships and collaboration.)** (SDG 17).

55. We therefore request the President of the General Assembly to appoint at the 79th session of the General Assembly co-facilitators to consult with Member States and other relevant stakeholders on

terms of reference and modalities for the composition, functioning **and review** of the International Scientific Panel on AI and **an Annual Global Dialogue on AI Governance** (~~and modalities for an International Contact Group on AI Governance~~) for the adoption by the General Assembly.

56. (~~To reinforce interoperable governance approaches~~) We call on standards development organizations (~~international, regional and national standard-setting organizations, building on work by ITU,~~) to collaborate **through, inter alia, the World Standards Cooperation** to promote the development and application of **interoperable** AI standards that uphold safety, reliability, sustainability (~~gender equality~~) and human rights (SDGs 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16 & 17).

**NEW 57. We will promote safe, secure and trustworthy AI systems that advance, protect and preserve linguistic and cultural diversity and take into account multilingualism throughout the life cycle of these systems (SDG 16).**

58. We encourage the development of international partnerships on AI capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, **increase access to resources including open AI models and systems, open training data and compute**, facilitate AI model training and development, and **promote the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises** in the digital economy (SDG 4 & 17).

59. We will leverage existing UN and multistakeholder mechanisms (~~especially ITU's AI for Good Summit, UNESCO's Readiness and Ethical Impact Assessment Methodology, WHO's digital health initiatives and other relevant efforts~~) to support AI capacity building to bridge AI divides, facilitate access to AI applications **and build capacity in high-performance computing and related skills in developing countries** (All SDGs).

60. We will promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration to support the development of representative **high quality data sets, affordable compute resources**, local solutions, (~~use cases~~) **that reflect linguistic and cultural diversity** and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries (SDGs 4, 9, 10, & 17).

61. We encourage **increased** public and private investment to **scale up** AI capacity building (~~and governance~~) for development, especially in developing countries. (~~We call on stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute financial and other resources to this effort~~) (SDG 17).

62. We further request the Secretary-General to establish a Global Fund for AI (~~and Emerging Technologies~~) for Sustainable Development to **catalyze the AI capacity-building that is required to bridge AI divides** and promote AI-based solutions for the SDGs. (~~to build and deliver AI skills-based training in collaboration with technology companies and technical and academic communities, support the development of compute capacity, catalyze the development of quality standard data sets to inform the use of AI at scale~~). We request the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with potential public, private and philanthropic contributors and to report on progress on the Fund within 12 months (SDG 17).

(DELETED: all of Rev.1 Para 61 concerning consultations on the operation of the Global Fund etc.)

**MC comments:**

- i. Much refinement of the text of this key part of the Compact and its focus in particular on levelling up the opportunities for the Global South and how effective capacity building needs to be scaled up.***

- ii. ***Valuable positive emphasis here on the UN leveraging multistakeholder engagement and process.***
- iii. ***The proposal in Rev.1 for the UN to establish an International Contact Group on AI Governance has been withdrawn. However, the proposal to convene an Annual Global Dialogue on AI Governance that “brings together Member States” would potentially diminish the current IGF role on AI policy dialogue.***
- iv. ***The remit of the proposed Global Fund is now tightly defined in relation only to AI for sustainable development rather than for emerging technologies more broadly.***

## **Rev.1**

### **Follow up and review**

62. We will implement the Global Digital Compact, within our own countries and at regional and global levels, respecting and taking into account legal frameworks, national capacities, policies and priorities.

63. Government-led efforts can only succeed with the active engagement of the private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society, whose innovations and contributions to digitalization are fundamental and irreplaceable. We will strengthen our collaboration and accelerate existing multistakeholder approaches and cooperation to achieve the objectives set out in this Compact.

64. We invite international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia, technical community and civil society groups to endorse the Compact and take active part in its implementation. We request the Secretary-General to put in place modalities for the voluntary endorsement of this Compact, and to make this information public and accessible from December 2024.

65. We recognize the importance of financing to unlock the full potential of this Compact. Successful implementation will require public, private and multilateral resources, including the pooling of investments in joint and blended facilities for impact at scale, including through UN mechanisms such as the Digital Window of the Joint SDG Fund and facilities in multilateral development banks. We call on governments to make support to digital transformation integral to development assistance, including through increased allocations to digital and data initiatives. We invite private sector and philanthropic actors to consider financial pledges in support of this Compact.

66. We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions. We recognize the contribution of all UN agencies, funds and programmes in advancing digital cooperation, including ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO, and request them to support implementation, particularly in relation to actions to close the digital divides and to accelerate progress across all the SDGs and leveraging the multistakeholder platform provided by the annual WSIS Forum. We recognize the role of the UN Regional Economic Commissions and UN country teams in supporting regional and national stakeholders to advance digital transformation.

