



Global Digital Compact 'zero draft'

Committee on Science and Technology for Development
27th Session

Geneva, 17 April 2024



The road to GDC

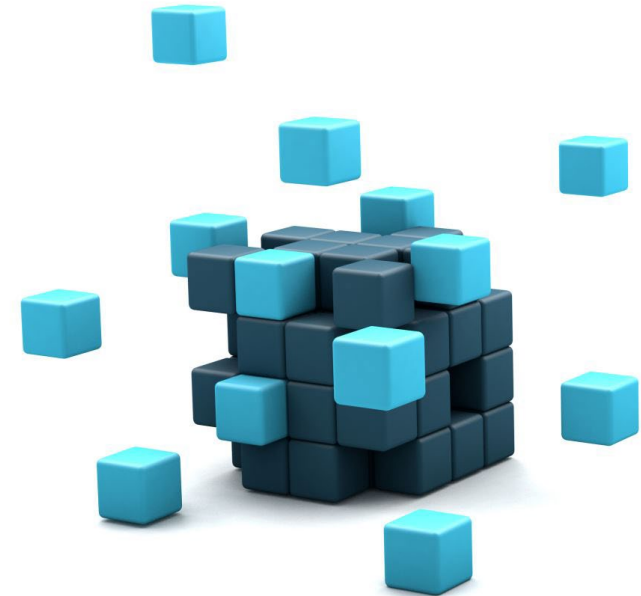
- WSIS 2003 and Tunis 2005
- IGF 2006
- High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation - 2019
- SG Roadmap on Digital Cooperation - 2020
- Our Common Agenda - 2021
- UN @75 declaration [commitment to strengthening digital cooperation]
- PGA-appointment of Co Facilitators : Sweden and Zambia
- Since February 2023 :
 - 15 meetings and multistakeholder deep dives – over 5000 participants. Regional consultations.
 - Open call for contributions (April 2023) +400 contributions from +6000 entities
 - Co Fac participation in digital forums (WSIS, IGF, CSTD, regional dialogues)
 - Multi-stakeholder consultations on GDC structural elements (March 2024): over 160 inputs received from Governments, CSOs, private sector, technical community, academia

Key themes

- Challenge of inclusion in the digital space, both within societies and across countries.
- Benefits of digital technologies don't just happen, we must design for them.
- Development and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing elements to deliver digital benefits and address risks.
- New emerging technologies coexist with longstanding digital divides. If past is prologue they may widen, not close, those divides.
- Challenge of governing tech companies and emerging tech.
- Realizing multistakeholder collaboration requires good design.
- There is an important role for the UN to play now and going forward. This role must necessarily be strengthened as the impact of the technologies increases in our lives.

Building blocks of the GDC

- **Scope:** Covers a range of digital and emerging technology issues identified during consultations
- **Focus:** Targeted and action-oriented roadmap to deliver strengthened digital cooperation
- **Forward-looking:** Help lay foundations for international governance of emerging technologies including AI
- **Outcome-oriented:** The GDC proposes:
 - **Objectives** + cross-cutting **principles** for digital cooperation
 - Practical **commitments** + targeted **actions** to achieve objectives
 - Modalities for **implementation, follow-up and review**, building on existing mechanisms and
 - Proposals for new arrangements where required



Principles

Inclusive - equitable participation, diversity

Development-focused: 2030 Agenda

Human rights-based

Gender equal

Environmentally sustainable

Accessible and interoperable

Responsible and accountable

Innovation-friendly

Multistakeholder

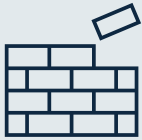
Forward-looking

Objectives

Development-oriented, centered on inclusion and equity:

1. Close the digital divides and accelerate progress across the SDGs
2. Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy
3. Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space
4. Advance equitable international data governance
5. Govern emerging technologies, including AI, for humanity

Commitments and Actions



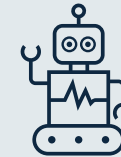
Builds on existing mechanisms – WSIS et al



Commitments address serious gaps in the achievement of SDGs



Almost all of the actions require multistakeholder collaboration



Governance of emerging technologies, including AI, for humanity

Follow up and Review

Coordination and collaboration through existing mechanisms

Role of Governments

Multistakeholder partnerships

UN agencies – incl ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNCTAD, OHCHR

WSIS process:

Action Lines & WSIS+20 Review

Internet Governance Forum

WSIS reporting: CSTD

New Proposals

1. Office to support coordination on digital and emerging technologies

- Formalization of OSET

2. Biennial high-level review

- Sustain political attention and momentum
- Knowledge & exchange across digital cooperation networks
- Respond to pace of tech change

1 Close the digital divides and accelerate progress across SDGs.

Connectivity Skills, capacities DPG & DPI

- **Request** for UN agencies - **ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, ...** - to support Compact implementation, in particular re O1.
- **Recognition** of the role of **HLPF on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC** in monitoring and reviewing progress of the Compact's objectives, particularly in relation to closing digital (O1) and data divides (O4).

UN agencies

2 Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy

Access to digital tech

- **Invitation** for **CSTD** to consider how it can contribute to GDC implementation, in particular re O2 and O4.

UN agencies

3 Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space

HR IG Trust, safety Inf. integrity

UN agencies

- **Recognition** of the role of **OHCHR** in supporting all stakeholders to implement the Compact, particularly in relation to HR aspects of digital cooperation and O3.
- **Recognition** of the role of **UN HRC** in tracking progress related to O3.

IGF

- IGF **recognised** as key MSH platform for IG and the promotion of an inclusive, open, safe, secure digital space.
- SH **encouraged** to engage in the IGF to **advance GDC commitments on IG**.

