Internet Society

GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT REV.2 MATRIX as of 1 July 2024

This chart represents the Internet Society's ongoing effort to identify issues, areas of concern, and areas for improvement within the second review of the Global Digital Compact. We offer this analysis 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 multistakeholder approach to Internet governance and the organizations that have cooperated to create what we know today as the Internet.

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

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Principles			
(g) Accessible: Accessible and affordable **data and** digital technologies **and services** are essential to enable every person to participate fully in the digital world. Our cooperation will promote digital accessibility **for all** and support linguistic and cultural diversity in the digital space;			Proposed alternative: "…Our cooperation will **enable affordable access to digital technologies,** promote digital accessibility for all**, with emphasis on persons with disabilities,** and support linguistic and cultural diversity in the digital space. Motivation: This section mentions affordable digital technologies but does not propose any action towards this. On the other hand, according to the Internet Society Standing Group on Accessibility, over 15% of the global population are people with disabilities, representing the world's largest minority.
(h) Interoperable: Digital systems that communicate and exchange are critical catalysts for development. Our cooperation will advance interoperability between digital systems and **compatible** governance **approaches**;		X	Retain: good emphasis on interoperability of systems, and approaches to governance.

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(k) Multi-stakeholder: Governments **and other stakeholders, including** the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international and regional organizations, have roles and responsibilities in advancing an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital future. **We** will **implement this Compact in a spirit of global solidarity** and **partnership**; and			Retain: This is a crucial reference to ensure other portions of the Compact are interpreted in the context of multistakeholder cooperation.
Commitments and actions			
Objective 1. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals			
Cluster 1. Connectivity			
10. We acknowledge the pivotal role of universal and meaningful connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We commit to connect all **persons** to the Internet. We	X		Proposed alternative: "We acknowledge the pivotal role of universal, **reliable,** meaningful connectivity and affordable access in unlocking the full potential of digital and emerging technologies. We commit to connect all people to the Internet.

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recognize that this will require strong partnerships and increased financial investments in developing countries from governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector. We recognize that innovative solutions can help deliver high-speed connectivity to, **inter alia, underserved**, remote and rural areas.			We recognize that this will require strong partnerships, **policy and regulatory interventions,** and increased financial investments in developing countries from governments and other relevant stakeholders, in particular the private sector. We recognize that innovative **and community-centered connectivity** solutions can help deliver high-speed connectivity to, inter alia underserved, remote and rural areas.**"** 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 that the last billion unconnected will be the hardest to connect. This includes people with varying ability in some of the most unserved 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

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			the moment, must have a seat at the table and be able to participate in the process of connecting the world.
11. We commit by 2030 to:			
(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);	X		Proposed alternative: **Establish and increase strategic grants, offer fiscal incentives,** 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. **This includes efforts to diversify access markets and strengthen financing opportunities for small and medium sized, as well as locally owned connectivity providers. It is also important to better utilize Universal Service Funds to reach the unconnected.** 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);

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			Motivation: Grants and fiscal incentives are essential for supporting the initial development of local connectivity solutions towards becoming investment ready for blended financing. Some helpful resources: Innovative financing and USFs.
(c) Invest in and deploy resilient digital infrastructure, **including satellites and community networks**, that provides **safe and secure** network coverage to all areas, including rural, remote and "hard-to-reach" areas. We will aim for universal access **at sufficient speeds and reliability to enable meaningful use of the Internet** (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: - South American Chaco Area (Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina) - Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories, Canada - Buenos Aires, Cauca, Colombia - Khunde and Khumjung, Nepal - Building an Internet Oasis in Baltimore's Black Butterfly
(g) **Include the needs** of persons in vulnerable situations and **those in underserved, rural and remote areas** in the		X	Retain: This is key to identifying the practical use cases and other local challenges that would hinder adoption.

