

ICC BASIS Input to the Global Digital Compact

1. Connect all people to the internet, including all schools

a) Core Principles

Delivering universal meaningful connectivity requires effective action on all three layers of the ICT ecosystem: accessible and affordable infrastructure and devices; appropriate applications and services built upon the infrastructure; and user ability to use a device and understand the features of these applications and services. As stated in the [ICC White Paper on Delivering Universal](#)

Private investments and public funding mechanisms alike should be informed by accurate information and reliable data, including coverage and usage data, but also satellite images, census data and other relevant information that combined can provide detailed understanding ahead of decisions taken on where and how to deploy networks.

We also recall the [multistakeholder joint statement](#) presented to the 2021 High-Level Digital Debate of the UN General Assembly on Connectivity and Digital Cooperation that introduced principles for a People-Centered Approach to Achieve Meaningful Connectivity.

The Global Digital Compact should reiterate all member states' shared commitment to bridging both the coverage and usage gaps and bringing meaningful connectivity to all populations everywhere. The Compact should recognize the efforts of all stakeholders and encourage flexible and forward-looking policy and regulatory approaches that enable investments across the entire digital value chain, facilitate the effective management of spectrum and are grounded in evidence and data.

2. Avoid internet fragmentation

a) Core Principles

The open, interconnected and interoperable Internet is a generally recognized principle and objective that is increasingly put at risk and undermined due to unintended consequences of technical, legislative, regulatory and policy developments that have an impact at any of the layers of the Internet.

- Technical / backbone layer: whereby conditions in the underlying technical infrastructure impede the ability of systems to fully interoperate;
- Network / access layer: whereby conditions at the physical, network, transport layers prevent proper functioning of the Internet and/or hinder meaningful connectivity;
- Application / content layer: whereby policies and actions constrain or prevent certain uses of the Internet to create, distribute or access information.

digital literacy, trust, and online environments free from harassment, discrimination and violence, among others.

7. **Commit to preserve and strengthen the multistakeholder model** particularly by ensuring that UN policymaking processes are more diverse, equitable, and inclusive, and that existing fora tasked with Internet governance challenges, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), are further strengthened with appropriate human resources and funding. Meaningful participation of interested and informed stakeholders is essential to ensure that outcomes are both effective and accepted. It is particularly important to ensure the meaningful participation of stakeholders from the global South and other typically under-represented groups in global public policymaking pertaining to the Internet, including women.

b) Key Commitment/ Pledges/ Actions

An open, stable and trusted Internet is vital for business operations worldwide and the effective functioning of public services such as education, health care or various government services. Technical, legislative, regulatory and policy developments threatening the open, interconnected and interoperable nature of the Internet also risk losing its associated benefits to social and economic development, while also harming human rights.

ICC BASIS is a strong supporter of the formation of the Internet Governance Forum Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation. This multistakeholder coalition aims to offer a systematic and comprehensive framework to define Internet fragmentation, its intended and unintended causes, and its potential effects; to collect and analyze case studies to fine-tune and complement this framework and to establish shared principles, recommendations or codes of conduct that prevent fragmentation and preserve the open, interconnected and interoperable nature of the Internet.

The Global Digital Compact should reiterate all member states' shared commitment to keeping the Internet whole, open, interconnected and interoperable.

The Compact should recognize the efforts of the Internet Governance Forum Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation to understand, map and bring recommendations to counter measures that might fragment the Internet at any of its technical, network or content layers.

3. Protect data

a) Core Principles

Governments should therefore assure that their policy and regulatory environments are up to date and reflect best practice regarding high levels of privacy and security protection. Lack of interoperability across the policy and regulatory environments can create needless administrative burdens and compliance inconsistencies across jurisdictions. Furthermore, as privacy is both subjective to the data subject and tied to the cultural and legal context of the jurisdiction, harmonisation can be difficult to achieve.

Therefore, there is a clear and urgent need to enhance cooperation on data governance, data protection and identifying opportunities to overcome differences, explore commonalities in regulatory approaches and promote interoperability. Such work should not diminish any jurisdiction's protection or aim for the lowest common denominator of privacy standards, but rather to find ways of avoiding duplicative compliance requirements and needless administrative burdens, while assuring adequate levels of protection.

The Global Digital Compact should recognize that establishing trust and minimising disruptions in data flows are fundamental to reaping the benefits of digitalisation. The Compact should call for unjustified obstacles to cross- border data flows to be removed, while continuing to address privacy, data protection, the protection of intellectual property rights, or security. The Compact should encourage global cooperation and interoperability across policy and regulatory systems on data governance matters.

4. Apply human right

6. Regulation of artificial intelligence

a) Core Principles

ICC is a strong supporter of the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence which promote artificial intelligence (AI) that is innovative and trustworthy and that respects human rights and democratic values. These value-based principles refer to:

1. Inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being: Stakeholders should proactively engage in responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI in pursuit of beneficial outcomes for people and the planet such as augmenting human capabilities and enhancing creativity, advancing inclusion of underrepresented populations, reducing economic, social, gender and other inequalities, and protecting natural environments, thus invigorating inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being.
2. Human-centred values and fairness: AI actors should respect the rule of law, human rights and democratic values as freedom, dignity and autonomy, privacy and data protection, non -

guided by the objectives of information sharing, raising awareness and where appropriate, coherence among work programmes and collaboration.

A governance model fit to promote this culture of cooperation and coordinate activities to support it, must be:

- f* Multistakeholder: all relevant stakeholders (governments, business, technical community, academia, civil society) should participate, engage, and contribute to the discussions and decision-making.
- f* Bottom-up and distributed: an open and inclusive participation model fosters not only legitimacy and credibility, but also is flexible to rapidly adapt to changing technologies and issues and avoid unintended consequences.
- f* Transparent: decision-making processes should be consensus-based, clearly indicating how decisions are made and how multistakeholder input is reflected in such decisions.

The strength of such a mechanism lies not only in its open and inclusive participation model, and the legitimacy and credibility that it fosters, but also in its flexibility to rapidly adapt to changing technologies and issues.

Multistakeholder cooperation along these principles is indispensable for the realization of the objectives outlined in the UN Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda to deliver universal meaningful connectivity, avoid internet fragmentation, ensure data free flows with trust; protect human rights online, and promote trustworthy artificial intelligence, and therefore should be prominently featured in the Global Digital Compact.

b) Key Commitment/ Pledges/ Actions

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) embodies the above-mentioned principles and characteristics of multistakeholder cooperation and stands as the UN's only bottom-up multistakeholder mechanism serving as a pioneering example of cooperation among Internet governance stakeholders since its inception.

The IGF's invaluable feature as a venue for discussion and non-binding outcomes provides a "safe place" for stakeholders to test new ideas and unveil potential solutions. All participants benefit from an exchange of different viewpoints. With its emphasis on inclusiveness, the IGF also has enabled under-represented stakeholders from developing and least developed countries as well as a new generation of youth to engage in Internet governance.