WSIS & GDC

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WSIS BACKGROUNDER

A bit of history

ITU PP, Res. 73
Proposal to hold a world summit on the information society

- ITU Council & UNGA endorse proposal to hold WSIS in 2 phases
- Prep. meetings & regional conferences for First Phase

WSIS First Phase, Geneva
- Declaration of Principles
- Plan of Action

- Prep. meetings & regional conferences for First Phase
- WGs: WGIG, TFFM, GFC

WSIS Second Phase, Tunis
- Tunis Commitment
- Agenda for the Information Society

| 1998 | 2001-2002 | 2003 | 2003–2005 | 2005 |

| 2006 | 2010 | 2015 | 2018–2021 | 2024–2025 |

- First IGF meeting
- First cluster of WSIS-related events -> becomes WSIS Forum in 2008

- First renewal of IGF mandate (UNGA Res. on ICT4D)

- WSIS+10 (& second renewal of IGF mandate)
- Agenda for Sustainable Development

- HLP on Digital Cooperation
- *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*
- OSET
- *Our Common Agenda*

- Summit of the Future: GDC & PF
- WSIS+20

WSIS outcomes

'We [...] declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respecting fully and upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights'.

Geneva Declaration of Principles & Plan of Action (2003)

- Principles and action lines (AL) to advance an inclusive information society and promote the use of knowledge and ICT in support of development and achievement of MDGs.

Tunis Commitment and Agenda for the Information Society (2005)

- Commitment to the Declaration of Principles
- Mechanism for AL implementation and follow-up at national, regional, international levels
- Internet Governance Forum
- Enhanced cooperation

WSIS Action lines (co)facilitators

C11. International and regional cooperation

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

C9. Media

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

C7. ICT Applications

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

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

C2. Information and communication infrastructure

C3. Access to information and knowledge

C4. Capacity building

C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

C6. Enabling environment

Wheel segments:

UN DESA — UN Reg. Com. / UNDP / ITU / UNESCO / ECOSOC

UN DESA — ECOSOC/ UN Reg. Com./ ITU

ITU — APC

UNESCO — ITU / FAO / UNIDO

ITU — UNESCO / UNDP / UN DESA / FAO / UNIDO

ITU

UNDP — ITU / UN REG. COM. / UNCTAD / UN DESA / UNIDO / APC

Multiple

UNESCO

UNESCO

UNESCO — ECOSOC / WHO / ECPAT Int'l

WSIS ACTION LINES

AL(co)facilitators

(Donut chart of WSIS Action Lines)

- C11. International and regional cooperation
- C1. Role of public governance authorities & all SHs in the promotion of ICT4D
- C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
- C2. Information and communication infrastructure
- C9. Media
- C3. Access to information and knowledge
- C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
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- C7. ICT Applications
  - E-government: UN DESA | UNDP/ITU
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  - E-employment: ILO | ITU
  - E-environment: WMO | WHO/UNEP/UN-Habitat/ITU/ICAO
  - E-agriculture: FAO | ITU
  - E-science: UNESCO | ITU/UNCTAD/WHO
- C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- C6. Enabling environment

WSIS Forum (since 2009)

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

UNGIS (co-chairs: ITU & UNDP)

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

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance Forum (since 2006)

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

Inspires and supports national and regional IGFs.

ENHANCED COOPERATION

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

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

ROLE OF ECOSOC & CSTD

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

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

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

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

OVERALL REVIEW

WSIS+10 2015

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

WSIS+20 2025

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

Towards WSIS+20

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

WSIS mechanisms, implementation and follow-up

DiPLO

What changed?

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

What changed?

Amended WSIS Policy Documents (experiment in text relevance between 2003/2005 and 2024)

March 2024

Context

Here, you can find an experiment on the drafting and relevance of policy documents. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) adopted two pillar documents for global digital developments:

- 2003 Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action
- 2005 Tunis Comminents and Agenda

To test their relevance for our era, we adjusted the old language to the new one by introducing the following changes in the original WSIS outcome documents:

- replacement of 'Information and Communication Technology' with 'digital technology';
- replacements of 'e–' with 'digital';
- replacements of 'Information Society' with 'Digital Society'.

These simple amendments show the enduring relevance of the WSIS documents for our era and future digital and AI developments.