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development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies (SDGs 10 &11);			
Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space			
Cluster 2. Internet governance			
27. We recognize **that** the governance of the Internet **must remain** global **in nature**, with the **full involvement** of all states and other stakeholders **in accordance with the Tunis Agenda**. We **reaffirm multilateral and multistakeholder approaches to Internet governance and the central** role of the Internet Governance Forum for multistakeholder discussion on public policy issues related to the Internet, **as well as the NETmundial principles.**	X		Proposed alternative: "We recognize that the governance of the Internet must remain global in nature, with the full involvement of all states and other stakeholders in accordance with the Tunis Agenda. We reaffirm **that Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet,** and the central role of the Internet Governance Forum for multistakeholder discussion on public policy issues related to the **digital cooperation**, as well as the NETmundial principles."

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			Motivation: While we welcome references to the Tunis Agenda, we believe the proposed language misaligns with the Compact's principles, notably 8 (k) (multistakeholder) and the language from the WSIS+10 outcome document. We offer an alternative that captures elements from both documents to help avoid any confusion,
28. We commit to:			
(a) Promote an open, global, interoperable and reliable Internet and take concrete steps to maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all (SDG 9);			Retain: "open", "global", "interoperable", "trustworthy", and "secure" identify a single decentralized Internet that enables opportunities for people.
(b) Uphold and support the Internet Governance Forum including through the provision of financial support and continue efforts to increase diverse participation by		X	Proposed alternative: Uphold and support the **central role of the** Internet Governance Forum including through the provision of financial support and continue efforts to increase diverse participation by governments and stakeholders**, particularly** from developing countries (SD 9 & 10).

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governments and **stakeholders** from developing countries (SDG 9 &10);			Motivation: While the new language clearly and strongly supports the IGF by including important financial support commitments, the proposed alternative would harmonize this commitment with the suggested language for Paragraph 27.
(d) Refrain from Internet shutdowns **and measures that target Internet access**, and ensure that any restrictions **on access to Internet services and freedom of expression** are in 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. Note: The Internet Society's Pulse platform provides a measure for indicators on shutdowns, including its economic impact.
Cluster 3. Digital trust and safety			
30. We commit by 2030 to:			

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(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);		x	Proposed alternative: "Ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology in areas such as surveillance and encryption **uphold human rights and are consistent with international standards and norms on privacy and freedom of expression** (SDGs 10 & 16); 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);" Motivation: To better articulate how encryption protects and enables human rights, highlighting freedom of expression and privacy as the most relevant; add language that references agreed language in A/HRC/RES/54/21 on the human right to privacy in the digital age.
(e) Develop, **in consultation with all relevant stakeholders**, effective methodologies to measure, track	x		Proposed alternative: "Develop, **through a multistakeholder approach,** effective methodologies to measure, track monitor

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monitor and counter **all forms of violence including** sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology; (SDG 5); and			and counter all forms of violence including sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology; (SDG 5); and Motivation: Multistakeholder consultation is not the same as participating in the development through a multistakeholder process. Stakeholders should be at the table from the start.
Cluster 4. Information integrity			
32. Access to relevant, reliable and accurate information and knowledge is essential for an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space. We recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation and interference of information in ways that are harmful to societies and individuals, negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the		X	Proposed alternative: "Access to relevant...for a **global, interoperable,** inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space..." 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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attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and **amplify** risks for international peace and security.			
Objective 4. Advancing equitable and interoperable data governance			
Cluster 1. Data privacy and security			
36. We recognize that data governance and **data regulation have** evolved in uncoordinated **ways, contributing** to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacities to use it. We recognize that responsible **and interoperable** data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights, foster innovation, and promote economic growth. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including **in** AI systems, may amplify risks in the absence of effective **personal** data protection and privacy norms.	X		Proposed deletion: "We recognize that data governance and data regulation have evolved in uncoordinated ways, contributing to asymmetric concentrations of data and capacities to use it…." Proposed alternative: "…We recognize **the urgent need for strong international cooperation to enhance privacy and security while maintaining the free flow of information as a critical part of preserving an open, globally connected, secure and trustworthy Internet.**" Motivation: While there is no universal international privacy or data protection law, there is fairly strong consensus in many

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			countries and regions on core data governance principles embodied in instruments such as the *OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, the APEC Privacy Framework, the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Data Protection, the OAS Principles on Privacy and Data Protection,* and national legislation. There is a long history of international cooperation among privacy regulators through the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners.
			An important aspect of fostering innovation and promoting economic growth is the free flow of information with privacy and security. The use of the phrase "responsible data governance" here could be misapplied to advance data localization and other policy objectives that are counter to a global approach to data governance.

