Response to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) Revision 1

Global Partners Digital
May 2024

Introduction

We welcome the publication of Revision 1 of the Global Digital Compact, as a comprehensive and action-oriented document. We believe that this most recent iteration of the Compact is a positive development towards a more rights-respecting and inclusive outcome document.

Below we provide our observations on positive aspects of the Compact, as well as recommendations for those aspects which should be strengthened or revised, alongside concrete language proposals from page 10 onwards. Many of these suggestions attempt to further ground the Compact in a rights-respecting approach through additional references to international human rights law and standards, as well as stressing the need for a multi stakeholder approach to the development, use and governance of digital technologies. We have also made concrete recommendations with respect to the new entities proposed, which we hope will ensure that such efforts and implementation are undertaken in an inclusive and rights-based manner.

Response

Principles

We welcome that the Compact continues to recognise human rights as a cross-cutting principle in paragraph 8(c) and that it now makes reference on the need to respect, protect and promote human rights.

While we are pleased that there is additional language on the principle of environmental sustainability in paragraph 8(e), demonstrating a more proportionate approach. However, we believe the draft still leans towards techno-optimism and would be strengthened by explicit reference to the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as recognised by the General Assembly (A/RES/76/300).

We also welcome the addition of the equitable principle in paragraph 8(g) which correctly reinforces the need to tackle existing concentrations of capacity and market power to ensure more equitable distribution of benefits of technologies. This is imperative as market dominance may ultimately have a negative impact on human rights by decreasing the choices available to individuals in how they access information and express themselves online.

We remain concerned with the responsible principle in paragraph 8(i) which, despite marginal improvements through the inclusion of "effective human oversight", still fails to make reference to the need for effective implementation of existing and technology-specific legal frameworks, nor explicit reference to remedy or redress.

Commitments and actions

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

Connectivity

We are pleased that this section includes some improvement through reference to innovative solutions, but recommend that it be strengthened by including explicit reference to community-based infrastructure and networks, such as in paragraph 10.

We recommend that paragraph 11(b) includes reference to civil society amongst the stakeholders developing blended financing mechanisms and incentives.

We also welcome the additional references to mainstreaming gender perspectives in the digital connectivity strategies in paragraph 11(h), which signals a commitment to addressing the gender digital divide. We recommend this text be retained and further mainstread throughout the final iteration of the Compact.

Digital public goods and infrastructure

We continue to applaud the changes made in this section that focus on establishing a framework to harness the opportunities posed by digital public infrastructure (DPI), and to ensure more equal distribution of its benefits. We recommend that additional text be provided to reflect the need for DPI safeguards to be grounded in international human rights law.

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

We support the aim of this section to ensure inclusion in the digital economy on an equitable basis, while noting that achieving digital inclusion requires the establishment of an enabling policy and legal framework and institutional capacity building, underpinned by human rights. We suggest concrete amendments to the language to better reflect this nuance. For example, while we are pleased that this section now includes additional reference to technology transfers being made on mutually agreed terms in paragraph 18, we consider that this fails to adequately specify the conditions which would ensure respect for human rights. We therefore recommend additional language to mitigate against risks that may result from the transfer of digital technologies in a manner which does not comply with international human rights law and cannot fulfil the purpose of SDGs fulfilment. The SDG goals and targets are derived from and refer to international human rights, and we recommend that the Compact more clearly recognises the mutually reinforcing and symbiotic relationship between them.

We welcome the additional reference to conducting digital readiness assessments to inform actions to address gaps and digital transformation in paragraph 21(c). Despite this, we would still recommend further modifications that more explicitly reference human rights considerations as part of a holistic and rights-based assessment of digital readiness and as a precondition for access.

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

Human rights

We welcome that there have been several new references that further ground the Compact in a rights-respecting manner. These include the additional references on the need for national legislation to comply with international law, including international human rights law, and new language on the need to protect individuals from abuses of their human rights in the digital space, including through conducting human rights due diligence, as we believe this demonstrates a proactive commitment.

We strongly support the endorsement in paragraph 24 of the establishment of a UN Digital Human Rights Advisory Service within OHCHR. We consider that this mechanism would serve a vital purpose of expanding OHCHR's work to ensure coordination and complementarity with the UN's human rights mechanisms, coordinate with stakeholders and impacted communities, and respond to requests for advice by member states. However, we consider it important that

financial assistance is provided to enable OHCHR to provide for the establishment of the Advisory Service.