https://dig.watch/processes/wsis20-process

More from Diplo

https://dig.watch/processes/wsis20-process

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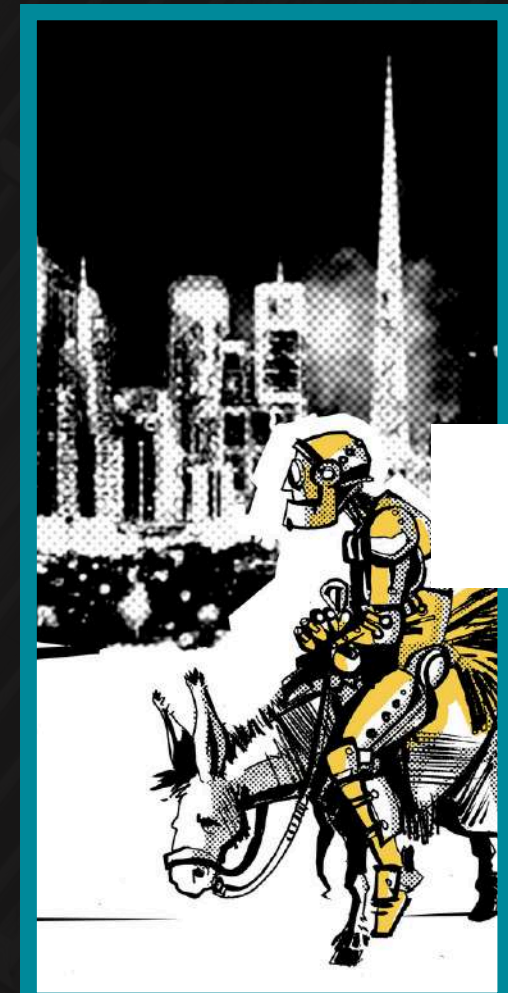
GDC focus areas: Evolution

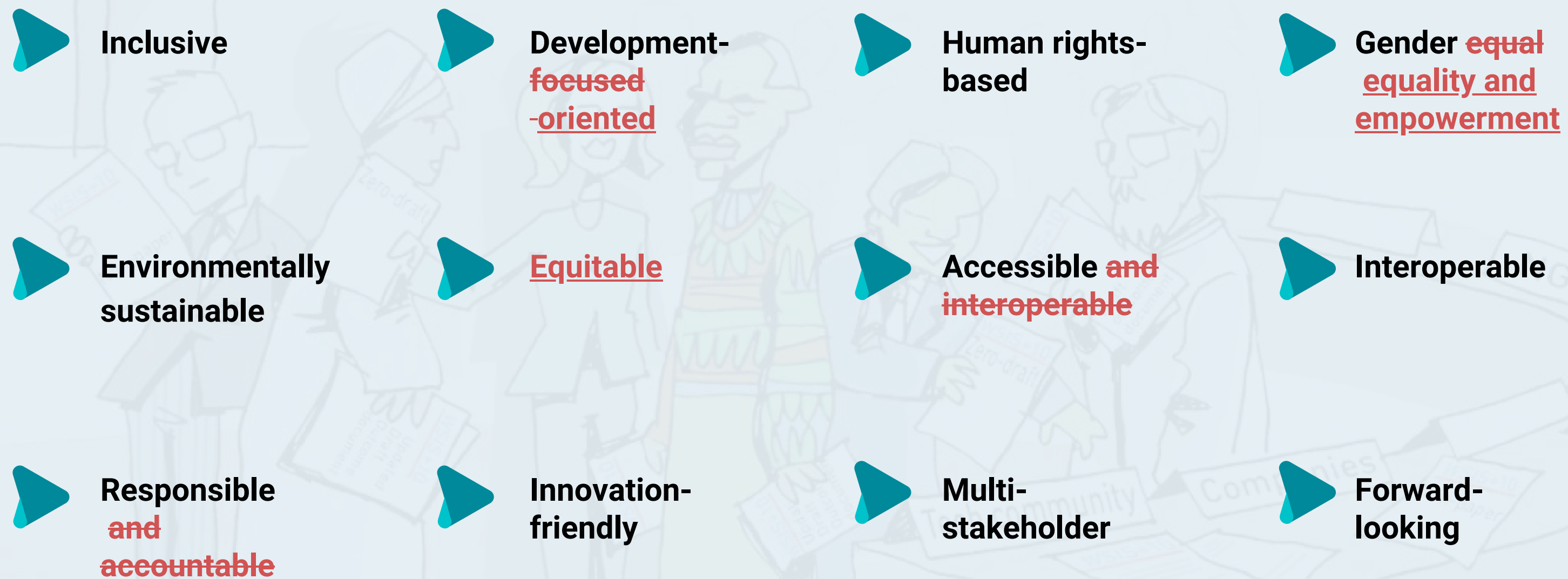| OCA	SG Policy Brief	Deep dives	Issues Paper	Elements...	GDC Zero Draft	GDC Rev.1
Connect all people to the internet	Digital connectivity and capacity building	Digital inclusion and connectivity	Close the digital divide | Universal, affordable, accessible connectivity | Digital literacy and skills |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

A few overarching reflections

- Commitments, some with timelines, others without.

- Anchoring of commitments into SDGs.

- Some very detailed/specific goals (e.g. universal access at 10Mb/s by 2030).

- But also some rather broad commitments, with little (if any) detail on actions to put them in place.

- Some recognition of the need for digital (governance) solutions to reflect different needs and realities across the world (e.g. with regard to DPIs).

- References to WSIS, IGF, work/role of UN agencies.

- Several NEW things.

