GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT REV.3 MATRIX as of 15 July 2024

This chart represents the Internet Society's ongoing effort to identify issues, areas of concern, and areas for improvement within the third 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.

Given that GDC Rev.3 has been circulated under silence procedure, the following observations are focused **on the most pressing issues** identified by the Internet Society. For a more detailed analysis, please refer to previous versions of this document[1].

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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 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We remain committed to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information		X	Retain: There are strong references to the multistakeholder model and the WSIS outcomes.

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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.			
Principles			
8. (k) 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 be multistakeholder and harness the contributions of all;**		X	Retain: This is a crucial reference to ensure other portions of the Compact are interpreted in the context of multistakeholder cooperation. It is positive that the proposed language retains explicit references to all stakeholders involved, including the technical community.
Commitments and actions			
Objective 1. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across the Sustainable Development Goals			

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Connectivity			
11. We commit by 2030 to:			
(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, **and prioritize access to satellite orbits, taking into account the needs of developing countries**. 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 deploying community-centered resilient infrastructure, 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
(f) Include the needs of persons in vulnerable situations and those in underserved, rural and remote areas in the development and implementation of national and local digital connectivity strategies (SDGs 10 &11);		X	Retain: This is key to identifying the practical use cases and other local challenges that would hinder adoption.

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Digital public goods and digital public infrastructure			
15. Resilient, safe, inclusive and interoperable digital public infrastructure has the potential to deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all. We recognize that there are multiple models of digital public infrastructure, and that each society will develop and use shared digital systems according to its specific priorities and needs. Transparent, safe and secure digital systems and user-centred safeguards can promote public trust and use of digital services.		X	Retain: The reference to transparent, safe, and secure digital systems and user-centered safeguards is essential to maximize the positive impact of digital public infrastructure without hindering the Internet and its standards developed in open, transparent, and collaborative processes.
Objective 3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space			
Cluster 2. Internet governance			
27. We recognize that **Internet** governance must remain global in nature, with the full involvement of **governments, the**	X		Retain: The current language aligns well with the Compact's overarching principles. It is positive that the text makes explicit

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private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and **academic communities, and all other relevant stakeholders in accordance with their respective roles and responsibilities.** We reaffirm **the** role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) **as the primary multistakeholder platform** for discission **of Internet governance** issues.			references to all stakeholders involved, and that it aligns with agreed text from the most recent WSIS+10 review (A/RES/70/125).
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);		X	Retain: "open", "global", "interoperable", "trustworthy", and "secure" identify a single decentralized Internet that enables opportunities for people.
(b) Uphold and support the IGF, including through the provision of **voluntary funding** and continue efforts to increase diverse participation **from all** stakeholders from developing countries (SDG 9 &10);		X	Proposed alternative: "Uphold and support the Internet Governance Forum through the provision of **financial support** and continue efforts to increase diverse participation by governments and stakeholders from developing countries."

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			Motivation: We recommend that the text reverts back to "financial support" as included in Rev.2. It indicates a stronger commitment to the importance of safeguarding the financial sustainability of the IGF, and the capacity of its secretariat. The IGF will be set up to success with strong commitments in place.
(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	Proposed alternative: "(d) Refrain from imposing restrictions on the free flow of information and ideas that are inconsistent with obligations under international law. **Protect journalists, media workers and human rights defenders online and guarantee access to information in line with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.** (All SDGs)." 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);" 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.
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		X	Proposed alternative: "Access to relevant...for a **global, interoperable,** inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space..." Motivation: We believe it would be helpful to complement the current text to ensure alignment with other parts of the text, which

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individuals, negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.			references the need for "open, global, interoperable: (e.g. para 28 (a)).
Objective 4. Advancing equitable and interoperable data governance			
Cluster 1. Data privacy and security			
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	X		Proposed alternative: "Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage and processing practices are **transparent, privacy-**

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proportionate for necessary, explicit and legitimate purposes, in compliance with international law (All SDGs);			**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 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

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			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. 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			
47. We will promote and support interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks. In this context, we **request** the Commission on Science and		X	Proposed alternative: "...the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a dedicated

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Technology for Development **to establish a dedicated working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive** multistakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development. **We encourage the working group to report on its progress to** the General Assembly, by no later than the 81st session, **including on follow up recommendations towards equitable and interoperable** data governance arrangements, **which may include fundamental** principles of data governance **at all levels as relevant for development**; proposals to support interoperability between national, regional and international data systems; **considerations of sharing the benefits of data**; and options to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows, **including cross-border data flows** as relevant for development (All SDGs).			**multistakeholder** working group to engage in a comprehensive and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue..." Motivation: we believe it is important that, in the event that a working group is agreed, that it not only engage in multistakeholder dialogue but that its membership is also multistakeholder – in line with the principle set forth in the compact.
Objective 5. Enhance international governance of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for the benefit of humanity	X		

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51. 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.
Follow up and review			
64. These efforts can only succeed with the active engagement of the private sector, technical and academic communities and		X	Retain: The essence of the Compact has been consistent in underscoring the importance of a multistakeholder approach and

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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.			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, **including multistakeholder platforms such as the IGF and the WSIS Forum,** to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions.		X	Proposed alternative: We will build on the processes emanating from the WSIS, **including multistakeholder platforms such as the IGF and the WSIS Forum**, to advance implementation of Compact commitments and actions, **and collaborate to follow-up its implementation.** Motivation: The IGF and the WSIS Forum are well-positioned to contribute to the Compact's follow-up, in line with our proposal to delete para. 72.
70. The IGF and its national and regional networks have **an important** role to play in advancing implementation and follow up of the Compact. We invite the Forum, **in the context of WSIS+20 Review,** to consider an annual policy discussion track		X	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

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to facilitate the contribution of all stakeholders to the delivery of the Compact's commitments and actions.			aligned with the current IGF formats, and the IGF Leadership Panel expressions.
72. We recognize **that** further strengthening **of system-wide coordination** is required to enable the UN to realize the inclusive platform for digital cooperation set out in this Compact. To this end, we request the Secretary-General, **following consultations with Member States, to** submit a proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session for the establishment of **an** office, building on and incorporating the activities and resources of the existing Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology **to facilitate system-wide coordination, working closely with existing mechanisms**. This proposal should include detailed information on operational functions, structure, location, **mandate renewal,** resources and staffing.	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 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 para 72 comments
74. We recognize the role of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC in reviewing progress of the Compact **in** closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We recognize the role of the UN Human Rights Council, **within its existing mandate,** in **fostering** an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space for all.	X		Proposed deletion: See para 72 comments

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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 **81st** session to **facilitate open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental consultations** to determine the modalities for this high-level meeting.	X		Proposed deletion: There are processes in place that should be leveraged to review the Compact's progress, such as the CSTD, the IGF, and the HLPF. Moreover, the proposal for intergovernmental consultations to determine the modalities of the proposed High-Level Meeting is contrary to the multistakeholder principle of this Compact and hinders the meaningful participation of all stakeholders.

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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 **during the 81st session**, 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.	X		Proposed deletion: See para 72 comments