Proposal for an IGF 2023-2024 Policy Network

1. Title
Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence

2. Description
This 2023-2024 Policy Network (PN) proposal was proposed during the discussions held at the UN IGF 2022 main session on Addressing Advanced Technologies, including Artificial Intelligence. The draft Addis Messages conclude that the "*IGF could be used as a platform for developing cooperation mechanisms on artificial intelligence. A policy network on artificial intelligence could be considered for the upcoming work streams in order to review the implementation of different principles with appropriate tools and metrics.*"
The IGF Messages further describe important aspects that should be addressed at the global level and in a multistakeholder format, inter alia:

- *The development of meaningful global standards will require participation of the Global South and inputs from regional initiatives.*
- *AI should be truly human-centered, reflecting the voices of all. Oversight and enforcement mechanisms should follow principles and rules, with AI actors being held accountable for any damage caused. This is crucial for upholding the rights of affected and vulnerable individuals.*
- *AI continuously impacts lives – and societies need to adjust to the transformation it engenders with a new cooperation framework and governance model. Building a human-centered intelligent society requires the full cooperation of government, enterprises, social organizations and academia.*
- *The assumption that technology is a great equalizer is flawed. Technologies can amplify inequalities and cause harm to gender and sexual minorities, people with disabilities, and people from other marginalized communities. Machine learning technologies are often designed by a homogenous group of developers and can use unrepresentative or biased data. Missing data should also be included in the analysis to come to meaningful conclusions.*
- *Stakeholder collaboration is necessary as societies grapple with managing AI deployment and the rapid evolution of machine-learning. Ongoing human control remains essential, to ensure that algorithms do not bring about outcomes that are out of our control. Breaking down silos between engineers and policy experts is critical to achieving this.*

Furthermore:
- *Participation of representatives from the Global South should be actively promoted. This should be made not only through the reservation of a fair number of seats for these individuals to participate in dialogues, in a way that allows for a proportional representation of different regions in the world, but also through measures to guarantee that they receive sufficient support, including through financial aid, to participate in meetings of the Policy Network. These representatives should also be given enough room to propose issues for the group's agenda so as to reflect the needs of their specific regions.*

Given the IGF's global character and its convening leadership multistakeholder venue for open and inclusive policy discussions on Internet governance and digital policy matters, and in an effort to respond to the call of the UN Secretary-General in his "Our Common Agenda" report for a Global Digital Compact to address, among other things, "Advanced Technologies, including Artificial Intelligence", we aim for this PN to become the institutional home for global

policy research, debate and recommendations to address Artificial Intelligence best public and private policies and approaches, and related aspects of data governance.

B. Connection to the IGF and other IG processes
Over the past years, the IGF has discussed various aspects of Artificial Intelligence and related aspects of data governance, such as AI use by social media platforms and content moderation, dangers such as manipulation, deception and mis- and disinformation, transparency needs in the operation and reporting of algorithmic systems, and necessary principles of rule of law, human rights, democratic values and diversity in the governance of AI.

Similarly, there are a plethora of AI governance frameworks and this work will help distill policy approaches and recommendations. However, the vast majority of these have been developed in the Global North and in English or in other latinate languages. Therefore this PN will explicitly seek to learn from and elevate AI governance frameworks, principles and policies being developed in and for the Majority World and non-latinate languages.

This Policy Network aims to build on these previous discussions, policies, and the breadth of knowledge on this topic in the IGF community, and frame it into a systematic approach and framework that could be the base of focused conversations. This work is also aimed to bring the IGF's multistakeholder community together in giving input to the implementation of Our Common Agenda, as outlined by UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. The Secretary-General's report explicitly calls for the input and advice of the multistakeholder community on addressing advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, with the view of incorporating such advice and input in a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future in 2024. The IGF Policy Network would be the ideal forum to collect, analyze and share the community's input and proposals in this process.

C. Planned deliverables
Over a two-year cycle, we propose the following deliverables:
· A report to be presented at the IGF's 2023 Annual Meeting on Artificial Intelligence and related aspects of data governance (such as principles and rules aiming at avoiding bias (gender, ethnicity, class, etc.) in the data sets used to train the AI systems; (2) principles and rules on how the data sets are governed by the community and/or what degree of control is attributed to the citizens... (3) related cross-border issues, etc.); the report would expand on the framework proposed above, bolstered by collected case studies and their analysis highlighting tangible impacts with special invitation to expert colleagues from the world to join. It will include specificities on gender that will consider the binary conceptions of AI systems, gender identities and the issue of recognition as well as address under-resourced digital languages and the relevance to AI governance policy. It will also look at the issues from the Global South Perspective.
- A document compiling and recommending best practice ethical principles and respectful practices to be considered when creating and using AI applications.
· Awareness-raising webinars: a series of webinars for the IGF community, to raise awareness of specific aspects of AI policy, to foster discussion and encourage input
· Principles and recommendations: following the 2023 report, a second phase of the PN's work in 2024 will focus on developing shared principles on AI governance and offer recommendations on implementing those principles, including feeding these into the UN's Global Digital Compact process. (There was a suggestion to make this point a priority for 2023 if the PNM wants to feed the input into the GDC)

D. Engagement and outreach plan
We propose to carry out this work in the following ways:

· Encourage widespread participation from all stakeholder groups through focused invitations at the outset of the process. Special attention will be given to promoting the participation of representatives from the Global South, including through specific open calls and invitations made to organizations from the region, and non-English communities. This will focus on:

o Creating a multi stakeholder steering group, including representatives of the proposing organizations and other relevant organizations to form a balanced group based on stakeholder group, geography and gender.

o Create a broad network of contributors including from the supporting organizations, their communities and partners; organizations from the IGF community who have previously worked / presented on these topics; as well as academics, researchers, think tanks who have published on these topics, as well as the industry. This broader network would act as the primary community for input to the PN's work, but also as multipliers to the PN's outputs.

· Cooperate with other actors and groups interested in the same area with special focus on UN agencies and collaborating organizations

· Leverage the extensive network of NRIs and DCs to increase participation from experts, especially in LDCs and SIDS

· Present progress of the work at key junctions of the IGF 2023 cycle and at the 2023 IGF annual meeting;

· Share learnings and progress at relevant conferences and other thematic events outside of the IGF.

…