Nonetheless, we would recommend edits to strengthen this section, to incorporate more specific and operative language. For example, the revised draft currently discusses accountability and access to effective remedy in the context of technology companies, developers and social media platforms in paragraph 25(d), but it is important for the Compact to also recognise that states themselves have an obligation with respect to the right to an effective remedy under international human rights law (ICCPR Art 2(3)). We recommend this be reflected in addition to the existing text on access to effective remedy in line with UN Guiding Principles and other relevant frameworks. Furthermore, wherever the technological life cycle is referred to, we recommend the language also makes reference to the sale, export and transfer of such technologies, which may not be captured unless explicitly mentioned.

Internet governance

We welcome that the Compact now uses language which is widely understood to refer to the need to safeguard an Internet which is "open, global and interoperable" and recommend that this language is used consistently throughout the draft. We appreciate that this language has been included and stress that it should be retained to avoid terminology that is open to interpretation, such as "universal".

We are concerned by the language e in paragraph 27 which states that "with the participation of all states and other stakeholders" as this does not adequately reflect the multistakeholder approach through which the Internet has developed and is governed. We recommend that this be modified and replaced with language that more clearly reinforces the multi stakeholder approach to Internet governance. We recommend that the Compact makes reference to and draws from the [São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines](#), as the outcome of the NETmundial 10 year review process, which provided guidelines to strengthen Internet governance processes. We support the textual amendments proposed in the joint civil society input, submitted alongside this response.

In addition, we appreciate that the IGF is referred to in paragraph 28(b) as a "central forum for multi stakeholder discussion on policy issues related to the Internet", which we consider as an improvement compared to previous versions. Although we still do not believe it is strong enough and would recommend that the text be revised to better reflect the imperative role of the IGF as the principal forum for multistakeholder and multidisciplinary dialogue on Internet-related public policy related issues, and assign it a more robust role in the Compact's implementation, review and follow-up.

We strongly support the text in paragraph 25(d) that acknowledges how states should be further refrain from Internet shutdowns, but consider this may be further elaborated ny reflecting that states should refrain from both Internet and telecommunications network disruptions and shutdowns (see, for instance: A/HRC/44/244).

Digital trust and safety

We welcome the purpose of this section to ensure trust and safety in the digital environment, with a particular focus on preventing discrimination on the basis of characteristics including gender and sex, and ensuring the protection of groups in vulnerable situations. While applauding this ambition, we note the complexity of the issues addressed, which have offline and online dimensions, and which therefore require a whole-of-society approach to effectively address and advance equality. As a general principle, we recommend that aspects of this section be revised to ensure that the inclusion and descriptions of specific harms arising from the use terminology reflect terminology in relevant international standards, and clarify that responses to these harms should be grounded in international human rights law, and specifically the principles of legality, legitimacy, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination. We also recommend that the description of these harms and related policy approaches distinguish between illegal and legal but harmful forms of content or expression.

While we are pleased that paragraph 30(a) stresses the importance of adoption common standards, guidelines and industry actions that are in compliance with international law to promote safe civic spaces and address harmful content on digital platforms, we recommend that this also makes reference to legal frameworks that are already in place, and ensuring that they too are compliant with international law, including international human rights law.

We are concerned that the reference to ensuring that laws and regulations on the use of technologies in areas such as encryption and surveillance in paragraph 30(d) has been watered down and no longer makes reference to the integral role that encryption plays with respect to the right to privacy and other rights. We recommend that this sentence explicitly state that laws and regulations must align with international standards, but also the importance of strong encryption for securing and protecting the confidentiality of digital communications, and therefore ensuring the enjoyment of human rights, in particular the rights to privacy, to freedom of opinion and expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (A/RES/52/21). We further recommend that this sentence be reinforced with language that acknowledges the need for States to promote technical solutions, including measures for encryption, pseudonymization and anonymity, as recognised by the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/RES/54/21).

Information integrity

We support the reference in this section which reflects the need for authenticity certification for content and origins in paragraph 35(c), but take issue with the use of watermarking as a technique to counter AI-generated deceptive information and censorship. This is due to the faultiness and effectiveness of watermarking, and therefore recommend that it be removed and replaced with a more generic terminology on techniques and methods.

