by private sector, civil society, technical community and governments, a multistakeholder and contributors group should be involved throughout the entire process and in its drafting, beyond the consultation phase.

Consistency with existing initiatives, principles and regulations is key to ensure the effectiveness of a global regulatory framework. It also requires an inclusive, dynamic and agile adoption process to adapt to the fast-paced evolution of emerging technologies and related key issues.

As shown in a recent report of the McKinsey Global Institute “Securing Europe’s competitiveness: Addressing its technology gap”, Europe needs to raise its investment in tech R&D if it wants to compete with other global leaders in transversal technologies, ranging from future of connectivity to next-generation computing or applied AI. On the other hand, next-generation innovators have the ability to solve global issues in various areas according to the predictions of the Technology Pioneers recognized by the World Economic Forum.

Just as mobile technology has been a game changer during the last 15 years, blockchain will democratize and streamline access to credit. There is a clear correlation between GDP per capita and cell phone penetration. In the developing countries, the biggest driver of this growth is mobile money. People who have never had a bank account or a secure way to save, transfer, borrow and invest money now have it all at hand.

With the rise of digital labour marketplaces, “gig-work” and “job on demand” will offer earning opportunities in countries where jobs are scarce for low-skilled populations. The best opportunities will be given to the best talent wherever they live, thereby truly unleashing the potential of a billion knowledge workers. A data-first approach in the way we do business and close agreements will enable massive efficiency gains and free up vast amount of wasted human potential that could be redirected to more meaningful objectives.

Smart contracts have the potential to revolutionize e-commerce and the exchange of goods, forever changing the way we trade and consume, with application evolving towards open marketplace for literally everything, where anyone can share the value they create.

Ed-tech will profoundly transform our education models. The web is already interfacing children with the best experts,

While 3D-printed homes are going mainstream, how we build future cities will exponentially accelerate our sustainability efforts. The construction industry, that accounts for almost 40% of global CO2 emissions, is adopting new sustainable materials and battery energy storage systems tailored for construction sites that reduce carbon emissions by 80%.

Beyond solar farms' projects and off-grid renewable energy, future flexible energy grid will be able to balance in real time energy supply and demand, allowing individual renewable energy producers to reinject energy in the network, optimizing their earnings and energy consumption. Electric vehicles will respond to real-time grid requirements, when it needs the most.

In the area of CO2 capture, n

The digital transformation of education can provide unique opportunities for inclusive and equitable quality education, but global digital divides, including the gender digital divide, must be overcome. Connecting every school to the internet and extending services to households and individuals can

This fragmentations affects users' access to information, privacy protections, and freedom to transact and communicate based on their location. It hinders international trade, particularly impacting small businesses and emerging markets.

Equally, efforts are needed to define principles and safeguards for government access to personal data held by the private sector, while transparency policies should prohibit excessive costs, burdens and risks on providers that comply with legal obligations.

Key commitments

The Global Digital Compact should adhere to high data protection standards and focus on protecting data while ensuring fairness, competitiveness, and data-driven innovation. A balance must be found between data protection, trade secret protection, innovation and investment in the data economy. Enhanced global cooperation on data governance and interoperability across policy and regulatory systems is needed to overcome differences and identify opportunities.

Special attention should be given to policies that prevent data-extractive models and personal data export to inadequately protected jurisdictions.

With regard to government access to personal data, OECD countries have adopted an agreement for privacy and human rights protection when accessing personal data for national security and law enforcement purposes.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DISCRIMINATION AND MISLEADING CONTENT

Core principles

Safeguarding global security in countering foreign information manipulation to undermine democratic electoral infrastructure and political processes or interfering during conflicts or crises is crucial. Therefore, media freedom and journalists' safety should be protected.

Stakeholders should address challenges presented by online disinformation and citizens should be empowered to make informed choices online, with access to diverse, transparent, reliable information.

Key commitments

While transparency and accountability to avoid the misuse of technologies are crucial, the Global Digital Compact should recognize pre-existing tools and initiatives to ensure consistency and effectiveness of any global regulatory framework related to discrimination and misleading content.

The Global Digital Compact should support an online environment free from information manipulation, online sexual and gender-based violence, hate speech, and harmful content. Combating discrimination, special attention should also be given to accessible persons with disabilities.

Platforms should be encouraged to keep on adopting and adapting accountable practices. Policies on content governance and their governance are to be designed in line with international human rights, democracy, and rule of law standards. In this respect, principles and guidelines developed by the Global Network Initiative (GNI) are becoming a global standard for human rights in the ICT sector.

7. REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Core principles

AI has the potential to benefit the society and the economy in many ways and to address world challenges as climate change, energy transition and pandemics. It can be leveraged to make infrastructures and services more efficient, or for safety, cybersecurity, and sustainability.

Essential to economic development, AI could also intensify discrimination and digital divide. Therefore, transparent and robust algorithms need to prevent unfair biases and ensure that AI contributes positively to society. Policymakers need to develop proportionate, risk-based regulations that promote