**Internet Society**

# GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT ZERO DRAFT MATRIX as of 26 April 2024

This chart represents a preliminary effort to identify issues, areas of concerns, and areas for improvement within the GDC Zero Draft. The Internet Society has analyzed the Global Digital Compact Zero Draft with the aim of supporting efforts to identify areas of concern and opportunity, and proposals that may impact the future development of the Internet, including the Internet governance approach and the organizations that have cooperated to create what we know today as the Internet.

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| 3. Our goal is an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future for all. We can only achieve this through international cooperation and governance that closes digital divides and advances an equitable and inclusive digital world. This Global Digital Compact sets out the objectives, commitments, and actions we undertake to achieve this goal. | X | | Proposed alternative: "Our goal is a **global, interoperable,** inclusive, open, and secure digital future for all…"<br><br>Motivation: "open", "global" and "interoperable" identify a single decentralized Internet, not subject to top-down control. While "universal", "free" and "secure" can be interpreted broadly. |
| 5. Our cooperation must be agile and adaptable to the rapidly changing digital landscape. It is only by working in collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities, that we can achieve our goal. | | X | Retain: There are strong references to the multistakeholder model. |
| **Objectives** | | | |
| **Principles** | | | |

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| (i) Multi-stakeholder: Governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international and regional organizations have roles and responsibilities in advancing an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future. Our cooperation will involve all stakeholders, according to their respective mandates, functions and competencies; | | X | Retain: This is an excellent element to the draft reaffirming the critical role of non-governmental stakeholders, however throughout the text there are opportunities to clarify the respective mandates, functions, and competencies of each stakeholder as it is not expressed explicitly. |

**Commitments and actions**

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

*Cluster 1. Connectivity*

| | | | |
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| 9. We acknowledge the pivotal role of reliable and meaningful connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies for all. We commit to connect all people to the Internet. We recognize that this will require significant and aligned investments from governments and relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector. | X | | Proposed alternative: "We acknowledge the pivotal role of reliable, meaningful **and universal** connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies for all. We recognize that this will require **innovative and community driven solutions** as well as significant investments from all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector **and civil society.**"

Motivation: While we recognize the great success that the private sector has had in connecting two-thirds of the global population to the Internet, it's vitally important to address the fact that the last billion unconnected will be the hardest to connect. This includes people with varying ability in some of the most unserved and under- |

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| | | | served areas of the world. Business as usual is not the way forward. We need to innovate. To achieve innovative solutions, all stakeholders, particularly those that have supported connecting the unconnected for many years, as well as the local communities that cannot find sustainable means to connect at the moment, must have a seat at the table and be able to participate in the process of connecting the world. |
| 10. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (b) Develop innovative financing mechanisms and incentives, in collaboration with the World Bank Group other multilateral developments banks and the private sector, to connect the remaining 2.6 billion people to the Internet and to improve the affordability of connectivity. Our goal is entry-level broadband subscription costs at less than 2 percent of average income of the bottom 40 percent of national populations (*SDGs 1 & 9*); | X | | Proposed alternative: Develop innovative financing mechanisms and incentives, ~~in~~ collaboration with the World Bank Group other multilateral developments banks and the private sector, to connect the remaining 2.6 billion people to the Internet and to improve the affordability of connectivity. **This includes efforts to diversify access markets and strengthen financing opportunities for small, medium sized and locally owned connectivity providers. It is also important to better utilize Universal Service Funds to reach the unconnected.** Our goal is entry-level broadband subscription costs at less than 2 percent of average income of the bottom 40 percent of national populations.<br><br>Motivation: While we recognize the importance of the World Bank, multilateral development banks and the private sector in these efforts, we do not believe that we should limit ourselves to these |

