Global digital governance

An introduction

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A brief journey through time
The evolution of the global digital governance architecture

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The 1998 deals

- ICANN is established.
- Cybersecurity / information security makes it to the agenda of UNGA.
- WTO adopts Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions.
- ITU PP in Minneapolis decides to initiate WSIS.

- Also: Google is born.

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World Summit on the Information Society

- **Geneva 2003 & Tunis 2005**

  - Geneva Declaration of Principles: Key principles for an information society for all.
  - Geneva Plan of Action: Translating the principles into action lines.
  - Tunis Commitment: Reaffirming previous principles and commitments.
  - Tunis Agenda for the Information Society: Financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development; **internet governance & IGF**; implementation and follow-up.
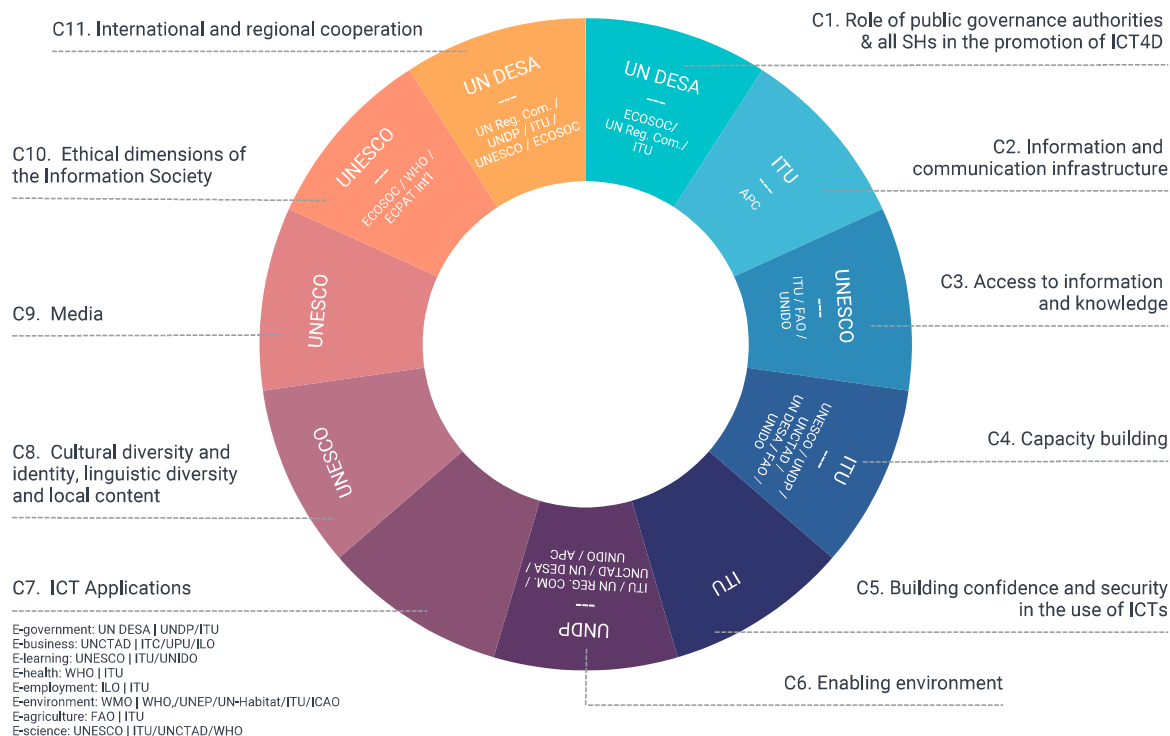
Implementation
- UN agencies as action line facilitators
- UNGIS to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Review
- WSIS+10, 2015
- WSIS+20, 2025

WSIS Action lines (co)facilitators

C11. International and regional cooperation

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

C9. Media

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

C7. ICT Applications
E-government: UN DESA | UNDP/ITU
E-business: UNCTAD | ITC/UPU/ILO
E-learning: UNESCO | ITU/UNIDO
E-health: WHO | ITU
E-employment: ILO | ITU
E-environment: WMO | WHO,/UNEP/UN-Habitat/ITU/ICAO
E-agriculture: FAO | ITU
E-science: UNESCO | ITU/UNCTAD/WHO