Principles

Note: text in red denotes changes (edits, deletions, additions) compared to Zero Draft.

▶ Inclusive

▶ Development- ~~focused~~ -oriented

▶ Human rights-based

▶ Gender ~~equal~~ equality and empowerment

▶ Environmentally sustainable

▶ Equitable

▶ Accessible ~~and interoperable~~

▶ Interoperable

▶ Responsible ~~and accountable~~

▶ Innovation-friendly

▶ Multi-stakeholder

▶ Forward-looking
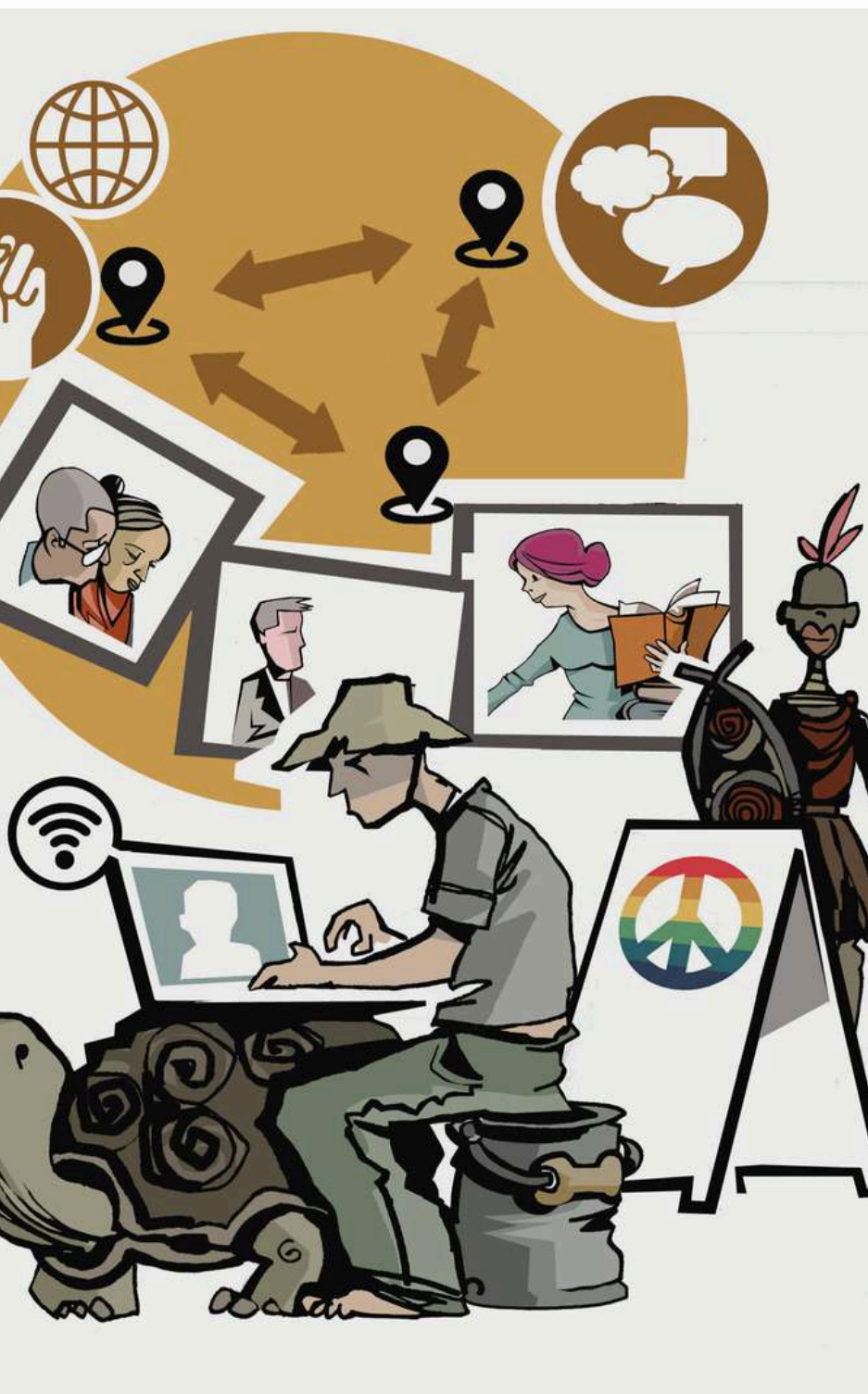
Commitments

1 Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

Connectivity	Digital literacy, skills, capacities	DPG & DPI

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

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

HR	IG	Digital trust & safety	Inf. integrity

4 Advance responsible and equitable international data governance

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

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

Commitments

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

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

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

~~Access to digital tech~~

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

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

4 Advance responsible and equitable international data governance

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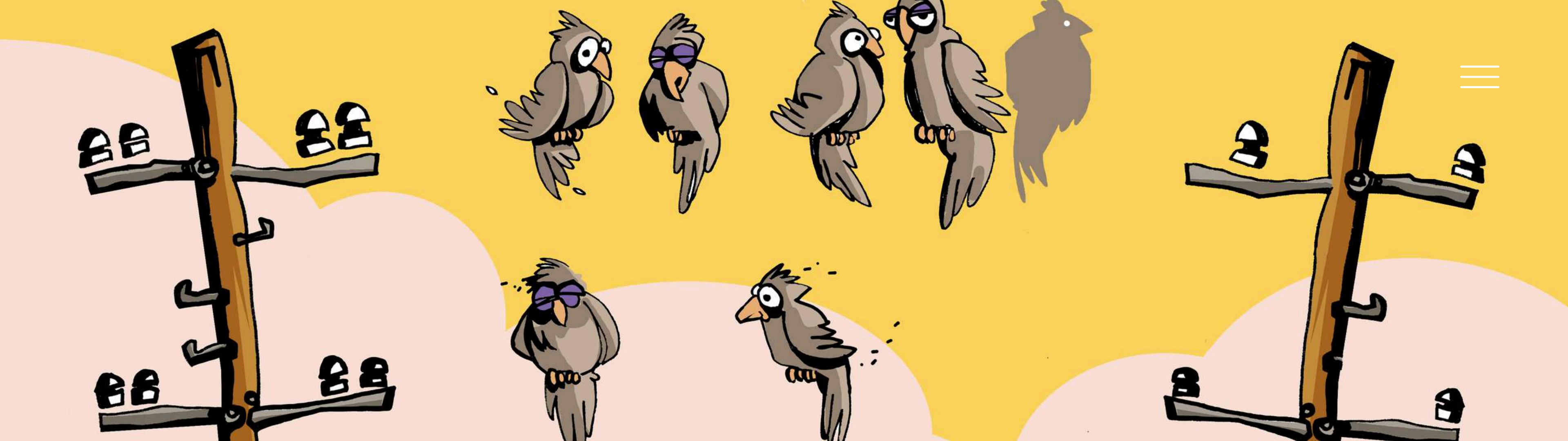
O1. Closing all digital divides and accelerating progress across SDGs

Clusters

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

DiPLO Geneva Internet Platform

Summary of commitments (11)

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about access? Or connectivity?
  - E.g. affordability of connectivity vs affordability of access.
- Anything missing?
- Submarine cables – missed opportunity?

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Key changes

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Adequate infra, designed to be **resilient & withstand natural/environmental hazards**.
- Development of **IXPs**.
- Encouraging use of **funds** for equitable access / implementation of **USFs**.
- Encourage **detailed data collection** on existing digital divides regionally to better inform policy and allocate resources from USFs.
- Necessary devices.
- Need for consideration & public awareness of the **environmental risks** posed by digital tech.

- ○ E.g. affordability of connectivity vs affordability of access.
- Anything missing?
- Submarine cables – missed opportunity?

Summary of commitments (13)

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

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

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

