Input from the Government of the Republic of Poland the Global Digital Compact

Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Poland expresses deepest appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General ~ h E ^'•U , X X D Œ X to š‰ D‰ š ŒDĮ OP •š Z ^'[• Œ ‰}Œ š c K P v This document presents a set of guiding recommendations to develop the joint programme and respond to current and future challenges. The Polish Government is fully committed to continuing our active involvement in the UN Internet Governance Forum and other related initiatives.

The visible aspect of W}o engagement in this process is the organization of the first fully virtual IGF in 2020 and the hosting of the UN IGF 2021 in Katowice v Œ šZ }À Œ Œ Z]vP šZ u c/ h v]š _U Z o o•} (}i Œ full hybrid mode. This event held between 6 and 10 December 2021 gathered more than 10,000 people from 175 countries worldwide, with almost 200 ministers and other high-level guests. For 5 days, we talked about the most important issues in the digital space: from the regulation of platforms, the role of digitization in a pandemic, and the impact on global economic development, to cyber security and users' rights online. Throughout the entire week, ï õ Œ u}š o} o Zµ• (Œ}u }µvšŒ]• • Œ the Democratic Republic of Congo, or U Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela to Malaysia and India participated. We also had a very good outreach, including 50,000 social interactions with the hashtag #IGF2021 and a reach of 5 million people, and more than 2,000 views of online sessions.

Yet the most tangible output is the Katowice IGF Messages, a 7-pager document that summarises conclusions from over 300 sessions, presenting a positive vision for the future of the Internet, which combines fundamental values such as human rights, access and openness, as well as economic considerations.

Based on this outcome paper and on actions already undertaken by the Polish Government, please find below W}o input to the Global Digital Compact (GDC). On a general ground, we have a unique chance to change the old paradigm of information society as a set of users being sources of data in favour of a new paradigm of knowledge society as interactive actors having the ability to empower their creativity, possibility to commercialise the result of their work. T

- kills, and connecting all people to the Internet, including all schools

The current state of play:

By building the digital competences of citizens and thus bridging the digital divide and other digital inequalities, every country is contributing to the development of digital democracy, as well the digital economy. Therefore, the Polish Government focuses its actions on the main pillars: 1 digital

microcontrollers, modern recording studios and technical equipment of all kinds. From September 2022, these schools are being visited by teams of Mobile Future Laboratories to support the process of using these solutions in each region.

2. Connecting all households with high-speed internet: since 2015 the population coverage of services of at least 30 Mb/s has grown from 53 to 76%, especially thanks to public interventions which consider up to 2.2 million households.

3. Supporting the elderly and persons with disabilities: examples: 1) as part of the & Œ u Œ [• t] À • [• • }] programme, we have donated computer equipment, workshops and training to improve the digital competences of more than 180 Œ u Œ [• t] À • [• • }] š] } v across Poland; 2. The Digital Senior Clubs is aimed at equipping with workstations to improve the digital competences of seniors; 3) we have adopted an amendment to the law on web accessibility of websites and mobile applications to ensure that websites and applications of public institutions could also be used more effectively by people with disabilities.

2. Avoid Internet fragmentation

The current state of play:

Poland strongly advocates for an open, undivided, free, global, secure, and resilient Internet. As the host country of the UN IGF 2021, we chose šév š Œ v š h vš š as its overarching Œ theme. It reflects the positive vision of the Internet as a meeting point, a modern virtual agora, where people can exchange their views and experience. We also very much support the Internet as a digital space that enables a global online debate, which can be described by the IGF model as multistakeholder, collaborative, equitable, and inclusive. To sum up, Poland opts for an inclusive and affordable Internet for all, where everyone is welcome and nobody is excluded. Moreover, unrestricted access to the open Internet is key for bridging the digital divide, as well as fostering democracy and human rights. One must also not forget that the Internet is a place where generations meet and exchange their valuable knowledge and expertise. Young people have a special role to play here.