C1. Role of public governance authorities & all SHs in the promotion of ICT4D

C2. Information and communication infrastructure

C3. Access to information and knowledge

C4. Capacity building

C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

C6. Enabling environment

Wheel segment labels (clockwise):
- UN DESA — ECOSOC/ UN Reg. Com./ ITU
- ITU — APC
- UNESCO — ITU / FAO / UNIDO
- ITU — UNESCO / UNCTAD / UNDP / FAO / UNIDO
- ITU — ITU / UN REG. COM., / UNCTAD / UN DESA / UNIDO / APC
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- UNESCO
- UNESCO — ECOSOC / WHO / ECPAT Int'l
- UN DESA — UN Reg. Com. / UNDP / ITU / UNESCO / ECOSOC
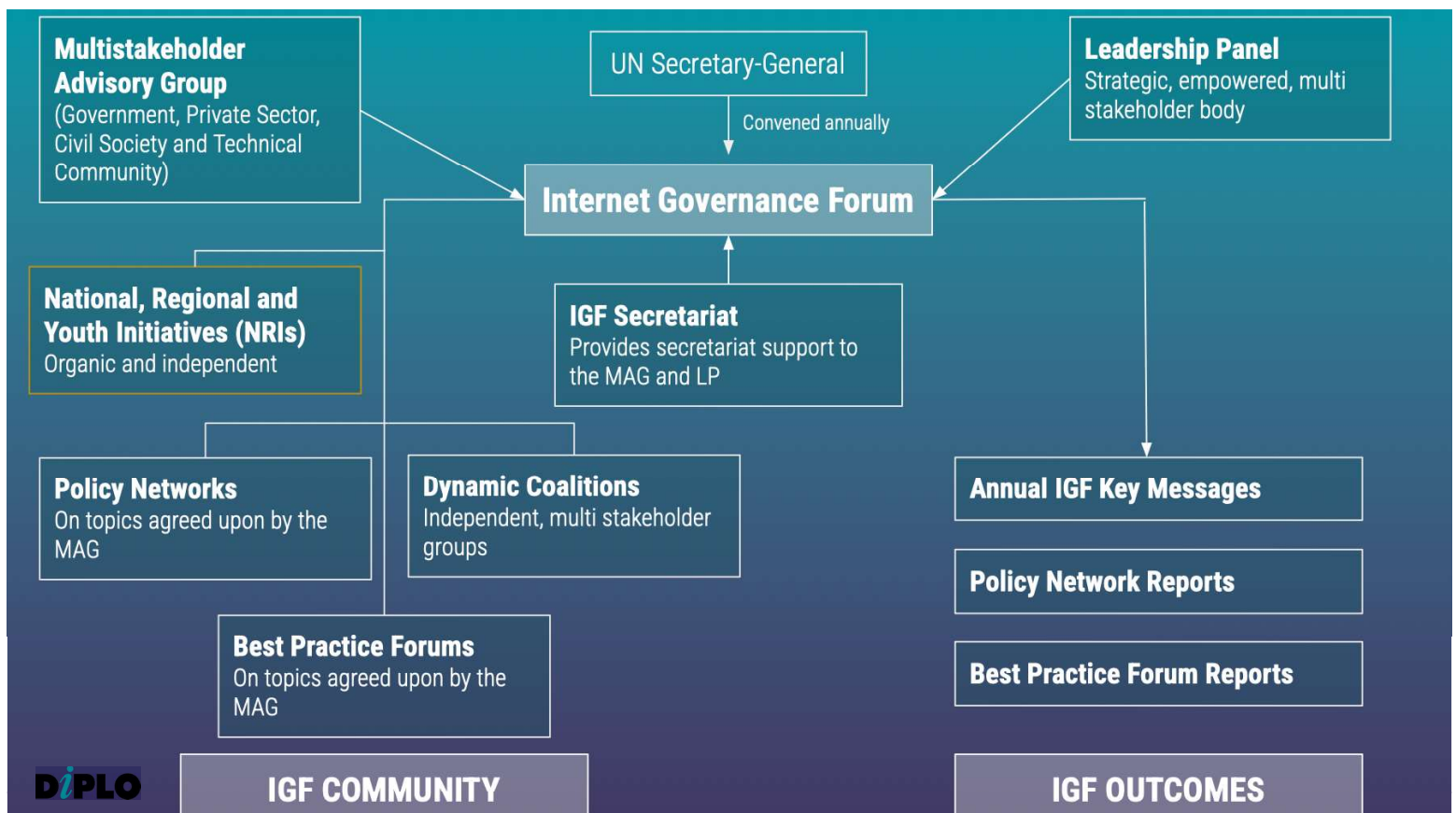
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Internet Governance Forum

- WSIS prep. phases: Controversy over internet governance.

- WGIG: defines internet governance (IG) and recommends the creation of IGF.

  - IG: the development and application by <u>governments, the private sector and civil society</u>, in their <u>respective roles</u>, of shared <u>principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes</u> that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

- 5-year mandate for IGF. UN SG to 'examine the desirability of the continuation of the forum and make recommendations to UN membership' (Tunis Agenda).

- Mandate renewed in 2010 (5 years) and 2015 (10 years).

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IGF mandate

- <u>Discuss public policy issues</u> related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.
- Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body.
- Interface with appropriate intergovernmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview.
- <u>Facilitate the exchange of information and</u> best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities.
- Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world.
- Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries.
- Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, <u>where appropriate, make recommendations.</u>
- Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.
- Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes.
- Discuss, *inter alia*, issues relating to critical Internet resources.
- Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users.
- Publish its proceedings.

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WSIS ACTION LINES

AL(co)facilitators

C11. International and regional cooperation

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

C9. Media

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

C7. ICT Applications
E-government: UN DESA | UNDP/ITU
E-business: UNCTAD | ITC/UPU/ILO
E-learning: UNESCO | ITU/UNIDO
E-health: WHO | ITU
E-employment: ILO | ITU
E-environment: WMO | WHO/UNEP/UN-Habitat/ITU/ICAO
E-agriculture: FAO | ITU
E-science: UNESCO | ITU/UNCTAD/WHO

C1. Role of public governance authorities & all SHs in the promotion of ICT4D

C2. Information and communication infrastructure

C3. Access to information and knowledge

C4. Capacity building

C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

C6. Enabling environment

WSIS Forum (since 2009)
- Co-organised by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD.
- 'Global MSH platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS AL for advancing sustainable development'.
- Incorporates WSIS AL facilitators meetings (required by Tunis Agenda).
- Recognised in WSIS+10 Outcomes Document (call for it to continue to be held annually).

UNGIS (co-chairs: ITU & UNDP)
- Tunis Agenda: UN SG to establish an UNGIS 'consisting of the relevant UN bodies and organizations, with the mandate to facilitate the implementation of WSIS outcomes'.
- 'Serves as an inter-agency mechanism to coordinate substantive policy issues facing the UN system's implementation' of WSIS outcomes.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance Forum (since 2006)
- Convened annually by UN SG.
  - Also includes intersessional activities.
- Mandate in Tunis Agenda:
  - Often referred to: discuss public policy issues related to key elements of IG.
  - Often ignored: Identify emerging issues [...[and, where appropriate, make recommendations.
- Mandate renewed in 2010 (5 years) and 2015 (10 years).

Inspires and supports national and regional IGFs.

ENHANCED COOPERATION

- Tunis Agenda: introduced the concept of 'enhanced cooperation', aimed to enable governments to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and called for the launch of a 'process towards enhanced cooperation'.

- WGEC (under CSTD): Meetings between 2016 and 2018; no agreement.

ROLE OF ECOSOC AND CSTD

- **ECOSOC:** Oversees the system-wide follow-up of WSIS outcomes. (*Tunis Agenda*)

- **CSTD:** Reviews and assesses progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes & advises ECOSOC of these matters. (*ECOSOC Res.2006/46*)

- **Both:** Annual resolutions on WSIS implementation.

- **UNCTAD Secretariat:** Annual eports on WSIS outcomes implementation.

OVERALL REVIEW

WSIS+10 2015
- Requested by Tunis Agenda
- Dec.2015, New York: *WSIS+10 Outcome Document* (endorsed through UNGA Res.70/125)

WSIS+20 2025
- Requested by WSIS+10 Outcome Document
- UNGA HL meeting to be held in 2025
- Outcome to serve as input into 2030 Agenda review process.