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skills / CB?

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

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Capacity building to **enhance digital skills** needed to use these devices while also **raising awareness of and protecting** the vulnerable and disadvantaged in society.

Summary of commitments (17)

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

Key changes

- Clarification of what DPGs include. (14)

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

- Removed commitment to recognise DPG standard.

Reflections

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

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

Summary of commitments (17)

- Develop, disseminate, maintain - though MSH coop. - **safe and secure open-source software, platforms, and standards**.
- Promote the adoption of **open standards and interoperability** to facilitate the use of DPG.
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Key changes

- Clarification of what DPGs include. (14)
- Commitment to increase investment in both DPG and DPI. (17a)

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Raise awareness of **what digital commons are** and are not.
- Policies and regulations that **promote** open data, open standards, and open APIs , and that encourage the use of open source software.
- **Greater awareness** of the benefits of openness and interoperability, both among policymakers and the public.
- **Investment in the skills and knowledge** necessary to promote openness and interoperability.
- Ensure that e-gov services are available to all.

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

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

Summary of commitments (21)

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

- What do we talk about when we talk about inclusion (in the digital economy) and access (to digital tech)?
- What is truly actionable and what not in the commitments? E.g. support/call for/promote/encourage/foster; pool; mainstream.

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Key changes

- Consistent language on **tech transfers 'on mutually agreed terms'**. (21e)
- New commitment to fostering open, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory digital environment. (21a)

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Boost the adoption of digital tech in the productive fabric, focusing on **SMEs** and promoting tech-based entrepreneurship.
- Reduce **barriers to digital trade**.

inclusion (in the digital economy) and access (to digital tech)?
- What is truly actionable and what not in the commitments? E.g. support/call for/promote/encourage/foster; pool; mainstream.