Key commitments and pledges:

A dedicated youth track proposed by Poland for the UN IGF 2021 is very successful and delivered interesting outcomes. We strongly believe that voices originating from the community of young users are crucial in every debate on Internet-related issues, especially Internet governance. As present users of this ecosystem, they will soon become leaders taking responsibility for the digital environment and shaping its future frameworks. Therefore, we underline the importance of initiatives involving young people, especially through the Youth IGFs. Moreover, we highlight the necessity to bring young representatives to the table, for instance by establishing a global network of Youth Digital Ombudspersons, as stated in the Katowice UN IGF 2021 Messages.

3. Protect data

The current state of play:

The data-based economy is changing the existing development principles. This is a great opportunity for many companies and the economy, as these new solutions and services are being developed and

the Internet, and takes positive action in certain circumstances to ensure effective realisation and protection of human rights on the Internet.

5. Accountability for discrimination and misleading content

<u>The current state of play</u>:

Poland emphasises issues related to ensuring cybersecurity and combatting cybercrime. Particularly, we focus on increasing general public knowledge and awareness of the scope of cybersecurity. Another important area is protecting children online. Poland is actively involved in negotiations on the CSAM Regulation - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. We also set up a variety of public initiatives, aimed at increasing the digital safety of pupils, enhancing responsible pupil activity in the digital environment, and promoting principles of digital hygiene and the safe use of digital technologies.

build new AI solutions; improving the use of AI-based solutions by central and local government), 6. international cooperation (strengthening cooperation on global and European levels; attracting international talent and innovative companies to invest in Poland). This Strategy perfectly complements AI initiatives at the international level at the European Union, the OECD, UNESCO, or the Council of Europe. Moreover, in cooperation with selected universities, we are implementing a project t Academy for Innovative Applications of Digital Technologies (AI Tech) to create a model for the systemic education of high-level specialists in AI, machine learning, and cybersecurity.

7. Digital commons as a global public good

The current state of play:

Poland fully supports and contributes to the creation of digital public commons. We believe that open data is a source of real benefit and time savings for citizens and the administration. Citizens, including entrepreneurs, can use public data resources to pursue their own goals and to develop their businesses or research. Our continuous actions towards the further opening of public data have resulted in making visible progress in the European data opening ranking. In 2017, Poland was ranked 23rd in Europe. Now, we came 3rd. Poland also supports the preservation of cultural heritage through making digital copies and digitally remastering cultural media.

Key commitments and pledges:

The Polish Government is currently implementing the Data opening program for the years 2021-2027. It covers key issues in data sharing and its management. Apart from public institutions, it can also be addressed to other entities, particularly local government units or private entities. The implementation of the Programme will contribute, inter alia, to an increase in the supply and improvement in the quality of data available in the dane.gov.pl portal, which are necessary for the development of innovative services, applications and other products, including those for new technologies. We are increasingly talking about opening up data in the media, on the Open Data Facebook profile, and at numerous events, including the annual international conference [Przyszłość jest w danych] š oThe Future is data[.

Moreover, the Polish Government is currently working towards adopting a policy on open access to publicly funded research data. These efforts are accompanied by extensive mapping of the Polish open science ecosystem and consultations with leading experts in this field.

8. Other

Development of e-services for the benefit of society.

The current state of play:

Poland has been working on several e-government projects to simplify the contact of citizens and companies with public administration. The biggest challenge is to design public services in a way that is as intuitive as possible and that everyone, regardless of their level of digital competence and disability-related barriers, will be able to use it. We have been working on allowing all traditional personal documents such as plastic ID cards, driving licenses, and school and student cards to be respected in Poland on an equal level with documents being available in the application. The successful

development of these digital solutions will allow citizens to save time and access public administration services without any limitations. Moreover, digital services have facilitated the process of granting the Polish personal identification number (PESEL) to around 1,5 million Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Poland because of the war, allowing them to accommodate more easily in Poland to communicate with our public administration.

access to the Internet. For purposes of re-establishing IT capacities, Poland has provided Ukraine with the donation of Data Centres equipment. We believe such efforts are a strong signal of solidarity with the Ukrainian citizens. They also help the international community to prioritise underserved regions, countries, and populations, including those affected by aggressive and hostile actions.