Towards WSIS+20
- WSIS+10 Forum High-level Event | May 2024, GVA
- CTSD to hold substantive discussions and report, through ECOSOC, to GA (ECOSOC Res.2023/3)
  - Oct.2024 - Feb.2025: Drafting of report
  - April 2025: Draft report to be discussed at CSTD 28th session
  - May 2025: Finalisation of report and submission to ECOSOC
- ...

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Towards WSIS+10

- 2006:
  - First IGF meeting.
  - First 'series of events related to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines" -> becomes WSIS Forum in 2009.

- 2010: First renewal of IGF mandate (UNGA resolution on ICT for development).
  - UNGA also decides to couple IGF review/renewal with WSIS+10 review.

- 2012: CSTD WS on Improvements to the IGF presents its report.

- 2015: WSIS+10 review process: HL plenary meeting of the UNGA (Dec. 2015, New York) adopts outcome document, later endorsed by the GA.
  - Focus areas: ICT for development; bridging the digital divide; enabling environment; financial mechanisms; human rights; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs; IG (renewed, 10-year mandate for IGF); enhanced cooperation.
  - GA to hold a HL meeting on 'the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS in 2025'. No specific provision that a decision on IGF mandate should be made at this meeting.

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Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015

THE 17 GOALS

169	3863	1347	7796
Targets	Events	Publications	Actions

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	

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WSIS ACTION LINES AND SDGs MATRIX

	WSIS Action Lines	SDGs
ACTION LINE C1	The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	Goal 1, 3.8, 3.d, Goal 5, 10.c, 16.5, 16.6, 16.10, 17.18
ACTION LINE C2	Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society	1.4, 8.2, 9.1, 9.a, 9.c, 11.5, 11.b
ACTION LINE C3	Access to information knowledge	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 8, Goal 9, Goal 10, Goal 11, Goal 12, Goal 13, Goal 14, Goal 15, Goal 16, Goal 17
ACTION LINE C4	Capacity building	1.b, 2.3, 3.7, 3.b, 3.d, 4.4, 4.7, 5.5, 5.b, 6.a, 12.7, 12.8, 12.a, 12.b, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b, 14.a, 16.a, 17.9, 17.18
ACTION LINE C5	Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	1.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.b, 7.1, 7.a, 7.b, 8.1, 9.1, 9.c, 11.3, 11.b, 16.2, 17.8
ACTION LINE C6	Enabling environment	2.a, 4.4, 5.b, 8.2, 8.3, 9.1, 9.c, 10.3, 11.3, 11.b, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 16.b, 17.6, 17.14, 17.16
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-government	9.c, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10, 17.8
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-employment	4.5, 8.5, 10.2, 12.6, 17.9
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-environment	9.4, 11.6, 11.b, 13.1, 13.3, 13.b, Goal 14, Goal 15
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-agriculture	1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 3.d, Goal 4, 5.5, 8.2, 9.1, 9.c, 12. 8, 13.1, 13.3, 17.16, 17.17
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-science	1.5, 4.7, 6.1, 6.a, 7.a, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 14.a, 15.9, 17.6, 17.7
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-business	1.4, 2.3, 5.b, 8.3, 8.9, 8.10, 9.3, 17.11
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-learning	Goal 4
ACTION LINE C7	ICT Applications: e-health	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, Goal 3, 3.3, 3.8, 5.6, 5.b, 17.6, 17.19
ACTION LINE C8	Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	2.5, 4.7, 6.b, 8.3, 8.9, 11.4, 12.b
ACTION LINE C9	Media	5.b, 9.c, 12.8, 16.10
ACTION LINE C10	Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	1.5, 2.3, 3.8, 4.7, 5.1, 8.6, 9.1, 10.2, 10.3, 11.3, 12.8, 13.3, 16.7, 16.10, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.18, 17.19
ACTION LINE C11	International and regional cooperation	17.9, 17.16, 17.17

DiPLO Geneva Internet Platform

New kid on the block: Digital cooperation

- 2018: UN SG creates High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

- 2019: Panel publishes *Age of digital interdependence* report.
  - IGF: Proposal for IGF Plus.
  - Tech Envoy: "provide light-touch coordination of MSH actors"; "coordinating the digital technology related efforts of UN entities".

- 2020: UN SG issues *Roadmap for digital cooperation.*
  - Call for strengthening the IGF.

- 2021: Establishment of Office of SG's Envoy on Technology (OSET).

- 2021: UN SG issues *Our Common Agenda* report.
  - Call for a **Global Digital Compact** to 'outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all'.
  - Potential focus areas: connecting the unconnected; internet fragmentation; data governance; human rights online; accountability for discrimination and misleading content; AI regulation.

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Meanwhile at UNGA ...

- **Resolutions on ICT for sustainable development**
  - Res.78/123 (2023) includes references to digital divides, capacity development, data, digital economy issues, transfer of technology, tech for development, digital public goods, WSIS, IG, enhanced cooperation, IGF, ...

- **Resolutions on science, technology and innovation for development**
  - Res.78/160 (2023) includes references to innovation, financial inclusion, digital inclusion, access, capacity development, transfer of technology, ...

- **2023 SDG Summit**: Coverage of digital tech and STID

- ...

Elsewhere
- Digital on the agenda of multiple IGOs.

Coming up: Summit of the Future

Scope of the Summit
- Sustainable development and financing for development;
- International peace and security;
- **Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**;
- Youth and future generations;
- Transforming global governance.

Expected outcomes
- Pact for the Future | **Global Digital Compact** | Declaration on Future Generations

Lead-up
- UN SG policy briefs
- Preparatory ministerial meeting | September 2024

Coming up
- Preps/negotiations over three key documents
- Summit of the Future, 22–23 September 2024

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DiPLO Geneva Internet Platform

WHAT CHANGED?