67. We also recognize the role of OHCHR in supporting all stakeholders to implement Compact commitments and actions in ways that protect and promote human rights.

68. We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing United Nations system-wide follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS



and invite it to consider how it can contribute further to the implementation of the Compact, especially in advancing actions to expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy.

69. We look forward to the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 to identify how WSIS processes can support implementation of the Compact. We invite the WSIS+20 Review to consider how youth perspectives can be incorporated in this effort.

70. We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital and emerging technologies. Further strengthening of system-wide coordination is required to enable the UN to realize the inclusive and global platform for digital cooperation set out in this Compact. To this end, we request the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session for the establishment of an office within the Secretariat to facilitate system-wide coordination and cooperation, building on and incorporating the activities and resources of the existing Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, including detailed information on operational functions, structure, resources and staffing.

71. To track and monitor progress we request the Secretary-General to provide a Compact implementation map, for the consideration of governments and other stakeholders that reflects the contributions of all relevant stakeholders in support of commitments and actions and identifies potential time-bound targets for their achievement.

72. We invite Member States and other participating stakeholders to report on the progress of their Compact implementation activities as part of their voluntary national reporting on achievement of the SDGs to the High Level Political Forum.

73. We consider that the Internet Governance Forum has a key role to play in amplifying the Compact's purpose and objectives to a global multistakeholder constituency through its national and regional networks. We encourage the Forum to support implementation of the Compact and invite it to establish an annual policy discussion track to facilitate the contribution of all stakeholders to the delivery of the Compact's commitments and actions.

74. The pace of technology requires regular review of our digital cooperation. We recognize the role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC in monitoring and reviewing progress of the Compact, particularly as it relates to closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of the SDGs. We recognize the role of the UN Human Rights Council in tracking progress to foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all.

75. We request the Secretary-General to draw on the work of all GDC stakeholders and relevant UN entities and organizations to prepare an annual report on progress, key trends and developments in the implementation of the Compact starting in 2026.

76. The cross-cutting nature of digital technologies and the multiplicity of actors involved in digital cooperation requires synergies and aligned follow up. We commit to review the Compact to assess progress against its objectives and to identify emerging opportunities and challenges for global digital cooperation. We decide to convene a high-level meeting, entitled "High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact", to take place during the 81st session of the General Assembly with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the CSTD, IGF, and WSIS Action Line Facilitators. We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, at the 80th session to determine the modalities for this high-level meeting.

## Rev.2

### Follow up and review

63. We will implement the Global Digital Compact, within our own countries and at regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, ~~(deleted: policies and priorities)~~ capacities, and levels of development, and respecting applicable legal frameworks.

64. These ~~(deleted: government-led)~~ efforts can only succeed with the active engagement of the private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society, whose innovations and contributions to digitalization are fundamental and irreplaceable. We will strengthen our collaboration and leverage ~~(deleted: accelerate existing)~~ multistakeholder ~~(deleted: approaches and)~~ cooperation to achieve the objectives set out in this Compact.

65. We invite international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia, technical community and civil society groups to endorse the Compact and take active part in its implementation and follow-up. We request the Secretary-General to put in place modalities for the voluntary endorsement of this Compact, and to make this information public and accessible from December 2024.

66. We recognize the importance of financing to unlock the full potential of this Compact. Successful implementation will require public, private and multilateral resources, including the pooling of investments in joint and blended facilities for impact at scale, including through UN mechanisms such as the Digital Window of the Joint SDG Fund and facilities in multilateral development banks. We call on governments to make support to digital transformation integral to development assistance, including through increased allocations to digital and data initiatives. We invite private sector and philanthropic actors to consider financial pledges in support of this Compact.

67. We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions. We recognize the contribution of all UN entities, agencies, funds and programmes in advancing digital cooperation, including but not limited to ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO, and request them to support implementation, particularly in relation to actions to close the digital divides and to accelerate progress across all the SDGs, leveraging multistakeholder platforms, such as the IGF and the WSIS Forum. We recognize the role of the UN Regional Economic Commissions and UN country teams in supporting regional and national stakeholders to advance digital transformation.

68. We also recognize the role of OHCHR in supporting all stakeholders to implement Compact commitments related to the respect for, protection and promotion of human rights.

