Contribute to the Global Digital Compact: A How-To Guide

(version 9 March 2023)

Following the <u>political declaration adopted at the occasion of the United Nations'</u> 75th anniversary, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres in September 2021 released his report <u>Our Common Agenda</u>. Among its broad proposals for the future of multilateralism, and building on <u>the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation</u>, the Common Agenda proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future which will be held in September 2023. The Secretary-General has proposed that the Compact would be the main outcome of a multistakeholder technology track (involving all stakeholders: governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society, and individuals, including youth) at the 2023 Summit.

The UN Secretariat is now supporting the Co-facilitators, Rwanda and Sweden, who are leading the intergovernmental process on the Global Digital Compact. More information on the Global Digital Compact is available in this <u>Background Note</u>.

You too can be involved in this preparatory phase for the Global Digital Compact – contributing your ideas, opinions and inputs on what you think the digital future should look like. The Secretary-General has proposed that the Global Digital Compact "outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all" and we want to hear from everyone interested. This is why the United Nations has opened an online space where anyone anywhere can contribute their views.

How can you contribute?

Hold a Consultation

We encourage anyone or any entity/organization to consider convening a dialogue or session to discuss inputs to the Global Digital Compact with others and your network. The format of these sessions is flexible and the end goal of your consultations is to generate inputs to be submitted to the United Nations.

Submit Inputs

The Office of the Envoy on Technology has opened a dedicated space with background information and updates on the Global Digital Compact at www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact. The site contains the link to the survey form where inputs can be submitted through April 2023, and a public display of submissions.

All inputs will be consolidated by the Secretariat before presentation to the United Nations Member States and the public in preparation for the Global Digital Compact. At this point, we anticipate the public platform to be open <u>till 30 April 2023</u>.

Holding a Consultation/Dialogue

All individuals, organizations and entities are welcome to hold sessions and meetings, in whatever format (in-person, virtual, hybrid) that they feel comfortable with, to prepare for their inputs. It is up to you who to include in your dialogue/consultation, how many sessions you wish to do, and how you organize and structure it. This can be a stand-alone meeting, dedicating a block of time during regular or existing meetings, or a side-event alongside another ongoing conference.

The goal of your consultation is to generate good discussion and input that will then form the basis of your submission with inputs to the Global Digital Compact. Accordingly, you can decide if you wish to take up all the issues mentioned in the Common Agenda, or if you'd like to focus only on a few, or one area, depending on your group's interest. The time and format is up to you!

We recommend that ahead of your consultation/dialogue, you provide some background material on the Global Digital Compact (feel free to use this

Please note that all inputs and submissions will be considered public and sharable to anyone¹, upon request. We apologize that at this time, due to resource and time limitations, the survey form is in English and responses displayed on the data dashboard will be in English only.

When submitting your inputs, you will be asked to self-identify as either an individual or submitting this on behalf of an organization/entity. Further details will also be asked e.g. your geographical scope of your activity, as well as any process that you may have undertaken to prepare your inputs. See snapshots of the survey pages in annex to this note.

Thematic Areas on which to submit contributions

In the survey, you will be asked which of the key digital issues that the Common Agenda report suggests for the Global Digital Compact that you would like to cover:

Connect all people to the internet, including all schools

Avoid internet fragmentation

Protect data

Apply human rights online

Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content

Promote regulation of artificial intelligence

Digital commons as a global public good

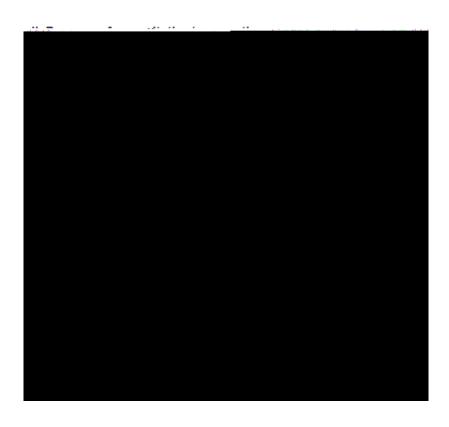
After Submission of Inputs

Inputs submitted via the survey form will be part of an interactive dashboard display, which is publicly available for all to examine and search through inputs, in greater detail. Additional supplementary information that is emailed may be posted separately².

Following your submission, the Office of the Envoy on Technology may follow-up with respondents to seek further information.

Based on the inputs received as well as other consultations and research conducted by the United Nations, the Secretariat will compile the material and present this to United Nations Member States.

For any questions or clarification, please contact digitalcompact@un.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



III. Inputs to the Global Digital Compact

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