WSIS principles & AL	Roadmap for DC	GDC (Rev.1)
Role of govs and all SHs in promoting ICT4D	Global connectivity	Close all digital divide and accelerate progress across the SDGs
ICT infrastructure: foundation for inclusive IS	Digital public goods	Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
Access to information and knowledge	Digital inclusion	
Capacity building	Digital capacity building	Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights
Confidence & security in the use of ICTs	Digital human rights	
Enabling environment	AI	Advance responsible and equitable international data governance
ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life	Digital trust and security	
Cultural and linguistic diversity, local content	Global digital cooperation	Strengthen international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, for the benefit of humanity
Media (freedom of press, pluralism…)		
Ethical dimensions of IS		
International and regional cooperation		

GDC REV.1: SOME HIGHLIGHTS
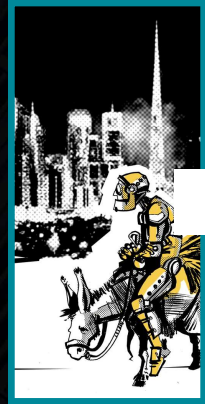
GDC focus areas: Evolution

| OCA	SG Policy Brief	Deep dives	Issues Paper	Elements...	GDC Zero Draft	GDC Rev.1
Connect all people to the internet	Digital connectivity and capacity building	Digital inclusion and connectivity	Close the digital divide | Universal, affordable, accessible connectivity | Digital literacy and skills | Digital gender divide	Closing the digital divide and accelerating progress across the SDGs	Closing the digital divide and accelerating progress across the SDGs	Close all digital divide and accelerate progress across the SDGs
	Digital cooperation to accelerate SDGs	Accelerating progress on SDGs	Harness digital tech to accelerate SDG progress | Sustainability		Expanding inclusion in the digital economy	Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all
Avoid Internet fragmentation	Inclusive, open, secure and shared internet	Internet governance	Open, free, globally accessible internet | Inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future for all | Strengthen digital cooperation	Foster an inclusive, open, safe, secure digital space	Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space	Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights
Protect data	Data protection and empowerment	Data protection	Data protection and governance	Advancing data governance	Advancing equitable international data governance	Advance responsible and equitable international data governance
Apply human rights online	Upholding human rights	Human rights online		[Cross-cutting]	[Cross-cutting]	[Under *Foster....*]
Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content	Digital trust and security	Digital trust and security	Digital trust and security	[Advancing digital trust and safety under Fostering an inclusive....]	[Digital trust and safety under *Fostering....*]	[Digital trust and safety under *Foster....*]
Promote regulation of AI	Agile governance of AI and other em. tech	AI and other emerging tech	AI	Governing ET, including AI, for humanity	Governing ET, including AI, for humanity	Strengthen international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, for the benefit of humanity
Digital commons as a global public good	Global digital commons	Global digital commons			[DPG and DPI under *Closing all...*]	[DPG and DPI under *Closing all...*]

Principles

Inclusive

Development- ~~focused~~ -oriented

Human rights-based

Gender ~~equal~~ equality and empowerment

Environmentally sustainable

Equitable

Accessible ~~and interoperable~~

Interoperable

Responsible ~~and accountable~~

Innovation-friendly

Multi-stakeholder

Forward-looking
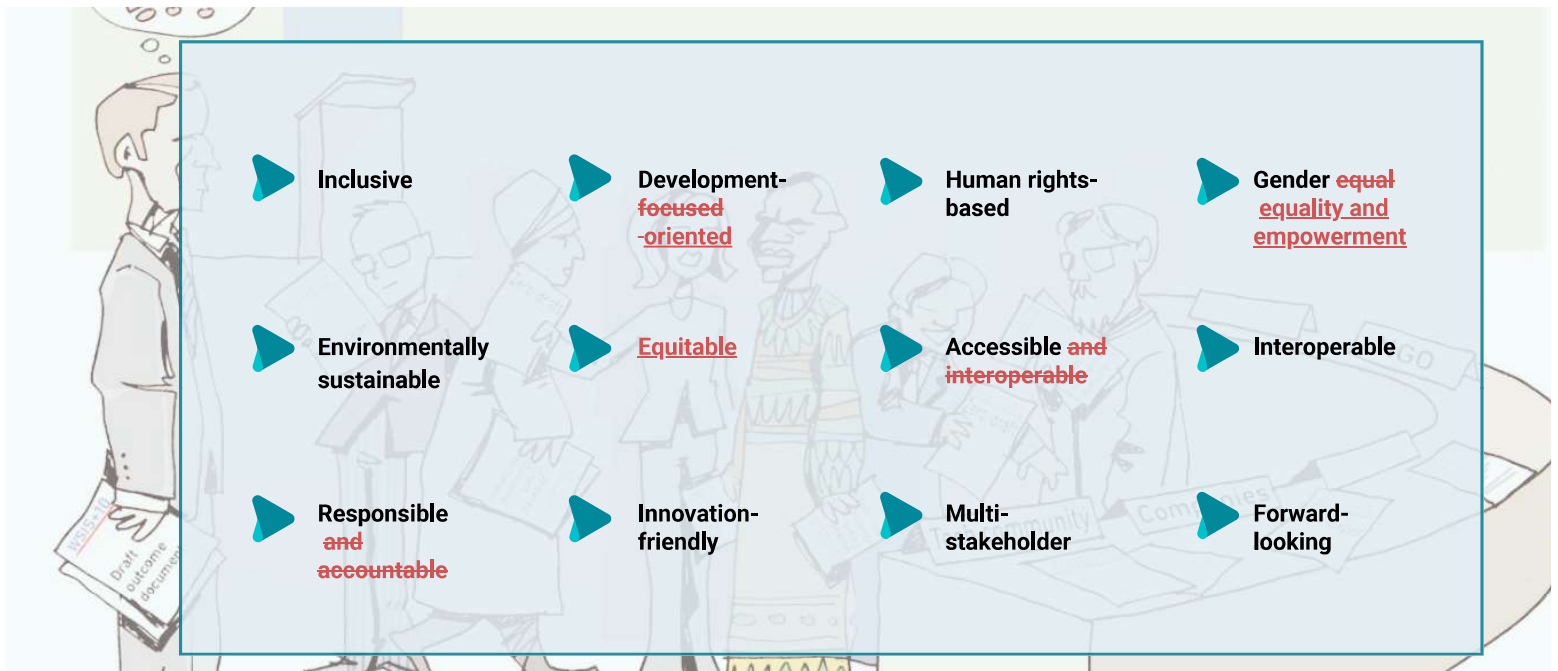
COMMITMENTS

1 Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

| Connectivity | Digital literacy, skills, capacities | DPG & DPI |

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 promotes human rights

| HR | IG | Digital trust & safety | Inf. integrity |

4 Advance responsible and equitable international data governance

| Data privacy & sec. | Data exchanges & standards | D4D | Cross-border data flows |

