

requirements, so that students can access online classes and information conveniently. Adequate Bandwidth for schools should be quantified to enable latest technology access for students. Ensuring regular electricity service at least during the school time is critical. For that, the use of solar power may be encouraged for sustainability. Providing capacity building to teachers and students on how to maximise the benefit of the Internet while safe surfing is important.

Finally, the GDC should acknowledge that it was the cooperative, interoperable, open, and bottom-up approach that created this dynamic, resilient Internet, and that this same cooperative approach provides us with the tools to extend Internet access to all people.

2. Internet governance / Avoid internet fragmentation

Over the last 3 decades, multistakeholder efforts have been effective in preventing Internet fragmentation around the world by promoting the development and use of globally accepted Internet standards and protocols.

An example of such efforts is the coordination and governance of the Internet naming and numbering systems, that allow users around the world to access the same content and services without any barriers or restrictions. Numerous individuals and organisations, comprising both governmental agencies and intergovernmental organisations, have contributed significantly to this coordination. Their concerted efforts have been instrumental in maintaining the Internet's open, global, and interoperable nature, while ensuring its stability and security.

The organisations and communities that have evolved around these coordination systems, have built an inclusive, transparent and accountable governance framework that has helped to build trust in the global Internet ecosystem. Active coordination should continue to be promoted and supported to ensure healthy Internet governance.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its ecosystem play a pivotal role in fostering dialogue and multistakeholder participation on Internet public policy issues and has strengthened the Internet coordination ecosystem over the years. Hence, the IGF is a suitable platform to support the implementation of the GDC principles and commitments. Efforts should continue to be made to strengthen the IGF.

Local multistakeholder processes such as the National and Regional Initiatives of the IGF work well and additional efforts could be made to aggregate these initiatives into regional and global fora. Additionally, various multistakeholder national, regional, and global youth initiatives, such as national Youth IGFs, are working towards meaningful youth empowerment and engagement in decision-making processes. More active efforts to integrate such initiatives will ensure young voices in the digital public policy and technology development space.

Stakeholders should work together towards avoiding fragmentation. In this regard, we support the work that is currently being done in the IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation (PNIF). The PNIF was a community initiative launched by a multistakeholder coalition of civil society, business and technical community organisations to raise awareness of the technical, policy, legal and regulatory measures and actions that pose a risk to the open, interconnected and interoperable Internet.

We appreciate the efforts of the GDC public consultations. We encourage the ongoing GDC process to be more open, multistakeholder and inclusive, promoting active dialogue and robust discussion, which are key elements for reaching better agreements and understandings.

3. Protect data

To enable the free flow of information while ensuring the protection of sensitive data, it is important to have a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing cross-border data flow barriers. That is why we support the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust.

There are numerous barriers that can impede the transfer of data across borders, such as data privacy regulations, data localization requirements, and security concerns - which might result in further aggravating Internet fragmentation. To overcome these barriers, it is important to implement robust security measures, such as encryption and access controls, to protect the data being transferred. Additionally, adopting internationally recognized data protection standards and certifications can help to ensure compliance with data privacy regulations across different jurisdictions.

4. Regulation of artificial intelligence

Some regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) might ensure that it is developed and

to shape our society in profound ways, and it is important that its development and deployment are guided by principles that reflect the values of our society. Multi-stakeholder engagement is critical in this regard, as it enables diverse perspectives and expertise to be brought to the table, ensuring that the development of AI is guided by the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders. Additionally, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity are essential to ensuring that the governance of AI is conducted in a manner that is fair, equitable, and consistent with the principles of democratic governance. By learning from the lessons of Internet governance, we can help ensure that the governance of AI is conducted in a manner that promotes the public good, while addressing the complex challenges that are sure to arise.

Regulation should be balanced between targeting the challenges faced by widespread adoption of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies with protecting people online and ensuring human rights are respected. A regulatory sandbox in artificial intelligence (AI) with a multistakeholder approach has numerous benefits that make it a valuable tool for promoting innovation while protecting the interests of all stakeholders. By allowing innovators to experiment with new AI technologies in a controlled environment, a regulatory sandbox can help to accelerate the development of new solutions and business models. At the same time, it can provide regulators with valuable insights into the potential risks and benefits of these technologies, allowing them to develop more informed policies and regulations. A multistakeholder approach, which involves the participation of stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society, can help to ensure that the sandbox reflects a diversity of perspectives and interests. This approach can also foster collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders, leading to more inclusive and effective policy outcomes. Ultimately, a regulatory sandbox in AI with a multistakeholder approach can help to create a more balanced and sustainable ecosystem for AI innovation and deployment, benefiting society as a whole.

In addition, cross national efforts should be explored in finding solutions. This includes balancing and relating AI principles and guidelines to universal human rights norms and harmonising between the different global regulatory frameworks on AI.

This submission is endorsed by the following 73 organisations and individuals from the Asia Pacific region:

Sl. No	Name	Organisation/ Individual	Location	Stakeholder Group
1	AI Council	Organization	Hong Kong	Social
2	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)	Organisation	Regional	Technical