69. We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS and request it to consider how it can strengthen its working methods to contribute further to the implementation of the Compact ~~(deleted: especially in advancing actions to expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy.)~~

70. (= para 73 of Rev.1) The Internet Governance Forum and its national and regional networks have a key role to play in implementation and follow up of the Compact ~~(deleted: in amplifying the Compact's purpose and objectives to a global multistakeholder constituency)~~. We invite the Forum to establish an annual policy discussion track to facilitate the contribution of all stakeholders to the delivery of the Compact's commitments and actions

71. We look forward to the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 to identify how WSIS processes can be leveraged to support implementation of the Compact. ~~(deleted: We invite the WSIS+20 Review to consider how youth perspectives can be incorporated in this effort.)~~

72. We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital and emerging technologies. Its further strengthening is required to enable the UN to realize the inclusive platform for digital cooperation set out in this Compact. To this end, we commit to establishing an office to facilitate system-wide coordination ~~(deleted: and cooperation)~~, serve as focal point for states and stakeholders on digital and emerging technologies and facilitate coherent follow-up to this Compact, working closely with existing mechanisms. We therefore request the Secretary-General to consult widely and submit a proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session for the establishment of a lean office, building on and incorporating the activities and resources of the existing Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. This proposal should include detailed information on operational functions, structure, location, resources and staffing.

73. To track and monitor progress we request the Secretary-General to provide a Compact implementation map for the consideration of governments and other stakeholders that reflects the contributions of the UN system and other relevant stakeholders in support of commitments and actions and identifies potential time-bound targets for their achievement.

74. ~~(Deleted: The pace of technology requires regular review of our digital cooperation.)~~ We recognize the role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC in ~~(deleted: monitoring and)~~ reviewing progress of the Compact, particularly as it relates to closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We recognize the role of the UN Human Rights Council in tracking progress to foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all.

75. The cross-cutting nature of digital technologies and the multiplicity of actors involved in digital cooperation requires synergies and aligned follow up. We commit to review the Compact to assess progress against its objectives and to identify emerging opportunities and challenges for global digital cooperation. We decide to convene a high-level meeting, entitled "High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact", to take place during the 82nd session of the General Assembly with the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the CSTD, IGF, and WSIS Action Line Facilitators. We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, at the 80th session to consult with Member States to determine the modalities for and periodicity of this high-level meeting.

76. In preparation of the High-Level Review, we request the Secretary-General to prepare ~~(deleted: an annual)~~ a report on progress, key trends and developments in the implementation of the Compact starting in 2026, including by inviting States to submit their contributions to the implementation of the Compact on a voluntary basis, and drawing on the work of relevant UN entities, organizations and other stakeholders.

**MC comments:**

- i. Valuable recognition now in Rev.2 of leveraging the role of the IGF and the national and regional IGFs generally in the implementation and follow up phase and related processes. The relatively minor role of only "amplifying" the purpose of the GDC described in Rev.1 has been deleted. The NRIs need now to define, plan, resource and describe their participating action plan following the Summit in***

- September, bearing in mind also the expected role of the WSIS Forum in relation to the Compact follow up.*
- ii. The complexity of the UN architecture for coordinating inputs, monitoring progress and reviews is further refined in this text, with a) strengthening the role of the CSTD and b) the proposed “office to facilitate system-wide coordination” that will be a “focal point for stakeholders”. This is a reminder to external non-government stakeholders that they will need to familiarise themselves with the numerous UN entities and agencies that will be involved in the follow up actions and review processes, and that they will need to prepare resources for engagement in these various channels accordingly.*
  - iii. The modalities for ensuring youth perspectives will be included in the follow up phase are not explained in this text and furthermore the invitation in Rev.1 for the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 to consider youth engagement has been deleted. This is inconsistent with the aims of the Youth and the Future Generation part of the Pact of the Summit of the Future that aims to promote the participation of young people in UN processes.*
  - iv. The proposed UN High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact is planned for the 82<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in September 2027 “with the meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders.”*

Mark Carvell

EuroDIG Member

29 June 2024

*Links:*

Global Digital Compact (GDC) home page: <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact>

GDC “zero draft” (dated 1 April 2024):

[https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Global\\_Digital\\_Compact\\_Zero\\_Draft.pdf](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Global_Digital_Compact_Zero_Draft.pdf)

GDC Rev.1 (dated 15 May 2024):

[https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Global\\_Digital\\_Compact\\_Rev\\_1.pdf](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Global_Digital_Compact_Rev_1.pdf)

GDC Rev.2 (dated 26 June 2024):

[https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GlobalDigitalCompact\\_rev2.pdf](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GlobalDigitalCompact_rev2.pdf)

Summit of the Future: <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future>

Pact for the Future:

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-co-facilitators-zero-draft\\_pact-for-the-future.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-co-facilitators-zero-draft_pact-for-the-future.pdf)