5 Enhance international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, for the benefit of humanity

COMMITMENTS

1 Close all ~~the~~ digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

| Connectivity | Digital literacy, skills, capacities | DPG & DPI |

2 Expand ~~opportunities for~~ inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all

~~Access to digital tech~~

3 Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights

| HR | IG | Digital trust & safety | Inf. integrity |

4 Advance responsible and equitable international data governance

| Data privacy & sec. | Data exchanges & standards | D4D | Cross-border data flows |

5 Enhance international governance of ~~Govern~~ emerging technologies, including AI, for the benefit of humanity

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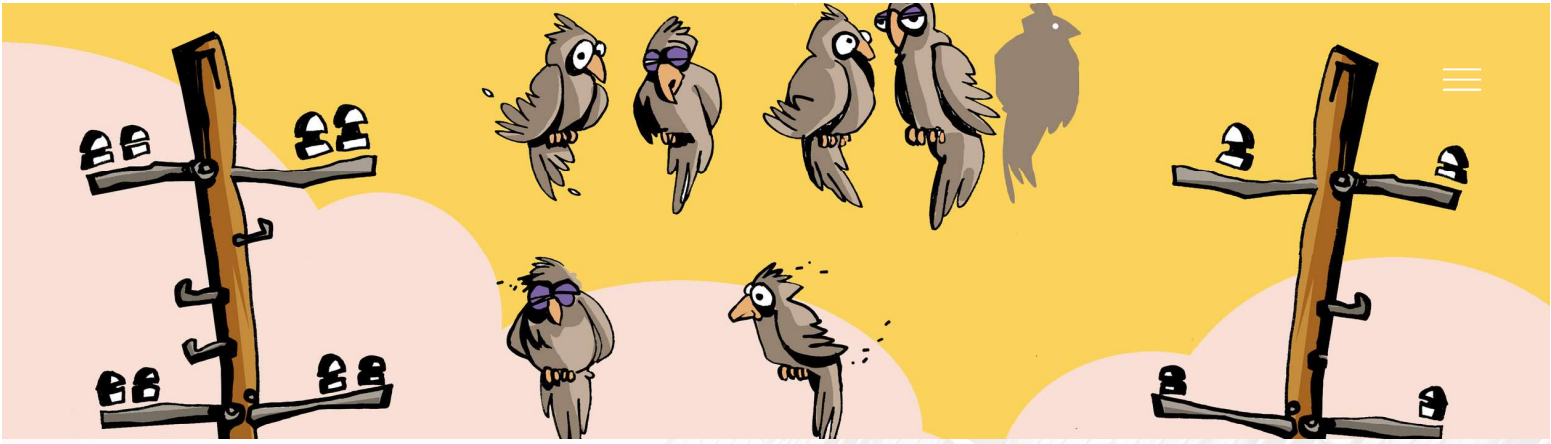
01. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across SDGs

Clusters

- Connectivity
- Digital literacy, skills and capacities
- Digital public goods and infrastructure

Summary of commitments (11)

- Agree on common targets, indicators, metrics for universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity, building on ITU work.
- Develop innovative and blended financing mechanisms and incentives to connect the unconnected and improve the quality and affordability of connectivity.
- Invest in and deploy resilient and trustworthy digital infra.
- Connect all schools.
- Develop, agree, and reflect principles for environmental sustainability across the life cycle of digital technologies.
- Ensure that digital infrastructure and equipment are designed with sustainability in mind.
- Include marginalized communities and persons in vulnerable situations and their respective needs in the development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies.
- Mainstream gender perspectives in digital connectivity strategies to address structural and systematic barriers to meaningful and affordable digital connectivity for all women and girls

Key changes

- Recognition that innovative solutions can help deliver high-speed connectivity to remote and rural areas. (10)
- Reference that the targets on connectivity will be based on ITU work. (11a)
- Clarification and expansion of environmental-related provisions (e.g. from ICT equipment to digital tech/equipment). (11e, f)

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about access? What about connectivity?
  - E.g. affordability of connectivity vs affordability of access.
- Submarine cables – missed opportunity?
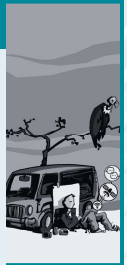
Summary of commitments (13)

- Establish and support digital skills strategies, adapt education curricula, provide adult training.
- Increase availability of digital tech platforms, services software and educational curricula in dif. languages & formats.
- Target/tailor CB for women & girls, children & youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, pelonging to marginalized communities and persons in vulnerable situations; take their views into account in policy design.
- Undertake digital inclusion surveys to identify learning gaps and inform priorities.
- Prioritise the development of digital competencies of public officials and institutions to put in place policies for trusted, secure, user-centred digital public services, including cybersecurity skills.
- Develop vocational training for workers in occupations impacted by digitalization and automation and mitigate potential negative consequences for workforces and promote decent work.
- Develop common digital competencies frameworks and standards to facilitate pooling of training resources and mobilisation of funds in support of CB and continuous adaptation of CB programmes to address rapid technological change and the prevention of brain drain.

Key changes

- Recognition that digital skills are critical for the development of local content and content relevant to local realities online. (12)
- Commitment to mitigate potential negative consequences fro digitalisation/automation for workforces and promote decent work.(13f)
- Reflection of the need for CB programmes to respond to tech change. (13g)

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about digital skills / CB?

- Is CB for the public sector only about them being able to put in place sound policies for digital public services?

Summary of commitments (17)

- Develop, disseminate, maintain - though MSH coop. - safe and secure open-source software, platforms, and standards.
- Promote the adoption of open standards and interoperability to facilitate the use of DPG.
- ~~Recognise the DPG standard as enabler or investment and cooperation~~.
- Develop safeguards for safe, inclusive, secure, responsible DPI to be adopted and tailored to local needs.
- Share best practices of DPI.
- Increase ~~/ reallocate~~ investment and funding towards the development of DPG and DPI, especially in developing countries.
- Encourage MSH partnerships to design, launch, support initiatives leveraging DPG and DPI ~~tech~~ for SDGs.