Objective 4. Advancing responsible and equitable international data governance

Data privacy and security

We are pleased that this section refers to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacity to use it, and that responsible data governance is essential to advance development objectives and protect human rights, as well as how the sharing and processing of data, including by AI systems, may amplify risks in the absence of effective data protection and privacy norms. We further applaud the recognition that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices must be transparent, secure and in compliance with international law.

While we appreciate the reference in paragraph 37 to the need for "development and implementation of regional and national data governance frameworks that maximise benefits of data use while protecting privacy and securing data ", we are unsure how this can be achieved in practice. We would recommend that this be revisited to ensure that these two aims can be met, despite being seemingly at odds with one another.

We also welcome that paragraph 38(c) positively refers to the need for individuals and groups to be able to consider, give and withdraw consent for the use of personal data and to choose how data is used through legally mandated protections for data privacy. However, we believe that an example of such a framework such as the EU GDPR would be beneficial to reinsert here. Moreover, we believe that this area could be strengthened through reference to established data protection principles like lawful and fair processing and transfer, transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality, and accountability. Some of these are already mentioned in this section, but could be highlighted again to reinforce their importance.

Data for development

We support the reference in paragraph 43(d) to the need to share data sets to "advance monitoring and actions against global pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change", and recommend it be retained in the final version.

We are, however, very concerned with the request in paragraph 44 for the President of the General Assembly to appointment co-facilitators 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".

The reasoning for our concern is that we are not convinced of the utility of this arrangement at the current moment and believe there is much work to be done before initiating deliberations in an institutional manner. We therefore recommend that this section instead call for a multi stakeholder consultation to first ascertain the possible utility of such a framework and potential opportunities and risks which could arise from it, particularly in terms of human rights and SDG fulfilment.

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

We are pleased that the most recent iteration of this section recognises the need to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harness AI benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law. Still, we recommend that the framing in paragraph 47 be modified to better ground approaches to the governance of new and emerging technologies in a rights-based manner. For example, "we recognise the need for a balanced, inclusive and risked based approach to the governance of new and emerging technologies" should explicitly mention human rights as part of the risk-based approach, which reinforces the notion that a risk-based approach should be one that considers risks to the enjoyment of human rights.

However, we strongly recommend that the following language be added to paragraph 48, "including by refraining from or ceasing the use of technologies which are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law." The obligation of states to assess and address actual or potential impacts

of new and emerging technologies on the enjoyment of human rights by mitigating any risks or prohibiting uses or technologies which are fundamentally incompatible with international human rights law has been recognised by the General Assembly (A/RES/78/265) as part of states' existing international human rights law obligations, and should be clearly reflected in the Compact.

We continue to agree in principle that there are institutional functions which the UN can usefully perform with respect to AI governance, but consider that it is important not to pre-empt the outcomes of the work of the UN Secretary-General's AI Advisory Body, particularly given the Body's ongoing consultation process. We further recommend that the UN conducts an in-depth ex ante human rights impact assessment, and report externally on their findings, before establishing any new governance body, to ensure that the potential positive and negative impacts are fully understood, and that measures are taken to prevent and mitigate any negative impacts. We provide the following, additional observations in relation to the new bodies proposed in the revised draft.

In relation to the proposal to establish an **International Scientific Panel on AI and Emerging Technologies** in paragraph 53(a), we emphasise that this should be provided with a mandate that enables it to make independent assessments, including to be explicit where disagreement exists, and which are not bound by consensus-based deliberations, and that it focuses on providing policy relevant, as opposed to policy prescriptive, advice. We further recommend that the Scientific Panel should ensure the inclusion of *multistakeholder* as well as multidisciplinary experts. We provide some proposals for amendments to the language to reflect these considerations.

With respect to the proposal to initiate an **International Contact Group on AI Governance** in paragraph 53(b), "to bring together expert representatives of governments 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" in paragraph 53(b). Reading this alongside the Interim report of the UN's AI Advisory Body, we understand that the Contact Group is intended to perform the function of normative harmonisation and interoperability. While we support the reference to governance approaches which "comply with international human rights law", we strongly recommend that the Contact Group is sequenced so that it can be informed by the Advisory Body's consultation process and resulting final report, and that it is structured in a way that enables it to build on the existing work of-, and coordinate with the OHCHR and the UN human rights mechanisms. OHCHR, the UN human rights mechanisms and the proposed Digital Human Rights Advisory Service should play a critical role in fostering normative standards based on international human rights law. Additionally, we are concerned by the lack of reference to a

multistakeholder approach to the design and functioning of the Contact Group, and to sustained engagement with different stakeholders. It is our strong recommendation that the Contact Group only precedes if it effectively incorporates these aspects.