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38. We commit by 2030 to:			
(c) Empower individuals and groups with the ability to consider, give and withdraw their consent to the use of their data and the ability to choose how that data is used, including through legally mandated protections for data privacy **and intellectual property** (SDGs 10 & 16);		X	Proposed deletion: "…and intellectual property…". Motivation: The paragraph, which links to SDG 10 and 16 is focused on the protections of individuals. The inclusion of intellectual property considerations does not fit with the rest of the paragraph, and the link to SDG 10 and 16.
(d) Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices are **safe, secure and proportionate for necessary, explicit and legitimate purposes**, in compliance with international law (All SDGs); and	X		Proposed alternative: "Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices are **transparent, privacy-respecting and protected with data security technologies such as encryption, and** in compliance with international law (All SDGs);" Motivation: The proposed text omits a vital aspect of data governance, namely, that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing, must respect individual's privacy, and it misses the opportunity to reflect the crucial and

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			necessary role of data security technologies such as encryption in ensuring privacy and security.
Cluster 2. Data exchanges and standards			
41. We commit by 2030 to:			
(a) Develop data and metadata standards designed to prevent and address bias, discrimination or human rights violations and abuses throughout the data life cycle, including through regular data auditing (SDGs 3, 5, 10 & 16);	X		Proposed alternative: Develop minimum standards and auditing practices to prevent bias, discrimination and human rights violations through the use of data. Motivation: It is important to recognize that there are existing data provenance standards and ongoing standards work happening through the IETF, W3C, etc. and we should avoid duplicating existing open standards development.
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.

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			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.
Cluster 4. Cross-border data flows			
45. Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social, economic and development benefits of secure and trusted cross-border data flows, in particular for **micro**, small and medium enterprises. We will identify innovative, interoperable and inclusive mechanisms to enable data to flow with trust within and between countries while respecting relevant data protection and privacy **safeguards and applicable legal frameworks.**		X	Proposed deletion: "with trust" Motivation: The concept of data free flow with trust is still under development. The phrase "with trust" is unclear as to what it adds beyond the existing inclusion of "while respecting relevant data protection and privacy safeguards and applicable legal frameworks."

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47. **We will promote and support interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks. In this context, we look forward to the outcomes of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development's multistakeholder dialogue on the fundamental principles of data governance at all levels**. Building on these outcomes, as well as the ongoing work of other relevant bodies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission, **we request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, by no later than the 81st session, to initiate inclusive deliberations towards international data governance arrangements. These arrangements could include principles and common standards of data governance, including access,**			Proposed alternative: **"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 enhanced international cooperation and greater interoperability of privacy and data protection frameworks, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, with a view to improving privacy and data protection for all online users no matter where they are located"**. Motivation: We believe that a modified version of the old language is better suited for the stated goal. The current proposal risks duplicating existing work and/or diverting resources from international cooperation in enforcement and other areas that could practically improve privacy and data protection outcomes globally.

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collection, storage, processing, use and transfer of data and related liabilities; proposals to support interoperability between national, regional and international data systems; and options to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows relevant for development (All SDGs).			
Objective 5. Enhance international governance of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for the benefit of humanity	X		
48. We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of emerging technologies, with the full and equal representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and meaningful participation of all stakeholders.	X		Proposed alternative: "We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of emerging technologies, with the full and equal representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and **full** participation of all stakeholders."

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			Motivation: The phrase "meaningful participation" is ambiguous and could lead to a lowered level of participation for non-government stakeholders. Using "full" participation would bring all stakeholders in line with the "full and equal representation" of all countries stated previously.
50. We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing AI benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law, **and taking into account other relevant frameworks** such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of artificial intelligence.	X		Proposed alternative: "We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing AI benefits and mitigating risks in full respect of international law, including international human rights law, **and taking into account other relevant efforts developed by private sector, academia and civil society to advance the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems.** We commit to adhere to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." Motivation: The suggested addition of "industry, academia and civil society" recognizes that there are significant efforts underway in those sectors related to AI.