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| | | | models – we should be open to innovative financing models that support local connectivity solutions. Some helpful resources: Innovative financing and USFs. |
| (c) Invest in and deploy resilient and trustworthy digital infrastructure that provides network coverage to all areas, including rural, remote and 'hard-to-reach' areas. Our goal is universal access to a minimum speed of 10Mb/s (*SDGs 9 & 11*); | | X | Retain: Here are several examples of success in doing exactly what this paragraph calls for, showing that it can be an effective strategy:<br>- South American Chaco Area (Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina)<br>- Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories, Canada<br>- Buenos Aires, Cauca, Colombia<br>- Khunde and Khumjung, Nepal<br>- Building an Internet Oasis in Baltimore's Black Butterfly |
| (g) Identify and include those in vulnerable and marginalized situations in the development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies (*SDGs 10 &11*); | | X | Retain: This is key to identifying the practical use cases and other local challenges that would hinder adoption. |
| **Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space** | | | |
| *Cluster 2. Internet governance* | | | |
| 25. We recognize and commit to uphold the role of the Internet Governance Forum and multistakeholder cooperation in | X | | Proposed alternative: "We recognize and commit the role of the Internet Governance Forum **in digital transformation and reaffirm** |

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| maintaining a universal, free and secure Internet at the governance, content and technical layers. | | | **multistakeholder Internet governance approaches** in maintaining an **open**, free **global, interoperable,** secure Internet"

Motivation: Multistakeholder cooperation is different from multistakeholder Internet governance approach and we would like to see this distinction reflected. |
| 26. We commit to: | | | |
| (a) Promote a universal, free and secure Internet and take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all (*SDG 9*); | | | Proposed alternative: "Promote an **open**, free, global, **interoperable, reliable,** and secure Internet and take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all".

Motivation: "open", "global" and "interoperable" identify a single decentralized Internet, not subject to top-down control. While "universal", "free" and "secure" can be interpreted broadly. |
| (b) Support the Internet Governance Forum as a durable bottom-up multistakeholder platform for discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet (*SDGs 9 &10*); | | X | Proposed alternative: "Support the Internet Governance Forum as a durable bottom-up multistakeholder platform for discussion and **coordination** of public policy issues related to the Internet, and **its role in the follow up and review of the Global Digital Compact, to be detailed in the WSIS+20 Review**".

Motivation: We recognize that the IGF has evolved over the years, and goes beyond merely discussing public policy issues related to the |

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| | | | Internet and would like to see more alignment with the GDC commitments. |
| (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*). | | X | Retain: This language does allow for blocking and filtering, but sets some commonly acceptable guardrails around it.<br><br>Note: The Internet Society's Pulse platform provides a measure for indicators on shutdowns. |
| *Cluster 3. Digital trust and safety* | | | |
| 28. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (e) Develop, through multistakeholder consultations, effective methodologies to measure track and counter online violence against women and girls (SDG 5); | x | | Proposed alternative: "Develop, through a multistakeholder **processes**…"<br><br>Motivation: Multistakeholder consultation is not the same as participating in the development through a multistakeholder process. The women and girls concerned should be at the table from the start. |
| (d) Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology, in areas such as surveillance and encryption are consistent with international standards and norms on privacy, freedom of expression, due process and access to information and effective recourse (SDGs 10 & 16); | | x | Proposed alternative: "Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology uphold human rights in areas such as surveillance and encryption such that they are consistent with international standards and norms on privacy and freedom of expression (SDGs 10 & 16);<br><br>Establish appropriate safeguards to prevent and restrain the weakening of security and privacy technologies and the resulting |

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| | | | adverse human rights impacts (all SDGs); <br><br> 28.(ter) Promote technical solutions which secure and protect the confidentiality and security of digital communications, including measures for encryption, pseudonymization and anonymity (all SDGs);" <br><br> Motivation: To better articulate how encryption protects and enables human rights, highlighting freedom of expression and privacy as the most relevant; add a self-reference to safeguards (21.(b)) for the cluster on trust and safety; add language that references agreed language in A/HRC/RES/54/21 on the human right to privacy in the digital age. |
| *Cluster 4. Information integrity* | | | |
| 30. Access to relevant, reliable and accurate information and knowledge is essential for an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance and respect online, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation and interference of information in ways that are harmful to societies and people and create risks for international peace and security. We will counter disinformation and mitigate the risks of | | X | Proposed alternative: "Access to relevant…for a **global, interoperable,** inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space…" <br> Motivation: "open", "global" and "interoperable" identify a single decentralized Internet, not subject to top-down control. While "universal", "free" and "secure" can be interpreted broadly. |

