Submission of the IGF Policy Network on AI (PNAI) to the Consultation of the GDC Rev3.0
IGF Policy Network on AI

Dear Co-Facilitators,

We extend our appreciation for the significant advancements reflected in the Rev 3.0 of the Global Digital Compact (GDC). The strides made in reinforcing international governance of artificial intelligence (AI) underscore a shared commitment to harnessing AI for the collective benefit of humanity. We are particularly encouraged by the inclusion of robust recommendations aimed at enhancing the governance and interoperability of AI governance frameworks, which we believe is crucial for fostering global cooperation and ensuring that AI technologies serve all societies equitably and effectively.

PNAI's current learning and research activities underscore critical insights into the current state of AI governance:

1. States and global organisations have developed regional and multilateral interoperability frameworks, but we lack a comprehensive global framework for a better coordination of efforts and alignment.

2. The interoperability proposals predominantly originate from the UN system, EU, USA, China, the Middle East, and ASEAN, but there is a need for more voices from the rest of Global South.

3. There is a lack of interoperability among regulatory approaches, as well as a deficiency in global solidarity and resource-sharing to ensure that AI benefits everyone without leaving anyone behind.

The PNAI proposes that the GDC process considers incorporating four key aspects of interoperability:

- Interoperability of ethical frameworks

- Legal and regulatory interoperability: Strengthening the existing AI regulatory ecosystem by better coordination and alignment.

- Interoperability among technology standards and interfaces, aligned with SDG, ethical principles and Human Rights

- A global list reference for sharing AI training data, personal data and privacy protections

In light of learning, research and multistakeholder dialogue in the Policy Network on AI (PNAI), we respectfully suggest the following amendments and insertions to the GDC Rev 3.0:

(49) We recognize the need for a balanced, inclusive and risk-based approach to the governance of artificial intelligence, with the full and equal representation of all countries, especially developing countries, and the meaningful participation of all

stakeholders to produce actual efficacy ensuring that governance frameworks are adaptable, transparent, and reflective of global needs.

(57)   We call on standards development organizations and regulatory agencies, to collaborate to promote the development and adoption of interoperable AI standards and regulatory norms that uphold safety, reliability, sustainability and human rights (SDGs 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16 & 17). These standards and norms should be designed to facilitate cross-border cooperation and ensure that AI technologies can be leveraged to their full potential globally, reflecting diverse linguistic, cultural, and societal contexts.

(60)   We will leverage existing UN and multistakeholder mechanisms to support AI policy assistance and capacity building to bridge AI divides, facilitate access to AI applications and build capacity in high-performance computing and related skills in developing countries (All SDGs).

(61)   We will promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to support the development of representative high quality data sets, affordable and accessible compute resources, local solutions that reflect linguistic and cultural diversity and entrepreneurial ecosystems in developing countries (SDGs 4, 9, 10, & 17).

We believe these contributions will strengthen the GDC's objectives and help ensure that AI governance is inclusive, equitable, and beneficial to all.

The Policy Network on AI (PNAI) brings together experts and changemakers representing civil society, industry, academia and technical community from across the world. PNAI is a global multistakeholder effort hosted by the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum.

Please do not hesitate to contact us and the PNAI community for further information!

IGF Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence
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