O3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, promotes and protects HR

Clusters

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

Summary

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

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

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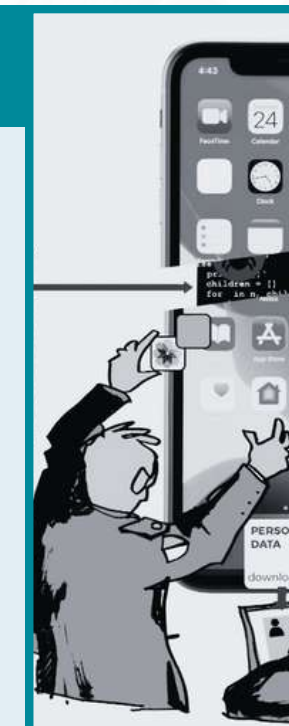
Key changes

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

Reflections

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

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Key changes

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- Reference to UN Digital HR Advisory Service changed from *we request* to *we support*. Clarification included

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Policy requirements **not modelled solely** on the existing European models.
- **Consistency** with current human rights standards and individual
- responsibilities and obligations is needed.
- **Public awareness-raising** to inform users of their rights online and the responsibilities of users to maintain equal rights.

- What does it mean that tech companies, developers, SM platforms are accountable for abuses? Whose abuses, especially for SM?
- When MS say *we will apply IHRL throughout the lifecycle* of tech, what does it mean?
- What do the calls for the PS mean?

Summary of commitments (28)

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

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

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- Continue efforts to increase diverse participation in IGF, especially by govs and the PS, particularly from developing countries.
- Promote international cooperation among all SHs to prevent, identify and address **risks of fragmentation** of the Internet in a timely manner.
- Refrain from **Internet shutdown**s; ensure restrictions comply compliance with IL.

Key changes

- New recognition of the need to *address the governance of the Internet in a global manner, with the participation of all states and other SH.* (27)

Changes in language about the IGF; summary ...

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF *(April 2023)*

- Collaboration on a regional level on decisions on issues like regulation.
- Facilitate measures which prevent differences of language from becoming/continuing to be break points.

consider, inter alia, the mandate of the IGF. We have therefore kept this section quite concise combining proposed actions around the IGF'.
- What do we talk about when we talk about internet fragmentation?
- IG vs DG?

Summary

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

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

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

Summary

Commitments (30):
- Define/adopt **common standards, guidelines, industry actions** to promote safe civic spaces and address harmful content;
- Prioritise the development/implementation of **national online child safety policies/standards**;
- Institutionalise collaboration between national online safety institutions;
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Key changes

- Change of terminology from *counter online violence against women and girls* to *counter sexual and gender-based violence which occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology*

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF *(April 2023)*

- Educate all users of safety measures to protect themselves and children online.
- Digital security is key to users being confident in their use of technology.

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

Summary of commitments

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

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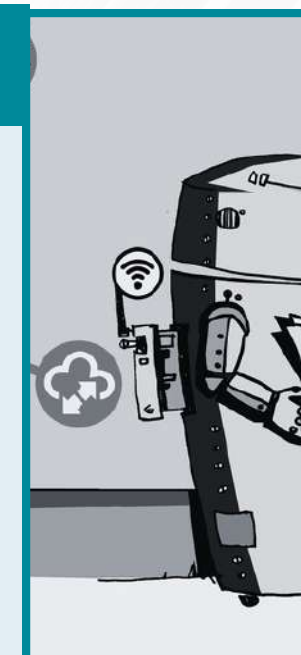
Key changes

- Under Chapeau, new element noting that MS *will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of mis- and disinformation online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with human rights.* (33)
- New commitment about facilitating access to accurate info to counter mis-/disinformation. (34c)

Reflections

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

Summary of commitments

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- Roll out **training curricula** for users to have the skills and knowledge to safely/critically interact with content and information providers and to enhance resilience against the harmful impacts of mis- and disinformation;
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Key changes

- Under Chapeau, new element noting that MS *will strengthen international cooperation to address the challenge of mis- and disinformation online and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a*

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Regional cooperation by both public and private sectors to address issues related to misleading content.

drive change? Anything missing?

- Reference to UN Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms the SG is supposed to develop (Policy Brief 8)?
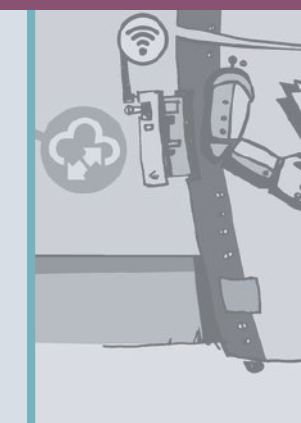
# 04. Advancing responsible and equitable international data governance

Clusters

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

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Summary of commitments (38)

- **Draw on existing international/regional privacy guidelines** when developing data governance frameworks;
- Strengthen support to all MS to develop **effective national data governance frameworks**;
- Empower individuals and groups with the ability to consider, give and withdraw their **consent** to the use of their data and the ability to choose how that data is used;
- Ensure that data collection, access, sharing, transfer, storage, **processing practices are transparent, secure, in line with IL**;
- Develop skilled workforces capable of collecting, processing, analyzing, storing and transferring data safely and securely.