Key changes

- Clarification of what DPGs include. (14)

- Commitment to increase investment in both DPG and DPI. (17e)

- Removed commitment to recognise DPG standard.

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about (shared) digital systems?

- What do we talk about when we talk about DPI?

O2. Expanding inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all

Summary of commitments (21)

- Foster an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory digital environment for all.
- Support the development of enabling environments for digital transformation.
- Conduct national digital readiness assessments.
- Call on regional and multilateral organizations and governments to provide technical assistance to developing countries, in line with national digital transformation needs and priorities
- Promoting knowledge sharing and tech transfers on mutually agreed terms.
- Encourage North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate knowledge dev. and expand access to research capacity.
- Pool knowledge/practices on digital entrepreneurship.
- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Promote cybersecurity-related capacity building and skilling **in national DT strategies**.

Key changes

- Consistent language on **tech transfers 'on mutually agreed terms'**. (21e)
- New commitment to fostering open, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory digital environment. (21a)
- Clarify commitment about cybersecurity capacities (from *mainstream cybersecurity infrastructure and skilling* to *promote cybersecurity-related CB and skilling*). (21i)

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about inclusion (in the digital economy) and access (to digital tech)?
- What is truly actionable and what not in the commitments? E.g. support/call for/promote/encourage/foster; pool; mainstream.
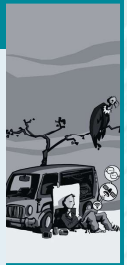
O3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, promotes and protects HR

Clusters

- Human rights
- Internet governance
- Digital trust and safety
- Information integrity

Summary

Commitments (23):
- Ensure compliance of national law with IL, including IHRL.
- Establish safeguards to prevent/address adverse HR impact from tech use and protect individuals against violations and abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through conducting human rights due diligence.
- Strengthen framework to protect children and their rights.

Support: SG's call for a UN Digital Human Rights Advisory Service within OHCHR. (24)

Calls (25):
- Digital tech companies and developers to apply HR laws and principles.
- Digital tech companies, developers and SM platforms to comply with and respect HR; be accountable for and take measures to prevent abuses; provide access to remedy.

Key changes

- Reference to HR due dilligence in commitment about safeguards to address adverse HR impacts.
- Reference to UN Digital HR Advisory Service changed from *we request* to *we support*. Clarification included that the service would be within OHCHR and funded through voluntary resources.
- Calls on tech companies et al somewhat more general (e.g. from *incorporate HRL in the dev/dep/use of tech* to *respect and apply HRL*).

Reflections

- What does *support the SG call* mean? Has someone shown willingness already to contribute those voluntary funds?
- What does it mean that tech companies, developers, SM platforms are accountable for abuses? Whose abuses, especially for SM?
- When MS say *we will apply ilHRL throughout the lifecycle* of tech, what does it mean?
- What do the calls for the PS mean?

Summary of commitments (28)

- Promote an open, global, interoperable and reliable Internet (was *universal, free, secure Internet*)
- Take steps to maintain a safe, secure, enabling online environment.
- Uphold and support the IGF, including through the provision of financial support. (removed language: *as a durable bottom-up MSH platform for discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet*)
- Continue efforts to increase diverse participation in IGF, especially by govs and the PS, particularly from developing countries.
- Promote international cooperation among all SHs to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet in a timely manner.
- Refrain from Internet shutdowns; ensure restrictions comply compliance with IL.

Key changes

- New recognition of the need to *address the governance of the Internet in a global manner, with the participation of all states and other SH*. (27)
- Changes in language about the IGF: s*ummary +*
  - Use of Tunis language for chapeau para about IGF. Change from recognising the role of IGF *in maintaining a universal, free and secure Internet at the governance, content and technical layers* to recognising the role of IGF as *the central forum for MSH discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet.* (27)
- Commitment about fragmentation (28c).

Reflections

- Reasoning for changes re IGF: 'We do not seek to prejudice the forthcoming WSIS+20review that will consider, inter alia, the mandate of the IGF. We have therefore kept this section quite concise combining proposed actions around the IGF'.
- What do we talk about when we talk about internet fragmentation?

Summary

Commitments (30):
- Define/adopt common standards, guidelines, industry actions to promote safe civic spaces and address harmful content;
- Prioritise the development/implementation of national online child safety policies/standards;
- Institutionalise collaboration between national online safety institutions;
- Ensure laws/regulations on tech use in areas such as surveillance and encryption comply with IL.
- Develop, through MSH consultations, methodologies to measure, track, counter sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;
- Monitor/ review digital platform policies/practices on countering CSAM.

Calls (31):
- Tech companies and developers to incorporate the perspectives/needs of users of all ages and backgrounds in the lifecycle of tech;
- Tech companies and developers to increase transparency around their systems and processes and co-develop industry accountability frameworks;
- SM platforms to provide online safety-related training materials and safeguards to their users, and in particular children/youth;
- SM platforms to establish safe and secure reporting mechanisms for users to report potential policy violations.

Key changes

- Change of terminology from *counter online violence against women and girls* to *counter sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology.* (30e).
- New call on tech companies and developers to increase transparency in systems/processes. (31b)

Reflections

- How actionable and concrete are the commitments? Is there anything there that was not said before?
- What is expected from the calls on the PS? Are they bringing / supposed to bring something new?

Summary of commitments (21)

Commitments to (34):
- Roll out training curricula for users to have the skills and knowledge to safely/critically interact with content and information providers and to enhance resilience against the harmful impacts of mis- and disinformation;
- Promote diverse and resilient information ecosystems;
- Provide, promote, facilitate access to and dissemination of independent, fact-based, timely, targeted, clear, accessible, multilingual and science-based information to counter mis- and disinformation;
- Promote access to reliable and accurate information in crisis situations (was *conflict and crisis*).

Calls (35):
- SM platforms to enhance the transparency and accountability of their systems [...] to empower users to make informed choices and provide informed consent ;
- SM platforms to provide researcher access to data to build an evidence base on how to address mis and disinformation;
- Tech companies and communities to develop solutions to mitigate risks arising from AI-generated deceptive information and censorship.