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| information manipulation in a manner consistent with human rights and freedom of expression. | | | |
| **Objective 4. Advancing equitable international data governance** | | | |
| *Cluster 1. Data privacy and security* | | | |
| 33. We recognize that equitable and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights and foster innovation. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including by AI systems, may amplify risks and challenge established data protection and privacy norms. We recognize the urgent need for strengthened international data governance to unlock the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. | X | | Proposed alternative: "…We recognize the urgent need for **strong international commitments to enhance privacy and security while maintaining the free flow of information online as a critical part of maintaining the foundation of an open, globally connected, secure and trustworthy Internet."** <br><br> Motivation: "Strengthened international data governance", which could be defined in different ways by whomever is passing laws. |
| 35. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (a) Draw on existing international and regional guidelines on the protection of digital privacy in the development of data governance frameworks, including UN, OECD and other frameworks (*All SDGs*); | | X | Proposed addition: "… Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Council of Europe (CoE), Organization of American States (OAS), and African Union (AU)." <br><br> Motivation: This is positive because it should minimize the risk of "re-inventing the wheel". |

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| (b) Empower individuals and groups to participate in the processing, control and use of their personal data, including through legally mandated protections for data privacy, drawing on regional frameworks such as the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (*SDGs 10 & 16*); | | X | Proposed additions: CoE Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108), and non-binding frameworks such as the APEC Privacy Framework, Cross Border Privacy Rules System (CBPRS) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) and the OECD Privacy Guidelines. |
| (c) Ensure that data collection, storage and processing practices are transparent, secure and in full respect of international law (*All SDGs*); | | | Proposed alternative: "Ensure that data collection, storage and processing practices are transparent, **privacy-respecting and protected with data security technologies such as encryption.**" <br><br> Motivation: This mixes technical protections and a vague notion of "respect for international law." Instead, it should specifically seek to protect and respect people's privacy online and do so using appropriate data security technologies and best practices, for which encryption is the most necessary. |
| *Cluster 2. Data exchanges and standards* | | | |
| 38. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (a) Develop and agree data and metadata standards that prevent and address bias, discrimination or human rights violations and abuses throughout the data life cycle, including through regular data auditing (*SDGs 3, 5, 10 & 16*); | X | | Comment: It is important to recognize that there are ongoing standards work happening through the IETF, W3C, etc. and we should avoid duplicating existing open standards development. |

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| | | | Note: There are already standards for data provenance, that are already in use, such as Dublin Core, W3C Prov-DM and Prov-O, and various research fields, so rather than developing data and metadata standards, perhaps it would be more helpful to commit to preventing bias, discrimination and human rights violations through data processing? |
| *Cluster 3. Data for development* | | X | Comment: This cluster seems generally quite positive. It's mainly focused on improving data collection for measures related to achieving the SDGs.<br><br>The Internet Society maintains an Internet Resiliency Index that can help and evolve in tracking some of the commitments made below. The Internet Resiliency Index monitors resilience metrics to aid in the formulation of policies and infrastructure enhancements to enhance Internet resilience (SDG9) across local, regional, and global scales. |
| 40. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (b) Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Our goal is a 50 percent increase in the data available to monitor the SDGs, disaggregated by sex and other relevant characteristics (*SDGs 5 & 10*); | | X | Alternative proposal: "Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring, **and utilize privacy-preserving measurement techniques when possible**..."<br><br>Motivation: Disaggregated data can be helpful for policymaking by revealing inequities or differences that may not be visible in aggregate |