Key changes

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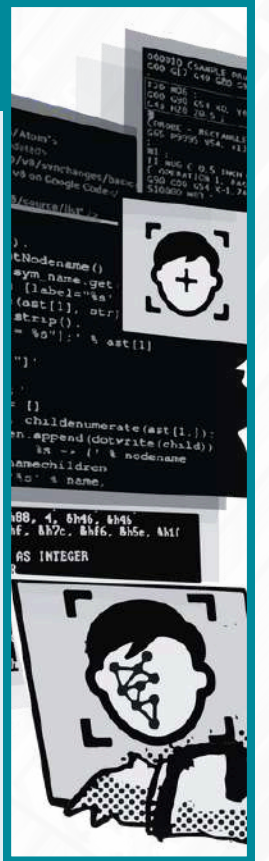
Reflections

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

Summary of commitments (38)

- **Draw on existing international/regional privacy guidelines** when developing data governance frameworks;
- Strengthen support to all MS to develop **effective national data governance frameworks**;
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- Develop skilled workforces capable of collecting, processing, analyzing, storing and transferring data safely and securely.

Key changes

- New recognition of *fragmented and uncoordinated evolution of data governance and of asymmetric concentration of data and capacities to use it.* (36)
- Change from *we commit to develop international data

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Capacity building is required to raise awareness on data and its uses.
- Data protection requires a combination of skilled workers to create risk mitigating environments, awareness of safety practices and the enforcement of laws when there are breaches.

frameworks?
- Anything about the PS? Already tackled under Human rights?
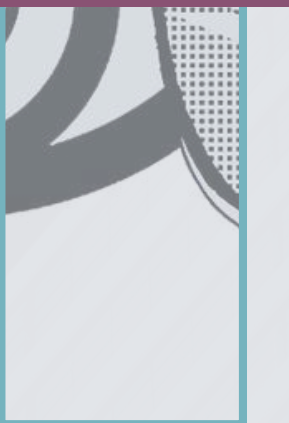
Summary of commitments (41)

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

Key changes

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

Reflections

- What are *basic* definitions and data classifications?
- What do we talk about when we talk about data divides? See also connection (?) with cluster on Data for development (e.g. gaps on data for development).
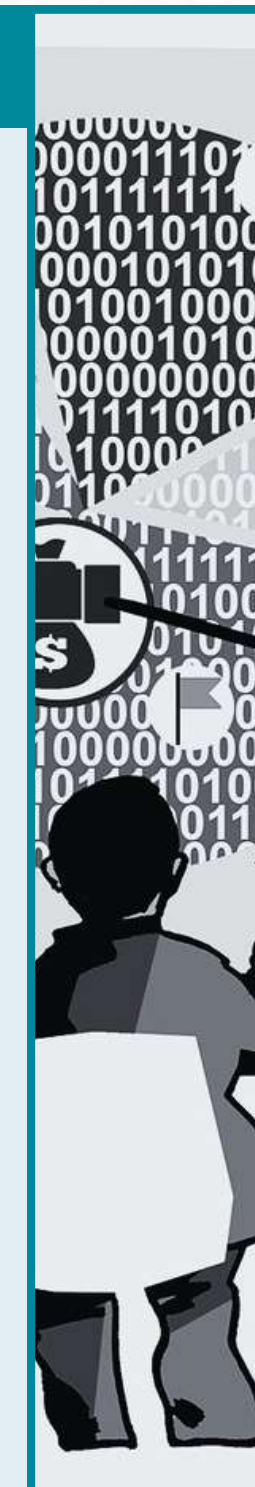
Summary of commitments (43)

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

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

Key changes

- *We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, to **initiate deliberations** during the 79th session **towards a framework for international data governance**, based on the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, with a view to **reaching consensus by 2030** on areas including*
  - *principles and common standards on data governance, including the collection, storage, processing, use and transfer of data;*
  - *best practices and proposals to support interoperability between existing national, regional and international data systems and governance frameworks;*
  - *and criteria to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows as it relates to development (All SDGs). (44)*

Summary of commitments (43)

Commitments (43):

- Increase **financing for data and statistics**; enhance efforts to build capacity in data and related skills and responsible data use, particularly in developing countries;
- **Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate** relevant, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate SDGs, while respecting privacy and data protection;
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Request (44):

- Initiation of deliberations towards a **framework for international data governance**.

Key changes

- *We request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one developed country, to **initiate deliberations** during the 79th session **towards a framework for international data***

  - *and criteria to facilitate safe, secure and trusted data flows as it relates to development (All SDGs).* (44)

Needs identified by CIGF and SIDS IGF (April 2023)

- Support needs to be given to Caribbean nations to gather and update data sets.
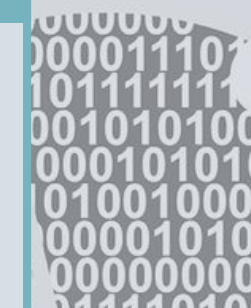
Summary of commitments (46)

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

Key changes

- Deletion of commitment to implement DFFT.