4 Advance equitable international data governance

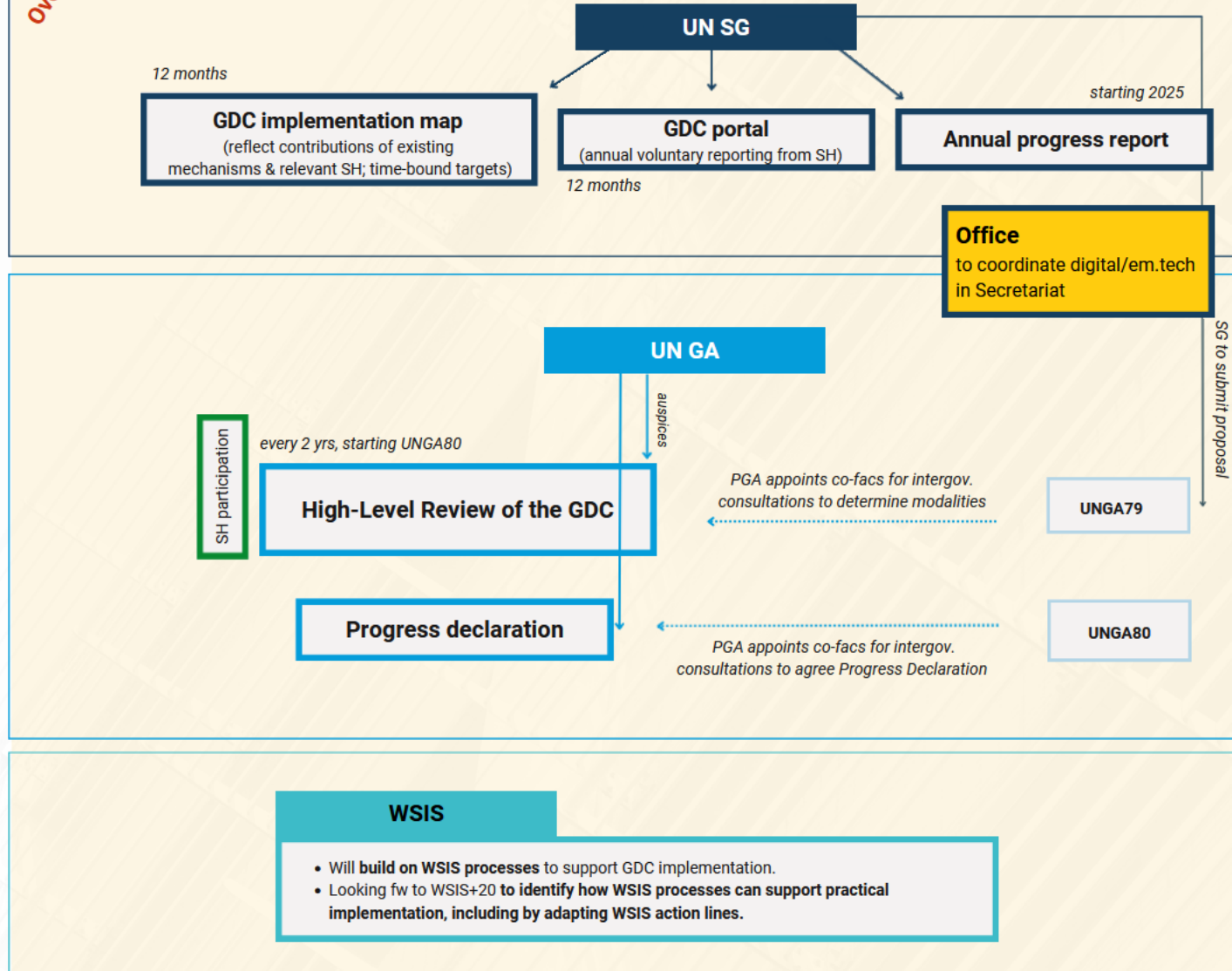
Privacy, sec. Exchanges, standards D4D Cb data flows

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UN agencies

Specific to objectives and clusters

Overall



5 Govern emerging technologies, including AI, for humanity

How can GDC leverage existing mechanisms?



- **GDC will build on existing mechanisms, to ensure a whole of society, government and UN, approach to digital transformation. Early ideas on how to pursue GDC objectives through the existing mechanisms and strengthening the feedback loop:**
- 1. Close the digital divides and accelerate progress across the SDGs:**
 - Build on the WSIS frameworks, knowledge and actions to prioritize development as a key deliverable of technology.
 - Invite WSIS+20 Review to consider how it might reflect GDC actions in WSIS action lines.
 - ITU ‘connecting the world’, capacity-building for digital literacy, Giga initiative
 - UNESCO capacity-building of government officials and judges
 - 2. Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy:**
 - WSIS and CSTD fora – exchange knowledge, promote tech transfers
 - UNCTAD research and capacity-building, e-commerce week
 - UNESCO ROAM methodology, establishing the bases for digital flourishing
 - 3. Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space:**
 - Leadership of the IGF on internet governance
 - Human rights and Tech – OHCHR
 - UNESCO focus on prevention of GBV in digital space
 - 4. Advance equitable international data governance:**
 - CSTD leadership to promote policy alignment and capacity-building on data for development, data governance
 - 5. Govern emerging technologies, including AI, for humanity:**
 - Policy alignment knowledge exchange AI 4 Good, IGF platforms
 - ITU standards-setting and capacity-building on AI
 - UNESCO needs assessments and capacity-building for government officials on AI

Next Steps

Member State negotiations

- First reading begins on 2 May
- Coordinated alongside Summit of the Future preparations

Multistakeholder engagement

- Regular updates, first of which is 24 April (virtual)

Opportunities for discussion and consultations

- G20 (April), AU (May), Civil Society Conference (May), WSIS Forum and AI for Good SUMmit