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| | | | data. However, disaggregated data without privacy protecting measures may expose individuals or communities to discrimination or other adverse circumstances, if, for example, they can be singled out. This goal may be more complex than simply "disaggregating" data. |
| *Cluster 4. Cross-border data flows* | | | |
| 41. Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social and economic benefits of responsible cross-border data flows, in particular for small and medium enterprises. We will identify innovative, interoperable and inclusive mechanisms to maximize data flows within and between countries while respecting relevant data protection and privacy norms. | X | | Proposed alternative: "Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social and economic benefits of **privacy-respecting** cross-border data flows…" <br><br> Motivation: The word "responsible" is concerning in this paragraph. What is a responsible data flow will vary among countries, for instance, we could see countries blocking adult content at borders or foreign media or political content as "irresponsible." The respecting privacy and data protection norms seems fine, but again, this is where the law could require data stays local. |
| 42. We commit by 2030 to: | | | |
| (a) Implement the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) to promote trustworthy data free flow and create business opportunities (*SDGs 9 & 11*); | X | | Proposed deletion: This is premature as the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust is not yet well defined. |

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| **Objective 5. Governing emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for humanity** | X | | Proposed alternative: "Objective 5. Governing Artificial Intelligence for humanity"<br><br>Motivation: The original heading indicated that this section was about "emerging technologies". However, the entire section is about AI and does not address any of the many other emerging technologies. The objective should therefore be very clear that this section is focused on AI. |
| 43. We recognize that the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new opportunities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are yet unknown. 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 according to their priorities and needs. We commit to adhere to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. | X | | Proposed alternative: "We recognize that the pace and power of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technologies are creating new opportunities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are yet unknown. We recognize international, regional, national, industry, **academic and civil society** efforts underway to advance the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems according to their priorities and needs. We commit to adhere to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence."<br><br>Motivation: This section under Objective 5 is entirely about AI and not about any other emerging technologies. The text should therefore be clear about this. The suggested addition of "academic and civil society" recognizes that there are significant efforts underway in those sectors related to AI. |

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| 49. To that end we commit to: | | | |
| (ii) support the development of common assessment methodologies, AI definitions and taxonomies; | X | | Comment: It is important to ensure that the AI definitions and taxonomies are limited to AI systems and do not involve the Internet and its infrastructure and governance. This comment is also applicable to the other subsections of 49 that propose guidance or frameworks. |
| **Follow up and review** | | | |
| 53. Government-led efforts can only succeed with the active engagement of the private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society, whose innovations and contributions to digitalization are fundamental and irreplaceable. We must strengthen and direct our collaboration, and accelerate implementation of existing cooperative efforts, to achieve the objectives set out in this Compact. | | | Proposed alternative: "**Efforts to implement the GDC will** only succeed by collaboration and partnerships with all stakeholders, including governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations and the technical and academic communities…" <br><br> Motivation: The essence of the zero draft has been consistent in underscoring the importance of a multistakeholder approach, the language "Government-led efforts" is not needed here. |
| 56. We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS to support implementation of Compact commitments and actions. We recognize the contribution of all UN agencies, funds and programmes in advancing digital cooperation, including ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO and request them to support Compact implementation, particularly in relation to actions to | | X | Comment: Positive that it explicitly recognizes the need to build on WSIS. However, we would like to see more information on how the UN intends to leverage WSIS to support the implementation of the Compact, since there is a proposal in the final section for a high-level biannual meeting to review the implementation. <br><br> It could be more effective to utilize the CSTD to review the implementation of the Compact's commitments and actions. |

