AUSTRALIAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY INPUT TO THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

We, the undersigned members of the Australian internet governance community, believe that digital technologies and the online environment provide unprecedented opportunities for sustainable economic growth and social wellbeing globally . However, we also acknowledge that they have given rise to complex risks and profound challenges that cannot be solved by any single government or entity .

We consider a holistic approach driven by the need to put people first should be the key motivator in devising a strategy that maximise s the benefits whilst minimising the harms that the digital world offers. Key values that guide this process must include human rights,

forward, w e support and call for a concerted effort to building m ultistakeholder partnerships to work together to maximis e data use while minimis ing its potential for misu se.

Key Commitments :

We propose a multistakeholder collaboration that addresses the lack of trust , ensures openness and transparency in the collection and use of data and institutes appropriate safeguards to minimise the misuse of data.

Application of human rights online

Core Principles:

Digital technologies provide unparallel ed opportunities for the promotion , advancement and defence of human rights . However , they also provide the means to suppress, limit and violate rights, for example, through surveillance, censorship and online harassment, algorithmic bias and automated decision - making systems . If we , as a global community , are to subscribe to a human centric digital ecosystem, we must ensure that h uman rights whether online o r offline are protected and safeguarded.

Key Commitments:

Rights online must be afforded the same protections as those offline, in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights legal obligations0 1 490.66 432.43 Tm 0 g 0 G [( )] TJ ET Q q 0.00000912 0

solutions that are broad based and forward looking. A multistakeholder collaboration will also help to progress   consensus - based   outcomes that have considered a range of perspectives.

Key Commitments   :

The GDC should support a human centric approach to digital transformation and encourage and actively support multistakeholder collaboration in shaping all aspects of digital policy. The digital commons is a shared resource and a global good that must benefit all humanit   y and not   be stifled or segmented by technological, legal   - political or societal measures. Digital policies should promote trust and accountability, encourage innovation and foster access based on open   , community developed standards.

Other areas

Multistakeholder cooperation

Core Principles:

Technological developments   bring both benefits and challenges   , and t he rapid pace of change requires increasingly agile   and flexible responses.

The UN[7] has   ã ß Ø × Ú Ø × ç â â Ü à ã å â é Ø   × Ü Ú Ü givo nßw e ã ä Ø a Ü ã é Ú ã Ü ç á Ü â á ã Ô Ú Ø â Ù ß × Ü Ú Ü ç Ô ß Ü á ç Ø å × Ø ã Ø ã[8] x Impr à Ö v ä i O ng à digital cooperation requires   a collaborative approach that draws on the varied expertise of the multistakeholder community.   Paragraph 93 of the   Our Common Agenda   [9] report also recognise s the value of mu ltistakeholder   collaboration   by calling for a multistakeholder digital technology track to   develop the GDC   which will outline ß æ Û Ô å Ø × ã å Ü á Ö Ü ã ß Ø æ Ù â å Ô á â ã Ø á Ù å Ø Ø Ô %× æ Ø Ö è å Ø ×Ü Ú Ü ç Ô ß Ù è ç è å Ø

Digital technologies have been recognised as a critical tool   in achieving   the SDGs. The 17 SDGs are broad ranging, united by the overarching goal   [10] ç â Ø á æ è å Ø ß ã Ø Ô Ö Ö Ô á × ã å â æ ã Ø å Ü ç ã ã Ø à ã ß Ø Ô á × ç Û Ø ã ß Ô á Ø ç Ÿ á â ê Ô á × Ù â å ç Û Ø range and complex Ø é Ø å Ÿ ç Û Ø × Ü interlinkages   of the SDGs makes this an almost unachievable goal without   inclusive collaboration across all stakeholder groups (government, private sector, the technical community, academics, civil society).

Complex d igital issues cannot properly   be addressed in silos.   Effective , practical   and fit for purpose solutions are best develop   ed via multistakeholder processes,   draw ing on the expertise of a range of relevant stakeholders   . These processes should provide for open and inclusive bottom   - up participation, and transparent, consensus   - based decision - making.

Multistakeholder p   rocesses allow ideas and proposals to be debated on their merits   and to consider a diverse range   of perspectives. This increa ses the legitimacy   and credibility   of outcomes , generat ing greater   support and commitment   to implementation   , and reduc es the risk of unintended consequences   .

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[7] UNGA Resolution: A/RES/75/1

[8]

[9] Our common Agenda- Report of the UN Secretary General, paragraph 93, September 2021

[10] 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This multistakeholder approach has driven innovation and continual improvement to the internet. The Internet Engineering Task Force develops open standards that enhance the operation of the internet collaboratively through multistakeholder, transparent processes. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Ÿ ê Û Ü Ö Û Ö â â å × Ü á Ô ç Ø æ ç Û Ø Ü á ç Ø å á unique identifiers, develops policy via multistakeholder processes . Key outcomes include the transition of stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority .

The UN itself encourages multistakeholder collabora tion and has had significant success in this regard . This include s outcomes related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), such as the WSIS multistakeholder forums and the Internet Governance Forum .

We recognise th e multistakeholder approach is not without its challenges