ICC Survey: Global Digital Compact (GDC)

In September 2021, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched a report entitled "Our Common Agenda", outlining his vision on the future of global cooperation in the next 25 years in 12 commitments. One of his key proposals is for a Global Digital Compact (GDC) to outline shared principles for ''an open, free and secure digital future for all."

The Compact is to be developed through a multistakeholder and multilateral process and agreed during the Summit of the Future in September 2024. Leading up to the Summit, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology is coordinating a public consultation to collect input from all stakeholders for consideration for the GDC.

The private sector has a crucial role to play in ensuring the GDC is developed based on well-rounded perspectives and on the expertise, experience, and evidence of global business.

In October 2022, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) contributed policy perspectives and recommendations to this consultation on behalf of our global business network. This short survey aims to further strengthen ICC's initial written submission through collecting and collating concrete business evidence, case studies and good practices. The Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology counts on ICC's wide network of members and partners to provide this additional layer of expert input.

The public consultation process for the GDC will remain open until 31 March 2023, and will continue with the assessment of the input received by the office of the Envoy to contribute the negotiation process between member states. The process will conclude with the adoption of the GDC at the Summit of the Future in 2024.

GENERAL QUESTIONS
1. Please rank these issues in order of priority:
    - 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 the global public good

2. Are these issues the right ones to consider? Are the appropriately formulated?

3. Should the Compact address the issue of multistakeholder Internet governance? Why?

4. Are there other issues you think the Compact should address?

CONNECTIVITY

5. How important is it that the GDC reitarates all member states' shared commitment to bringing both the coverage and usage gaps and bringing meaningful connectivity to all populations everywhere?

6. How important is it that the GDC recognizes the efforts of all stakeholders and encourage flexible and forward-looking policy and regulatory approaches that enable investments across the entire digital value chan and facilitate the effective management of spectrum?

7. How important is it that the GDC recognizes the efforts of all stakeholders and encourage flexible and forward-looking policy and regulatory approaches that are grounded in evidence and data?

8. How does your company work to deliver connectivity to all? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

9. Are there any policy resources (reports, guidelines, initiatives) on connectivity policy that you find particularly helpful/insightful for the benefit of the elaboration of the Global Digital Compact?

INTERNET FRAGMENTATION

10. How important is it that the GDC reiterates all member states' shared commitment to keeping the Internet whole, open, interconnected and interoperable?

11. How does your company work to support an open, interconnected and interoperable Internet? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

12. Are there any policy resources (reports, guidelines, initiatives) on Internet fragmentation that you find particularly helpful/insightful for the benefit of the elaboration of the Global Digital Compact?

DATA GOVERNANCE

13. Should the GDC recognizes that establishing trust and minimizing disruptions in data flows are fundamental to reaping the benefits of digitalization?

14. Should the Compact call for the removal of unjustified obstacles to cross-border data flows, while continuing to address privacy, data protection, the protection of intellectual property rights, and security?

15. Should the GDC encourages global cooperation and interoperability across policy and regulatory systems on data governance matters?

16. How does your company work to support data protection and privacy? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

17. How does your company work to support data free flows with trust? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

18. Are there any policy resources (reports, guidelines, initiatives) on data governance that you find particularly helpful/insightful for the benefit of the elaboration of the Global Digital Compact?

ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE

19. How important is it that the GDC recognizes ongoing work on establishing common principles for trustworthy AI (e.g. OECD principles on trustworthy AI) and promote their further endorsement and uptake across the globe?

20. Do you agree that the GDC should not attempt to regulate or call for processes to regulate AI systems through the UN?

21. How does your company work to support the development, deployment, and use of trustworthy AI systems? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

22. Are there any policy resources (reports, guidelines, initiatives) on AI that you find particularly helpful/insightful for the benefit of the elaboration of the Global Digital Compact?

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

23. How important is it that the GDC ensures that an effective multistakeholder governance model be at the core of the Internet? This includes continued efforts by all stakeholders individually and collectively, including private sector led, multistakeholder and intergovernmental) to address Internet-related issues and the promotion of greater cooperation among organisations.

24. How important is it that the Global Digital Compact signals a commitment of member states to support the Internet Governance Forum?

25. How does your company work to support multistakeholder Internet governance? (Please share best practices, case studies, including URLs)

26. Are there any policy resources (reports, guidelines, initiatives) on multistakeholder Internet governance that you find particularly helpful/insightful for the benefit of the elaboration of the Global Digital Compact?

NEXT STEP

27. How can the private sector add further input to the process of developing the GDC?
    - Engage in focused roundtable discussions between policymakers and private sector experts to inform the consideration of the Global Digital Compact
    - Share good practices and lessons learned
    - Highlight existing policy guidelines, frameworks, and initiatives the Global Digital Compact could elevate
    - Engage directly with national governments to provide input ahead of the negotiation of the text of the Global Digital Compact

24. What should the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology focus on to ensure the endorsement and global uptake of common principles within the GDD?
    - Become a focal point and partner for the public and private sector input into UN policy discussions on digital issues

- Become an interface between the UN system and other international/regional policy fora (e.g. APEC, OECD)
- Aim for interinstitutional alignment on digital policy issues within the UN System
- Tackle fragmentation of the policy space through capacity-building initiatives and public-private sector cooperation
- Seek more diverse geographical multistakeholder input on current and emerging issues pertaining to the global digital economy (i.e. reaching the Global South)
- Other

FINAL COMMENTS

25. Do you have any other comments?

26. Would you be interested in participating in further thematic conversations on any of the topics mentioned in this survey?