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| close the digital divides and to accelerate progress across the SDGs. | | | |
| 57. We reaffirm the role of the Internet Governance Forum as a key multistakeholder platform for Internet governance and the promotion of an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We encourage governments, the private sector and all stakeholders to engage actively in its work with a view to advancing Compact commitments on Internet governance. We invite the Internet Government Forum to build on its youth networks to amplify the voices and views of young people in policy deliberations on the Internet. | | X | Proposed alternative: "We reaffirm the role of the Internet Governance Forum as a key multistakeholder platform for Internet governance and the promotion of a **global, interoperable,** inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We encourage governments, i**nternational organizations,** the private sector, **civil society, technical community, and academia**, to engage actively in its work with a view to advancing Compact commitments. We invite the Internet Government Forum to build on its youth networks to amplify the voices and views of young people in policy deliberations on the Internet." <br><br> Motivation: "open", "global" and "interoperable" identify a single decentralized Internet, not subject to top-down control. While "universal", "free" and "secure" can be interpreted broadly. |
| 58. We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing WSIS progress and invite it to consider how it can contribute further to the implementation of the Compact, especially in advancing actions to expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy and equitable international data governance. | | X | Proposed alternative: "We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing WSIS progress and **recommend** it to consider how it can contribute further to the implementation of the Compact, especially **in aligning the review of the implementation of WSIS action lines with Compact commitments and actions.**" |

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| | | | Motivation: The CSTD offers an opportunity to review the implementation of the WSIS action lines, which should then be more aligned with the GDC commitments. If this is done effectively, it might be that the proposal for the high-level biannual review of the GDC might be made redundant or can occur less frequently. |
| 60. We look forward to the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 to identify how WSIS processes can support practical implementation, including by adapting WSIS action lines to reflect Compact commitments and actions. We invite the WSIS+20 Review to consider how youth perspectives can be incorporated in this effort. | | | Proposed alternative: "We look forward to the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 **and invite stakeholders to identify how** WSIS processes can support review and practical implementation, including by adapting WSIS action lines to reflect Compact commitments and actions." <br><br> Motivation: The mandate of WSIS will be reviewed by stakeholders during the WSIS+20 Review. |
| 61. We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital technologies. We also recognize the importance of enhancing UN system-wide coordination on digital and emerging technologies. To this end, we recommend that the General Assembly decides to establish a dedicated office for coordinating digital and emerging technology in the Secretariat, based on a detailed proposal on the operational functions, structure, resources and staffing, including provisions for a liaison presence in Geneva, and, in that regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit this proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session. | X | | Proposed deletion: We propose entirely leveraging existing structures like the WSIS, CSTD, and IGF, rather than introducing new multilateral processes and initiatives across 61-65. This would reflect the GDC's commitment to multistakeholderism, mitigate the costs and administration required for implementation, and would be reflective of the widespread support for the IGF from the multistakeholder community. |

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| 62. To track and monitor progress we request the Secretary-General to provide, within 12 months, a Compact implementation map that reflects the contributions of existing mechanisms and all relevant stakeholders in support of commitments and actions and identifies potential time-bound targets for their achievement. | | | Proposed deletion: We propose entirely leveraging existing structures like the WSIS, CSTD, and IGF, rather than introducing new multilateral processes and initiatives across 61-65. This would reflect the GDC's commitment to multistakeholderism, mitigate the costs and administration required for implementation, and would be reflective of the widespread support for the IGF from the multistakeholder community. |
| 63. We further request the Secretary-General to establish an accessible and interactive Global Digital Compact portal within 12 months. We invite Member States and participating stakeholders to report voluntarily through this portal, on an annual basis, on the progress of their Compact implementation activities. We request the Secretary-General to draw on these inputs to prepare an annual report on progress, key trends and developments, starting in 2025. This could include reporting, inter alia, on financial commitments and pledges in support of Compact implementation. | | | Proposed deletion: See above |
| 64. The pace of technology requires regular review of our digital cooperation. We recognize the role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC in monitoring and reviewing progress of the Compact's objectives, particularly as they relate to closing digital and data divides. We recognize the role of the UN Human Rights Council in tracking progress to foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all. | | | Proposed deletion: See above |

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| 65. The cross-cutting nature of digital technologies and the multiplicity of actors involved in digital cooperation requires aligned follow up. We therefore commit to review the Global Digital Compact to assess progress against objectives and to identify emerging opportunities and challenges for global digital cooperation. We decide to convene a high-level meeting, under the auspices of the General Assembly and entitled "High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact", to take place every two years starting in the 80th session with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. We request the President of the General Assembly to: | X | | Proposed deletion: See above |