

IGF 2022 MAG Statement

Ensuring a Multistakeholder Approach to the Global Digital Compact

November 2022

The United Nations Secretary-General, in his report 'Our Common Agenda', set out his proposal to convene a Summit of the Future in 2023 (now moved to 2024) which will include the agreement of a Global Digital Compact to be developed by a multistakeholder digital technology track.

This is a significant moment for enhancing digital cooperation and Internet governance under the auspices of the United Nations. The Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) recognises the need for the IGF community to engage actively and ensure that an inclusive multistakeholder approach is adhered to throughout the development of the Global Digital Compact, in keeping with the approach to Internet governance set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (WSIS, 2005).

With the goal of ensuring convergence between discussions and outputs of the Internet Governance Forum and the Global Digital Compact, the MAG agreed to structure the IGF 2022 event around five themes in alignment with the GDC themes. The IGF 2022 themes are as follows:

- Connecting All People and Safeguarding Human Rights
- Avoiding Internet Fragmentation
- Governing Data and Protecting Privacy
- Enabling Safety, Security and Accountability

- Addressing Advanced Technologies, including AI

Having created this thematic structure for the IGF programme in 2022, the MAG believes that the IGF community is best placed as a global stakeholder platform to help shape the discussions about the content of the Global Digital Compact and contribute specific IGF outputs into its development.

The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology has taken an important step towards facilitating input from all stakeholders on the principles and positions to be reflected in the Global Digital Compact, via an [online survey](#). The MAG thanks the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology for their initiative in launching this survey, and encourages stakeholders to embrace this opportunity to provide their inputs and views. The input received via this process will be made publicly available, and specifically communicated to those that will be tasked with drafting the text of the Compact. We would also like to thank you for recently extending the deadline for input to 31 December 2022.

It is in this context that the MAG urges the following:

1. National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) are key venues for discussing and identifying Internet governance issues at the local and regional level, describing and understanding challenges, and working towards practical solutions. NRIs are ideally placed to provide or facilitate expert and broad community input to the Global Digital Compact, including perspectives that should fundamentally shape the global approach to Internet governance and digital cooperation. Acknowledging the time constraints of this process and the lead time involved in preparing NRI events, the MAG nonetheless strongly urges NRIs to ensure that their communities' views are provided to the Global Digital Compact

development process, and specifically as responses to the online survey. As individual MAG members, we commit to working with our local NRIs to assist in this effort, and the MAG would be pleased to work with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology in promoting awareness amongst the NRI communities about the Global Digital Compact and the importance of their contributing their local perspectives in this global process.

2. The Internet Governance Forum's ongoing intersessional activities, the Best Practice Forums on Gender and Digital Rights and on Cybersecurity, the Policy Networks on Internet Fragmentation and on Meaningful Access and the Dynamic Coalitions addressing many other subjects, also provide additional space for developing thematic inputs into the Global Digital Compact, community-driven and based on multistakeholder interaction. The ongoing activities, together with the body of intersessional outputs on a variety of Internet policy issues produced in previous years, form a valuable source of input to the Global Digital Compact. As MAG Members, we commit to facilitating outreach with the community and sharing relevant resources to assist these intersessional efforts in ensuring that their expertise and insights are input to the Global Digital Compact.
3. The IGF 2022 takes place from 28 November-2 December, and noting the annual focus of the multistakeholder IGF community's work, the outcomes and final messages of the IGF event this year will constitute a vital element in defining the scope and content of the Global Digital Compact. The MAG stands ready to coordinate with the IGF Secretariat and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology to develop a formal dialogue and ensure that the outcomes from the IGF 2022 (including relevant outcomes of the NRIs and the IGF

intersessional activities) are delivered as formal contributions into the Global Digital Compact preparatory process.

4. In planning the development of the Global Digital Compact and preparation of the Summit of the Future, it is vital that the negotiation and drafting processes, modalities, and key actors be clearly defined, particularly in relation to drafting the text of the Compact. Outcomes from other global fora, like the IGF itself, and previous global Internet conference processes such as the NETMundial conference in Brazil in April 2014 received broad acceptance among the global Internet community due to the robust and meaningful participation of all stakeholders in developing the outputs. The MAG would strongly support modalities that allow for such a multistakeholder approach to developing the Global Digital Compact, and ensuring appropriate roles for representatives from the different stakeholder groups engaged in the IGF community. The MAG looks forward to discussing options for drafting processes and modalities for the preparation of the Global Digital Compact and Summit of the Future with the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology.

We believe that a truly inclusive approach and transparent dialogue will allow for the consideration of the broadest range of perspectives and foster a sense of ownership amongst all stakeholders, thereby building a solid, sustainable and balanced basis for the Global Digital Compact. The discussions relating to the Global Digital Compact concern all Internet stakeholders and we must ensure there is diverse participation from all regions in this process. The MAG is strongly committed to helping to maximise inclusivity in the process. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology and his team, and with all relevant actors to achieve a Global Digital Compact that will best serve the long term interests of the global Internet community.