Key changes

- Under Chapeau, new element noting that MS *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.* (33)
- New commitment about facilitating access to accurate info to counter mis-/disinformation. (34c)
-

Reflections

- Are the commitment and calls strong enough to drive change? Anything missing?
- Reference to UN Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms the SG is supposed to develop (Policy Brief 8)?
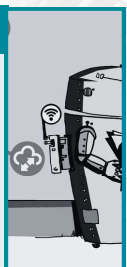
O4. Advancing responsible and equitable international data governance

Clusters

- Data privacy and security
- Data exchanges and standards
- Data for development
- Cross-border data flows

Summary of commitments (38)

- Draw on existing international/regional privacy guidelines when developing data governance frameworks;
- Strengthen support to all MS to develop effective national data governance frameworks;
- 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;
- Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage, processing practices are transparent, secure, in line with IL;
- Develop skilled workforces capable of collecting, processing, analyzing, storing and transferring data safely and securely.

Key changes

- New recognition of *fragmented and uncoordinated evolution of data governance* and of *asymmetric concentration of data and capacities to use it.* (36)
- Change from *we commit to develop international data governance frameworks* to *we recognise the urgent need for strengthened international data governance* and call on the *UN to play a key role in promoting cooperation and harmonization of data governance initiatives.* (37)
- Removal of references to drawing on regional data protection frameworks. (38c)

Reflections

- Readiness for international data governance frameworks?
- Anything about the PS? Already tackled under Human rights?
-

Summary of commitments (41)

- Develop data and metadata standards designed to prevent and address bias, discrimination, human rights violations/abuses throughout the data life cycle;
- Establish basic definitions and data classifications to promote interoperability and facilitate data exchanges;
- Develop common definitions and standards on the (re)use of data for public good.

Key changes

- More clear language, from *representative and interoperable data exchanges and standards* to *shared data standards and interoperable data exchanges.* (40
- New commitment to establish definitions and data classifications to promote interoperability and facilitate data exchanges. (41b)
- **Deletion of invitation for UN Statistical Commission and CSTD** to convene an *intergovernmental multistakeholder* process to develop the definitions and standards on the use and reuse of data for public goods.

Reflections

- What are *basic* definitions and data classifications?
- What do we talk about when we talk about data divides? See also connection (?) with cluster on Data for development (e.g. gaps on data for development).

Summary of commitments (43)

Commitments (43):
- Increase financing for data and statistics; enhance efforts to build capacity in data and related skills and responsible data use, particularly in developing countries;
- Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate SDGs, while respecting privacy and data protection;
- Develop open and accessible data systems to support effective disaster early-warning and crisis response;
- Create international data collection systems and shared data sets (was *data commons)* to advance monitoring and actions against global pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change (was *environmental sustainability)* and other SDGs.

Request (44):
- Initiation of deliberations towards a framework for international data governance.

Key changes

- *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). (44)*

Summary of commitments (46)

- Advance multistakeholder consultations to better understand commonalities, complementarities, convergence and divergence on how to facilitate cross-border data flows (was *to identify and document solutions to DFFT challenges*);
- Promote and support interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks through the use and sharing of cross-border data where relevant (was *Promote and support the implementation of regional and global data policy frameworks [...]*).

Key changes

- Deletion of commitment to implement DFFT.
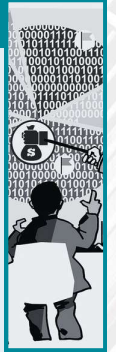
O5. Enhance international governance of emerging tech, including AI, for the benefit of humanity

Summary of commitments and calls

- Establish International Scientific Panel on AI and Emerging Tech.
- Initiate International Contact Group on AI Governance.
- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the development and application of AI standards.
- 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.
- Leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building.
- 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.
- Encourage public and private investment to support AI CB.
- SG to establish Global Fund for AI and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development.

Key changes

- Scientific Panel to also look at em.tech.
- Global AI dialogue becomes International Contact Group on AI Governance (convened still annually).
- Changed language about CB.

Reflections

- What exactly is the Panel expected to do? What happens with its outputs?
- What really changed?

AI & em.tech. governance

UN: vital role in supporting and facilitating international governance

UNGA 79: PGA appoints co-facs for prep. Panel ToR and modalities for CG

Intern. Scientific Panel on AI and em.tech.

- Conduct scientific risk & opportunity assessments;
- Issue reports.
- Contribute to the dev. of common assessment methodologies, definitions, taxonomies and mitigation measures.

International contact group on AI governance

(annually, in the margins of relevant major UN conferences and meetings)

- Build shared understandings on safe, secure and trustworthy governance and risk management, and safety frameworks for AI;
- Promote interoperability across governance approaches and good practices on AI safety that are human-centric, sustainable and comply with IHRL.

- Who: expert representatives of-government responsible for AI safety and governance. The work should be supported by MSH engagement.

Global Fund
AI&ET for SD

- Build and deliver AI skills-based training in collaboration with technology companies and technical and academic communities
- Support the development of compute capacity.
- Catalyse the development of representative and quality data sets;
- Promote AI-based solutions for SDGs.

USD 100 million at 2025 launch

To be established by SG.

AI & em.tech. governance

UN: vital role in supporting and facilitating international governance

Intern. Scientific Panel on AI and em.tech.

- Conduct scientific risk & opportunity assessments;
- Issue reports @ 6 months.
- Provide early warning as needed.
- Contribute to Support the dev. of common assessment methodologies, definitions, taxonomies and mitigation measures.
- Support inclusive academic partnerhips for research and knowledge management on AI

International contact group Dialogue on AI governance

(annually, in the margins of relevant major UN conferences and meetings)

- Build shared understandings & interoperability of governance, on safe, secure and trustworthy governance and risk management, and safety frameworks for AI;
- Promote interoperability across governance approaches and good practices on AI safety that are human-centric, sustainable and comply with IHRL.
- Promote standards on AI safety, trust, and compatibility with IHRL; Share best practices and foster collaborative partnerships.

Who: expert representatives of civil society; academia, the technical community, private sector, and government responsible for AI safety institutes or other equivalent offices and governance. The work should be supported by MSH engagement.

