29 November 2021

Mr. Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations,

c/o Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti

Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

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The Internet Governance Forum's role in the Global Digital Compact

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

I am writing on behalf of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to express our support for your report "Our Common Agenda". We look forward to the IGF playing a key role in its implementation.

We fully support the proposal that the "United Nations, Governments, the private sector and civil society could come together as a multi-stakeholder digital technology track in preparation for a Summit of the Future to agree on a Global Digital Compact". We believe that the IGF, with its network of more than 140 national, regional and youth IGF initiatives, and its established community of participants from all stakeholder groups, is ideally positioned to play a central role in facilitating a consultative "bottom-up" approach to the development of this Compact.

We also welcome your calls for the IGF to adapt, innovate and reform. We would like to bring to your attention improvements to the IGF introduced during the past year in response to section 93 of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. These include:

- A more focused agenda based on an issues-driven approach towards the goal of a more strategic and outcome-oriented

- A process for documenting outcomes that would make it easier for decision-making forums to make sure of them

- A virtual preparatory and engagement phase held before the annual forum to maximise participation and enable synergies with national and regional and other intersessional IGF processes

- High-level and parliamentary tracks in the IGF 2021 program

- Two new policy networks, one on environment and climate change, and one on universal and meaningful access

- A communication strategy to increase visibility and outreach

The MAG also developed ties with the Office of the Envoy on Technology, and developed possible approaches to the multistakeholder high-level body (MHLB) foreseen under 93(a) of the Roadmap. Now that the terms of reference and a call for nominations for this "Leadership panel" have been published, we believe our proposals can still be of value to the Panel as it starts its work which we trust will complement that of the MAG.

With regard to the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation we include in Annex I a table prepared by the MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy that maps the different

areas in the Roadmap to IGF activities. The table highlights the synergies between the IGF's activities and Roadmap priorities.

We looks forward to your participation in the annual forum in December 2021 in Katowice. As stated above, believe it would be an ideal opportunity for you to discuss the proposed Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future with IGF participants.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.

On behalf of the members of the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group 2021[1]

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1   https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-2021-members

ANNEX I: WORKING DOCUMENT – MAPPING IGF ACTIVITIES TO THOSE IN THE ROADMAP FOR DIGITAL COOPERATION, Nov. 2021

Area of work	Roadmap activities	IGF relevant past activities and ongoing activities	Comments/Synergies between Roadmap and IGF activities
Global connectivity	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/global-connectivity one-pager and workplan: available under above link • Establish a baseline of digital connectivity that individuals need to access the online space, as well as a definition of "affordability", including universal targets and metrics • Convene a global group of investors and financing and community experts to consider the development of a financing platform and find other new models for investment in connectivity, including hard-to-reach and rural areas • Promote new and potentially transformative models to accelerate connectivity, such as the Giga initiative of ITU and UNICEF • Promote the development of enabling regulatory environments for smaller-scale Internet providers, along with local and regional connectivity assessments • Accelerate discussions on connectivity as part of emergency preparedness, responses and aid, including working through the inter-agency Emergency Telecommunications Cluster	Policy Network on Meaningful Access (PNMA) Universal access and meaningful connectivity - IGF 2021 main issue area IGF Best Practice Forum on Local Content (focus on 'local content as engine for growth and development of the local internet in 2018 and 2019) Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries	Outcome of roadmap activities can be discussed at IGF. At joint sessions, can share information and exchange views on what the IGF can contribute in terms of Roadmap implementation. The world is not on the same level of adoption and development of the Internet, and so, the work plan must be made keeping in mind the realities and the needs of the ground level situation in different countries.
Digital public goods	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-public-goods one-pager and workplan: available under above link	Several workshops have been held at the IGF over the past 15 years that look at open source software, open	

		educational resources and the development of local content. The work of the Best Practice Forum on Local Content has captured best practices on building the digital information and cultural heritage commons. "Local and indigenous content in the digital space: Protection, preservation and sustainability of creative work and traditional knowledge" There have also been workshops at the IGF exploring considering the internet itself as a public good. The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace used the IGF to get feedback during the development of its norm on the protection of the public core of the internet.	
	launch of five-year strategy of Digital Public Goods Alliance • Establish working definition and a general understanding of "digital public goods" as described in the Roadmap • Establish a go-to digital public goods platform, which share digital public goods, engage talent, and pool data sets • Promote robust human rights and governance frameworks and inclusion for such "goods" • Promote digital public goods, including through greater investment, amplified efforts and strengthen coordination • Deploy digital public goods as part of their immediate responses and in the future, approaches to achieve the SDGs • Continue working closely with other emerging digital public goods initiatives		
Digital inclusion	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-inclusion one-pager and workplan: available under above link • Development of an overarching framework towards a definition, metrics and measurement of digital inclusion and literacy, including developing annual scorecards • Establish a multi-stakeholder digital inclusion coalition – an informal network of like-minded	IGF Priority issue for 2021- Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation IGF Best Practice Forum on Gender & Access : The BPF covered different aspects of digital inclusion related to women and	See comments in global connectivity