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Follow up and review			
64. These efforts can only succeed with the active engagement of the private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society, whose innovations and contributions to digitalization are fundamental and irreplaceable. We will strengthen our collaboration and **leverage** multistakeholder cooperation to achieve the objectives set out in this Compact.			Retain: The essence of the Compact has been consistent in underscoring the importance of a multistakeholder approach and the amended language recognizes the respective role of all stakeholders to succeed in the endeavor outlined in the document.
67. We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions. We recognize the contribution of all UN **entities**, agencies, funds and programmes in advancing digital cooperation, including **but not limited to** ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO, and request them to support implementation, particularly in relation to actions to close the digital divides and to accelerate progress		X	Proposed alternative: "We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions. We recognize the contribution of **all stakeholders, including** UN entities, agencies, funds and programmes in advancing digital cooperation, including but not limited to ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO..."

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across all the SDGs, leveraging multistakeholder **platforms, such as the IGF** and the WSIS Forum. We recognize the role of the UN Regional Economic Commissions and UN country teams in supporting regional and national stakeholders to advance digital transformation.			Motivation: suggested addition to mention the important role of all stakeholders, which is in line with the Compact principles, and the WSIS outcomes and commitments.
69. We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS and **request** it to consider how it can **strengthen its working methods to** contribute further to the implementation of the Compact.		X	Proposed alternative: "We recognize the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing **United Nations system-wide follow-up** on the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS and **request** it to consider how it can strengthen its working methods to contribute further to the implementation of the Compact, **especially in aligning its WSIS review with Compact commitments and actions."** Motivation: The CSTD already assists ECOSOC in reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS, which offers a unique opportunity to align this effort with many of the GDC commitments, without creating duplicate efforts.

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70. The Internet Governance Forum and its national and regional networks have a key role to play in advancing implementation and follow up of the Compact. We invite the Forum to establish an annual policy discussion track to facilitate the contribution of all stakeholders to the delivery of the Compact's commitments and actions			Retain: The IGF NRIs are an important element of the IGF intersessional activities under a multistakeholder approach. Moreover, the invitation for an annual policy discussion track is aligned with the current IGF formats, and the IGF Leadership Panel expressions.
71. We look forward to the WSIS+20 Review in 2025 to identify how WSIS processes can **be leveraged** to support implementation **of the Compact.**			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** of the Compact, **including by adapting WSIS Action Lines to align them to the Compact commitments and actions.**" Motivation: The mandate of WSIS will be reviewed by stakeholders during the WSIS+20 Review.
72. We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital and	X		Proposed deletion: We propose that the GDC leverage existing structures like the WSIS, CSTD, IGF, and the HLPF, rather than introducing new multilateral processes and initiatives across

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emerging technologies. **Its** further strengthening is required to enable the UN to realize the inclusive platform for digital cooperation set out in this Compact. To this end, **we commit to establishing an office to facilitate system-wide coordination, serve as focal point for states and stakeholders on digital and emerging technologies and facilitate coherent follow-up to this Compact, working closely with existing mechanisms. We therefore** request the Secretary-General to consult widely and submit a proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session for the establishment of **a lean office**, building on and incorporating the activities and resources of the existing Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. **This proposal should include** detailed information on operational functions, structure, **location**, resources and staffing.			paras 72-76. 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. There should be a greater emphasis on the need to coordinate not only within the UN-system, but across stakeholders, to ensure an inclusive global platform for digital cooperation. The number of proposals included in this section can likely hinder the meaningful participation of small and/or under-resourced countries and organizations.

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73. To track and monitor progress we request the Secretary-General to provide a Compact implementation map, for the consideration of governments and other stakeholders that reflects the contributions of **the UN system and other** relevant stakeholders in support of commitments and actions and identifies potential time-bound targets for their achievement.	X		Proposed deletion: See above
74. We recognize the role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC in reviewing progress of the Compact, particularly as it relates to closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of the **2030 Agenda**. We recognize the role of the UN Human Rights Council in tracking progress to foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all.	X		Proposed deletion: See above

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

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