

## Output document from the Parliamentary Track 18th UN Internet Governance Forum

### *Shaping digital trust for the internet we want*

12 October 2023

#### **We, parliamentarians taking part in the Parliamentary Track at the 18th UN Internet Governance Forum, with the theme *The Internet We Want - Empowering All People*,**

*Welcoming* the expansion of the IGF Parliamentary Track to include regional IGF initiatives to bring together parliamentarians to cooperate and exchange good practices in dealing with digital policy issues,

*Acknowledging* the role of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in co-organizing the IGF 2023 Parliamentary Track, as well as the support provided by the IGF Secretariat,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Secretary-General's policy brief *A Global Digital Compact – an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All*, which sets out, among others, objectives relating to: digital trust and security; data protection and empowerment; and agile governance of AI and other emerging technologies,

*Concerned* by several recent trends in the digital space, including the fragmentation of the internet; the negative effects of disinformation on peace and regional and global stability; failures to develop and deploy technology in a trusted way and according to our shared values; and the potential growing digital divide alongside the rapid development of technology,

1. *Underscore* the need for a strong legislative and regulatory framework that:
  - a. has the objective of preserving human dignity in the digital space;
  - b. is in line with international human rights obligations and the principle of proportionality;
  - c. protects against harmful uses of technology;
  - d. focuses on outcomes to be achieved rather than on specific technologies;
  - e. is developed through an open and participatory process, including the participation of women, young people and marginalized groups;
2. *Recognize* the importance of a multistakeholder and whole-of-government approach to digital policy-making, as well as the need for constant dialogue between parliament, government, regulators, the private sector, the technical community and civil society;
3. *Affirm* that, to be effective in the digital space, legislation needs to be interoperable across national and regional jurisdictions, and thus:
  - a. *welcome* international and regional instruments such as the African Union's Data Policy Framework and the development of the Artificial Intelligence Act by the European Union;
  - b. *acknowledge* the role that such instruments can play in furthering international and regional cooperation;
4. *Call for* a human-centric approach to data governance, putting users, including marginalized groups, at the centre, and giving them more control and transparency over how their data is collected and processed, including by:
  - a. identifying and applying common principles regarding data governance;
  - b. providing an enabling environment for a more positive use of data through regional frameworks, as the Internet knows no national borders;

5. *Also call for agile governance of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, with objectives that ensure transparency, reliability, safety and human control in the design and use of AI and put transparency, fairness and accountability at the core, and:*
  - a. *caution* against the risk that AI will increase digital divides due to a lack of available data in certain regions and cultures of the world and therefore requires greater democratization and localization based on high quality local data, which is, in turn, based on a robust data governance framework;
  - b. *support* the idea of establishing regulatory sandboxes to develop and test legislation relating to AI;
  - c. *underscore* the need for continual capacity building for parliamentarians to understand the different aspects of AI, the various use cases, and the impacts and effects that the technology has on society;
  - d. *request* that the IPU support global dialogue within the parliamentary community on AI governance and regulation;
6. *Further call for media literacy, awareness raising and capacity development within society to combat mis- and disinformation, including by:*
  - a. promoting content moderation and fact checking of information on social media platforms;
  - b. developing laws that promote access to information;
  - c. acknowledging the importance of cross-border regulation for accountability beyond national borders;
  - d. following a multistakeholder approach to involve judiciary, prosecutors and ministries;
7. *Invite* parliamentarians to share knowledge, experiences and the work carried out at the IGF with relevant parliamentary bodies and fellow members, as well as information about existing and new legislative initiatives which are contributing to increased trust in the digital space at a national and regional level;
8. *Encourage* parliamentarians to strengthen their engagement with the IGF and extend their participation to national and regional IGF initiatives and *call upon* the IGF to connect parliamentarians to relevant IGF stakeholders in order to inform, as relevant, their work on digital policy issues;
9. *Request* that the IGF further develop the Parliamentary Track to facilitate exchanges between parliamentarians and other IGF stakeholders on digital-related issues.