	Member States, civil society groups, the private sector and other stakeholders on digital inclusion, highlighting local ownership and including communities themselves in processes • Map out all digital inclusion initiatives, mechanisms and programmes, and make them available online and through other, easily accessible platforms • Help Resident Coordinators (RCs) working with host Governments to develop action plans to improve digital inclusion	gender-diverse people since it first convened in 2015. Most recent reports 2019 (participation in digital economies) 2018 (supplementary models of connectivity) 2017 (challenges to meaningful Internet access) Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries	
Digital capacity building	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-capacity-building one-pager and workplan: available under above link • Expand mapping of existing digital capacity development initiatives • Launch a broad multi-stakeholder network to promote holistic, inclusive approaches to digital capacity development for sustainable development, including a new joint facility for digital capacity development led by ITU and UNDP • Strengthen capacity building support, at the country level, in particular in areas such as increasing Internet connectivity and growing digital economies • Pursue initiatives at the country level that strengthen capacity-building support	Draft IGF Capacity Building Framework Cybersecurity capacity development for developing countries Dynamic Coalition on Schools of Internet Governance Dynamic Coalition Internet Standards, Security and Safety (DC-ISSS)	The annual report on the DC on Internet & Jobs available at our DC page has a list of recommendations to consider. This is based on a multi country survey conducted in 2020 The DC-ISSS strives to provide all organisations around the world with recommendations and workplans on how to make the Internet safer for all users. Part of the workplan is a capacity building programme on how to achieve this level of security and safety.

	• Explore opportunities to build on the existing United Nations Volunteers programme		
Digital human rights	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-human-rights one-pager: available under above link • Prepare an action plan • Develop system-wide guidance on human rights due diligence and impact assessments in the use of new technologies • Place human rights at the centre of regulatory frameworks and legislation on the development and use of digital technologies • Acknowledge the importance of protecting the right to privacy and other human rights in the digital space and take clear, company-specific action to do so	Economic and Social Inclusion and Human Rights - IGF 2021 main issue area IGF Best Practice Forum 2021 on Gender and digital rights, with focus on gendered disinformation Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition Sustainability Dynamic Coalition on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment (former DC Child Online Safety) Best Practice Forum on IoT, Big Data and AI BPF on Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context	
Artificial intelligence	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/artificial-intelligence one-pager: available under above link • Prepare an action plan • Establish a multi-stakeholder advisory body on global artificial intelligence cooperation to provide guidance on artificial intelligence that is	Addressed in IGF 2021 emerging and crosscutting issue areas in particularly in "Emerging regulation" and "Environment and climate change" IGF Best Practice Forum on Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, and Artificial Intelligence (AI): 2018 - 2019 (focus on establishing stakeholder dialogue and	

	trustworthy, human rights based, safe and sustainable, and promotes peace	on enhancing justified trust in the technologies to stimulate their use to address societal challenges). Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility	
Digital trust and security	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-trust-security one-pager: available under above link • Prepare an action plan • Continue to explore with Member States if and how to take forward a broad and overarching statement outlining common elements of understanding on digital trust and security	IGF Best Practice Forum Cybersecurity, in particular the BPF's work on cybersecurity norms and international cybersecurity agreements in 2018, 2019, 2020 , which continues this year: IGF Priority issue for 2021. Emerging and crosscutting area. Dynamic Coalition Internet Standards, Security and Safety (DC-ISSS) DC-Blockchain: multi-stakeholder task forces on Trust, Confidence & Blockchain; Legitimacy & Blockchain	The work of the BPF on norms since 2018, and continued this year, relates to point 1 b & c in the briefing paper The outcomes of the DC could support all three points mentioned in the paper.
Global digital cooperation	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/global-digital-cooperation Options Paper on Global Digital Cooperation Implement measures to enhance the IGF as appropriate: • Create a strategic and empowered multi-stakeholder high-level body • Have a more focused IGF agenda based on a limited number of strategic policy issues • Establish a high-level segment and ministerial or parliamentarian tracks • Forge stronger links among the global Forum and	MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) Inclusive IG ecosystems and digital cooperation - IGF priority issue for 2021 DC-Blockchain: Model Law for Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs)	

	its regional, national, sub-regional and youth initiatives • Better integrate programme and intersessional policy development work • Address the long-term sustainability of the Forum and the necessary resources for increased participation • Enhance the visibility of the Forum	The report 'Strengthening Cooperation Within the Context of the IGF: A Roadmap For 2018', presented to the MAG in 2018 shows a broad support for cooperation within the IGF context and includes recommendations that are reflected upon in the SG's Roadmap. The report holds comments from all stakeholder groups represented in the IGF. More focused IGF 2021 agenda: IGF2021 Issue Areas	
Digital environmental sustainability	https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/digital-environmental-sustainability Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES) Report "A digital planet for sustainability"	Policy Network on Environment (PNE) Environmental sustainability and climate change - IGF priority issue for 2021 Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles European Dialogue on IG	

Sources:
https://www.un.org/techenvoy/content/ongoing-work