Global Fund
AI&ET for SD

- Build and deliver AI skills-based training in collaboration with technology companies and technical and academic communities
- Support the development of compute capacity that can apply AI models to localised data sets;
- Catalyse the development of representative and quality data sets;
- Promote and align AI-based solutions for SDGs.

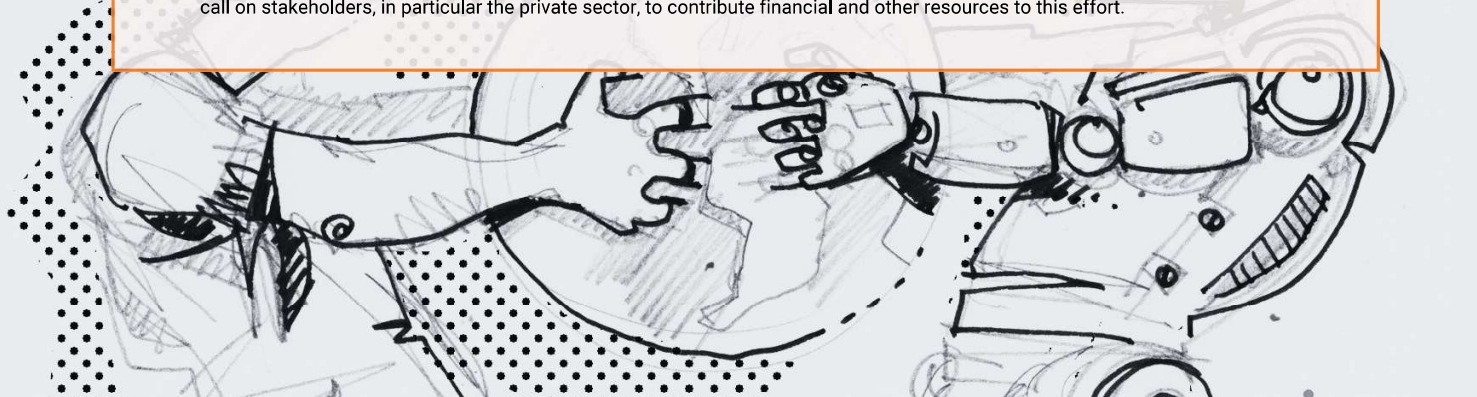USD 100 million at 2025 launch

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AI & em.tech. governance

Other commitments and calls

- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the harmonization of AI standards
- Will leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building [...] to bridge the AI divide and facilitate access to AI applications.
- 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.
- 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
- Encourage public and private investments 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.

DiPLO Geneva Internet Platform

Other commitments and calls

- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the harmonization ~~to promote the development and application~~ of AI standards
- Will leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building [...] to bridge the AI divide and facilitate access to AI applications. ~~Commit to increase AI capacity-building, leveraging existing efforts [...], to facilitate access to AI applications for the SDGs.~~
- 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.
- 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
- Encourage public and private investments ~~on AI for SD through pooled funding arrangements.~~ 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.
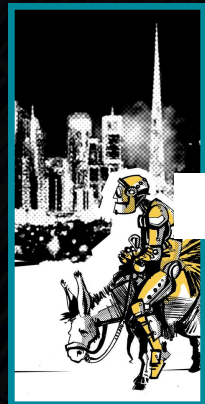
DIPLO/GIP

FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW

Specific to objectives and clusters

1 — Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

Connectivity | Digital literacy, skills, capacities | DPG & DPI

UN agencies

- **Request** UN agencies - **ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO,** ... - to support Compact implem., in particular re O1, and leveraging the MSH platform provided by WSIS Forum. (66)
- **Recognize** the role of the UN RECs and UN country teams in supporting regional and national SHs to advance digital transformation. (66)
- **Recognize** the role of **HLPF on SD and ECOSOC** in monitoring and reviewing progress of the Compact particularly in relation to closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of SDGs (O1). (74)

2 — Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all

- **Invite CSTD** to consider how it can contribute to GDC implementation, especially in advancing actions to expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy (O2). (68)

UN agencies

3 — Foster inclusive, open, safe, secure DS that respects, protects, promotes HR

HR | IG | Digital trust & safety | Information integrity

- **Recognise** the role of **UN HRC** in tracking progress to foster an inclusive, open, safe, secure DS for all (O3). (74)

UN agencies

4 — Adance responsible & equitable international data governance

Data privacy & security | Data exchanges & standards | D4D | Cross-border data flows

Request PGA to appoint co-facs to **initiate deliberations** during UNGA79 towards a **framework for international data governance.** (44)

Based on work of UN Statistical Com. & CTSD and in collab. with relevant SH

Goal: consensus by 2030 on several issues

Overarching

- **Recognize** the role of **OHCHR** in supporting all SHs to implement Compact commitments and actions in ways that protect and promote HR. (67)

UN agencies

Overall

UN SG

To track & monitor progress

GDC implementation map
(reflect contributions of relevant SH in support of comm/actions & identified potential time-bound targets) (71)

For consideration of govs & other SHs

starting 2026

Annual progress report (75)

from Dec. 2024

Modalities for voluntary Compact endorsement (64)

Office within UN Secretariat (70)
to facilitate system-wide coordination and cooperation *Incorporate OSET*

SG to submit proposal

UN GA

UNGA81

SH participation, including CTSD, IGF, WSIS AL facilitators

High-Level Review of the GDC

UNGA79

UNGA80

PGA appoints co-facs for intergov. consultations to determine modalities (76)

PGA appoints co-facs to consult on Panel ToR & modalities for Group

WSIS

- Will **build on WSIS processes** to advance GDC implementation. (66)
- **Request** UN agencies - ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ... - to support Compact implem., in particular re O1, and **leveraging the MSH platform provided by WSIS Forum.** (66)
- Looking fw to WSIS+20 **to identify how WSIS processes can support Compact implementation.** (69)

IGF

- IGF: key role to play in amplifying the Compact's purpose and objectives to a global MSH constituency through its national and regional networks.
- **Encourage** the IGF to support Compact implementation.
- **Invite** IGF it to establish an **annual policy discussion track** to facilitate the contribution of all SH to the delivery of the Compact's commitments and actions. (73)

Global Fund (61)

International Scientific Panel (53a)

Contact Group on AI Governance (53b)

5 — Enhance international governance of em. tech., including AI, for the benefit of humanity

DiPLO