O5. Enhance international governance of emerging tech, including AI, for the benefit of humanity

Summary of commitments and calls

- Establish **International Scientific Panel on AI and Emerging Tech**.
- Initiate **International Contact Group on AI Governance**.
- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the development and application of **AI standards**.
- Encourage the development of **international partnerships on AI capacity-building** to develop education and training programmes, promote AI governance and risk management guidance for the public sector, facilitate AI model training and development, **and** to enable small and medium enterprises to participate in the digital economy.
- Leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building.
- Promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration to **support the development** of **representative quality data sets, compute capacity,** local solutions, use cases and entrepreneurial ecosystems in **developing countries**.
- Encourage public and private investment to support AI CB and governance.
- SG to establish **Global Fund for AI and Emerging Tech. for SD**.
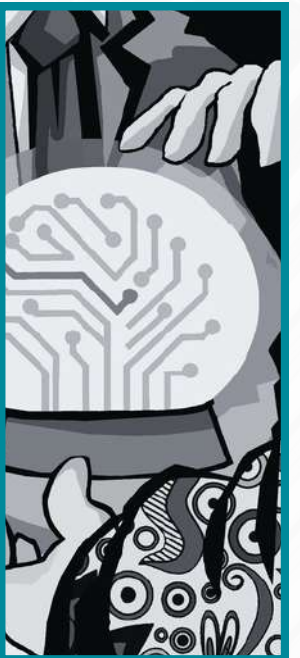
Key changes

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

Reflections

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

AI & em.tech. governance

UN: vital role in supporting and facilitating international governance

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

Intern. Scientific Panel on AI and em.tech.

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

International contact group on AI governance

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

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

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

Global Fund
AI&ET for SD

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

To be established by SG.

USD 100 million at 2025 launch

AI & em.tech. governance

UN: vital role in supporting and facilitating international governance

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

Intern. Scientific Panel on AI and em.tech.

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

International contact group Dialogue on AI governance

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

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

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

Global Fund
AI&ET for SD

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

To be established by SG

USD 100 million at 2025 launch

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Other commitments and calls

- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the harmonization of AI standards
- Will leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building [...] to bridge the AI divide and facilitate access to AI applications.
- Encourage the development of international partnerships on AI capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, promote AI governance and risk management guidance for the public sector, facilitate AI model training and development, and to enable small and medium enterprises to participate in the digital economy.
- Promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration to support the development of representative quality data sets, compute capacity, local solutions, use cases and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries
- Encourage public and private investments to support AI capacity building and governance, especially in developing countries. We call on stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute financial and other resources to this effort.

Other commitments and calls

- Call on SDOs to collaborate to promote the harmonization ~~to promote the development and application~~ of AI standards
- Will leverage existing mechanisms to support AI capacity building [...] to bridge the AI divide and facilitate access to AI applications. ~~Commit to increase AI capacity building, leveraging existing efforts [...], to facilitate access to AI applications for the SDGs~~.
- Encourage the development of international partnerships on AI capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, promote AI governance and risk management guidance for the public sector, facilitate AI model training and development, and to enable small and medium enterprises to participate in the digital economy.
- Promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration to support the development of representative quality data sets, compute capacity, local solutions, use cases and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries
- Encourage public and private investments ~~on AI for SD through pooled funding arrangements.~~ to support AI capacity building and governance, especially in developing countries. We call on stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to contribute financial and other resources to this effort.

Follow-up and review

1 Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

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

UN agencies

- **Request** UN A/F/P - **ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ...** - to support Compact implem., **in particular re O1**, and leveraging the MSH platform provided by WSIS Forum. (66)
- **Recognize** the role of **HLPF on SD and ECOSOC** in monitoring and reviewing progress of the Compact particularly in relation to closing digital divides and accelerating achievement of SDGs (O1). (74)