Regarding the proposal to establish a **Global Fund for AI and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development** in paragraph 60, we remain concerned that this proposal is premature. In our prior [research](#), we have recommended that the design of a new mechanism to facilitate access to technologies must be properly sequenced, and should occur once consensus is more effectively established, as global governance efforts mature. For this reason, we recommend amendments to the language to reflect the need for meaningful multistakeholder consultation to ascertain the possible utility of such a Fund and its proposed scope, including an assessment of the potential opportunities and risks which could arise from it, particularly in terms of human rights and SDG fulfilment.

Follow up and review

We welcome that the follow-up and review section makes reference to ensuring that the private sector, academia, the technical community and civil society groups take an active part in the GDC's implementation. However, we strongly recommend that the Compact also reflects the integral role of different stakeholders in contributing to the follow-up and review of the Compact's commitments, and provides the basis for an inclusive, multistakeholder process. Specifically, we recommend alterations to the language of paragraph 64 to reflect the need for different stakeholders to contribute to the design of modalities for the Compact's follow-up and review.

We further consider that the Compact should provide a cohesive vision for how the follow-up and review process will be structured, and that it leverages and strengthens the role of existing bodies. Specifically, we recommend that the follow-up and review section reinforces the role of the IGF as a bottom-up, multistakeholder and multidisciplinary forum, which should act as the primary mechanism for the collection of information and monitoring of the Compact's commitments. We recommend that the Compact also invites the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) 20 year review process to consider how the WSIS process can be used to integrate the Compact's follow-up and review process, recognising that the WSIS has established a multistakeholder venue and provided for coordination and the exchange of expertise between specialist UN agencies. We consider this could be achieved through amendments to paragraphs 66-76 and support the textual amendments proposed in the joint civil society input, submitted alongside this response.

Finally, in relation to the request in paragraph 70 to the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to the General Assembly to establish 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", we emphasise the need for such a proposal to be preceded by open, inclusive and transparent assessment of the current gaps in system-wide coordination and cooperation, and recommend adjustments to the language to reflect this. We reiterate our call that any new bodies proposed should be properly resourced and subject to an in-depth ex ante human rights impact assessment prior to their establishment, and mandate an inclusive and multistakeholder approach to their design.

Textual recommendations

Principles	
8.(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;	8.(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, and uphold the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
8.(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-	8.(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;	centric design, development, deployment and use of digital and emerging technologies, with effective human oversight, including through the implementation of existing and technology-specific legal frameworks, a right to effective remedy and redress mechanisms;

Commitments and actions

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

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.	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 commit to supporting innovative solutions such as community-based networks and infrastructure, which can help deliver high-speed connectivity to remote and rural areas.

(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);	(b) Develop innovative and blended financing mechanisms and incentives, including in collaboration with multilateral development banks, relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society 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);
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.	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, human rights-based and secure digital systems and safeguards can promote public trust and use of digital services.
17. We commit by 2030 to: (a) Develop, disseminate and maintain, through multistakeholder cooperation, safe and secure open source software, platforms and standards that benefit society as a whole (SDGs 8, 9 &10); (...) (c) Develop and decide on a set of safeguards for safe, inclusive, secure	17. We commit by 2030 to: (a) Develop, disseminate and maintain, through a multistakeholder approach, safe and secure open source software, platforms and standards that benefit society as a whole (SDGs 8, 9 &10); (...) (c) Develop and decide on a set of safeguards for safe, inclusive, human

and responsible digital public infrastructure that can be adopted by and tailored to the specific needs of each society (SDG 16); (...) (e) Increase investment and funding toward the development of digital public goods and infrastructure, especially in developing countries (SDG 17);	rights-based, secure and responsible digital public infrastructure that can be adopted prior to deployment and tailored to the specific needs of each society (SDG 16); (...) (e) Increase investment and funding toward the development of digital public goods and infrastructure, accompanied by legal, normative and institutional capacity-building, with a particular focus on developing countries (SDG 17);