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

UN agencies

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

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

HR | IG | Digital trust & safety | Information integrity

UN agencies

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

4 Adance responsible & equitable international data governance

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

Request PGA to appoint co-facs to **initiate deliberations** during UNGA79 towards a **framework for international data governance.** (44)
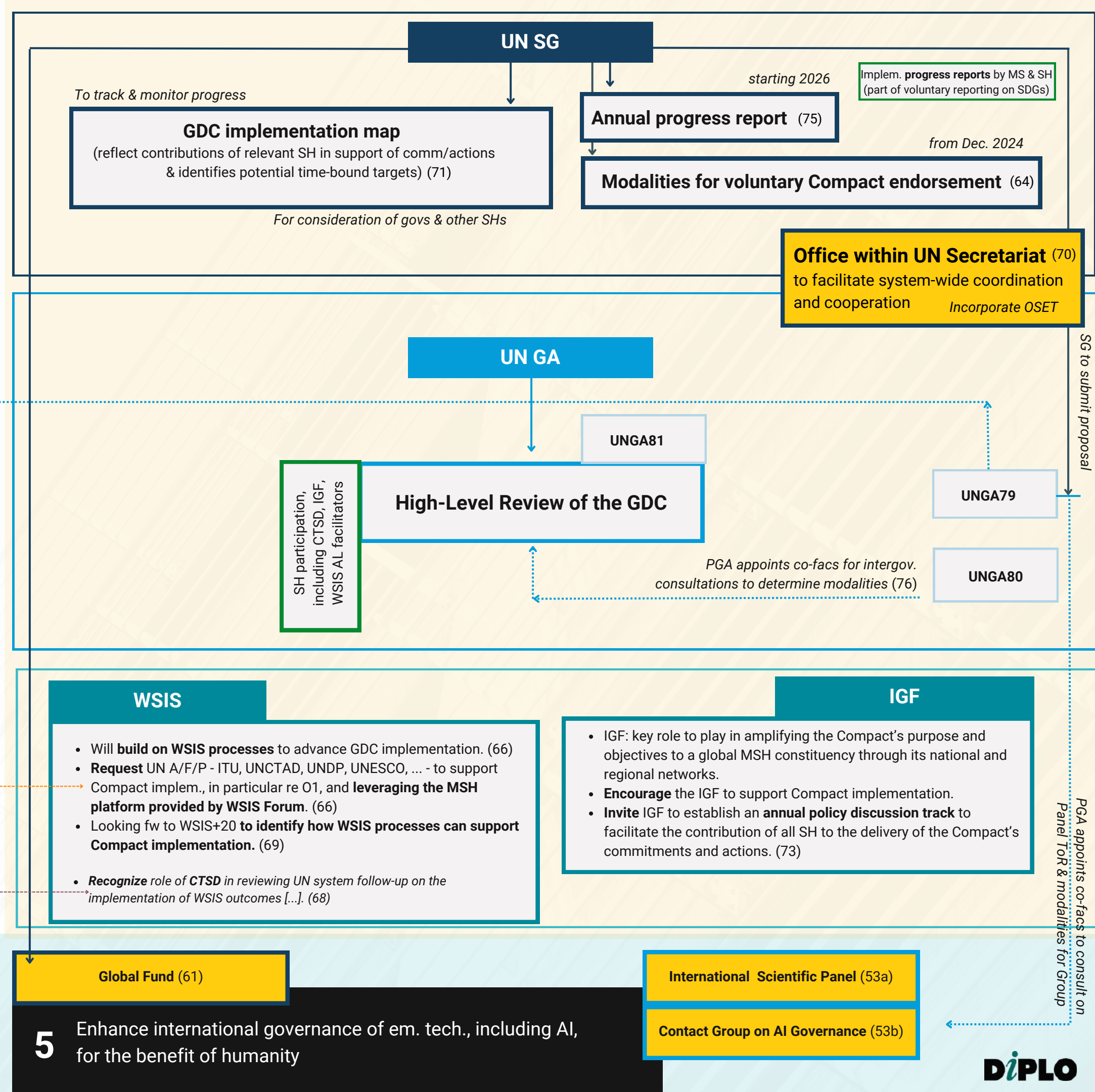
Based on work of UN Statistical Com. & CTSD and in collab. with relevant SH

Goal: consensus by 2030 on several issues

Overarching

UN agencies

- **Recognise** contribution of UN A/F/P - ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ... - in advancing DC & **request** them to **support Compact implem.** [...]. (66)
- **Recognise** role of **OHCHR** in supporting all SHs to implement Compact commitments and actions in ways that protect and promote HR. (67)
- **Invite CSTD** to consider how it can contribute to GDC implementation [...] (68)
- **Recognise** role of UN RECs and UN country teams in supp. regional/national SHs to advance DT. (66)
- **Recognise** role of HLPF on SD & ECOSOC in monitoring & reviewing Compact progress [...]. (74)

UN SG

To track & monitor progress

starting 2026

Implem. **progress reports** by MS & SH (part of voluntary reporting on SDGs)

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

Annual progress report (75)

from Dec. 2024

Modalities for voluntary Compact endorsement (64)

For consideration of govs & other SHs

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

SG to submit proposal

UN GA

UNGA81

SH participation, including CTSD, IGF, WSIS AL facilitators

High-Level Review of the GDC

UNGA79

UNGA80

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

WSIS

IGF

- Will **build on WSIS processes** to advance GDC implementation. (66)
- **Request** UN A/F/P - ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ... - to support Compact implem., in particular re O1, and **leveraging the MSH platform provided by WSIS Forum**. (66)
- Looking fw to WSIS+20 **to identify how WSIS processes can support Compact implementation.** (69)
- *Recognize role of CTSD in reviewing UN system follow-up on the implementation of WSIS outcomes [...]. (68)*

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

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

Global Fund (61)

International Scientific Panel (53a)

Contact Group on AI Governance (53b)

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

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Thank you!

—————

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