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.	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 and in accordance with international human rights law.
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	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.	national levels, support investment and the transfer of digital technologies on mutually agreed terms <u>and in accordance with international human rights law</u> to developing countries.
21. (c) Conduct national digital readiness assessments to inform actions to address gaps and needs in digital transformation (All SDGs); (…) (e) Promote knowledge-sharing and technology transfer initiatives on mutually agreed terms (SDG 17);	(c) Conduct national digital readiness <u>and human rights impact</u> assessments to inform actions to address gaps and needs in digital transformation (All SDGs); (…) (e) Promote knowledge-sharing and technology transfer initiatives on mutually agreed terms <u>and in accordance with international human rights law</u> (SDG 17);

Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space

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	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<u>, including the sale, export and transfer,</u> 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

the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.	sector, to uphold the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
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).	24. We endorse the Secretary-General's call to establish a UN Digital Human Rights Advisory Service within OHCHR to provide, upon request and through the provision of financial support, expert advice and practical guidance on human rights and technology issues to governments, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders (All SDGs).
28. (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).	28. (d) Refrain from Internet shutdowns and telecommunications network disruptions 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).
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.	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 in accordance with international human rights law,

	including with the principles of legality, legitimacy, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination, and distinguishing between illegal and legal but harmful forms of content or expression.
30. (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); (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).	30. (d) Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology in areas such as surveillance and encryption, are in compliance with international law, including by refraining from arbitrary or mass surveillance, and ensuring targeted surveillance is conducted in accordance with international human rights law (SDGs 10 & 16); 30. (e)(bis) Promote technical solutions which secure and protect the confidentiality and security of digital communications, including measures for encryption, pseudonymization and anonymity; (...) (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 to ensure their compliance with international human rights law, including with the principles of legality, legitimacy, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination (SDG 3).
35.(c) Call on digital technology companies and communities to continue to develop solutions and publicly communicate actions to	35.(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 censorship, including by identifying AI-generated material, authenticity certification for content and origins, watermarking and other techniques (SDGs 10, 16 & 17).	mitigate risks arising from AI-generated deceptive information and censorship, including by identifying AI-generated material, authenticity certification for content and origins, ~~watermarking~~ and other techniques (SDGs 10, 16 & 17).

Objective 4. Advancing responsible and equitable international data governance

38.(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);	38.(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 <u>protection for personal data and privacy, including lawful and fair processing and transfer, transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality, and accountability</u> (SDGs 10 & 16);
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	44. We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, to initiate <u>a multistakeholder consultation to consider the utility of</u> 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, <u>with a view to providing a recommendation by 2028</u> on areas including principles

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).	and common standards on data governance <u>already established and implemented across UN state members</u>, 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).

Objective 5. Governing emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for 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.	47. We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive, <u>human rights-based</u> 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.	48. We recognize international, regional, national and industry efforts underway to advance the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, <u>human rights-based</u> 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, <u>including by refraining from or ceasing the use of technologies which are impossible to operate in compliance with international human rights law</u>.

	International cooperation on AI governance is required to promote coordination, compatibility and environmental sustainability of emerging AI governance frameworks.
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	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 multistakeholder and multi-disciplinary scientific risk and evidence-based opportunity assessments, reflecting areas of agreement and disagreement. 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 from

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.	government, academia, the technical community, civil society and the private sector 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, human rights-based 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 designed through a multistakeholder approach, informed by the outcomes of the UN's AI Advisory Body and the existing work of OHCHR and the UN human rights mechanisms, and be supported by ongoing multistakeholder engagement on AI governance, including but not exclusive to the annual AI for Good Summit, with a view to fostering inclusive partnerships and collaboration.
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,	55. To reinforce interoperable governance approaches we call on international, regional and national standard-setting organizations, building on work by ITU and the OHCHR, 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).	reliability, sustainability, gender equality and human rights, and increase meaningful participation (SDGs 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16 & 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.	60. We further request the Secretary-General to initiate multistakeholder consultation to consider the utility of 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, with a view to providing a recommendation by 2028.
Follow-up and review	
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.	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 that ensure that all stakeholders are enabled to meaningfully contribute to the implementation, follow-up and review of the Compact. As a first step, this may include allowing for the voluntary

	endorsement of this Compact, and to make this information public and accessible from December 2024.
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.	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 to <u>initiate a consultation to assess the gaps in UN system-wide coordination and consider the utility of a proposal to establish</u> 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~~.