

SOTF: Zero Draft of Pact for the Future (PFTF)

29 January 2024 | [Full Text \(Website\)](#)



Amb. Leendertse, *Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN*, Co-facilitator for the Summit of the Future (SOTF):

“We believe this Zero Draft serves as a strong starting point for our intergovernmental deliberations this year, with the aim of adopting an ambitious, concise, action-oriented Pact by consensus before the Summit of the Future which is planned for the 22nd and 23rd September 2024.... We continue to believe that the Pact for the Future must be a stepping stone to our common pursuit of a more peaceful, just and equitable world, and must support fulfilling the promises we made in the UN75 Declaration that started this process.”

The Pact for the Future negotiation process kicked off on 29 January with the co-facilitators' presentation of the Zero Draft of the Pact.

The first reading of the Pact took place 6-9 February in closed session. Member States have submitted their amendments and the compilation text will have been sent to the Member States in the week of 19 February.

[GPF's Fact Sheet #5](#) contains a summary of the presentation in addition to key quotes by Member States expressing their reactions to the Zero Draft.

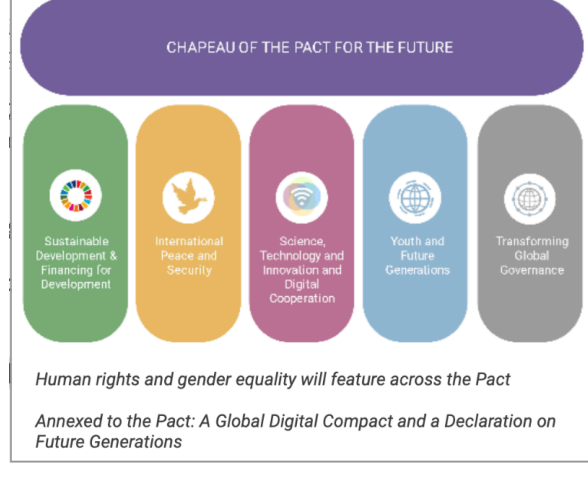
See [GPF's Fact Sheet #4](#) for more information on the Summit of the Future and Member State priorities for the process.

[Civil Society Contributions to the PFTF Zero Draft](#) (UN website)

Summit of the Future (SOTF)

September 2024 ([Website](#))

1. Sustainable development and financing for development;
2. International peace and security;
3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation;
4. Youth and future generations;
5. Transforming global governance.



Co-Facilitators & Co-Chairs (Full List)

On 10 October 2023, the President of the General Assembly appointed co-facilitators and chairs for the following intergovernmental processes:

Summit of the Future: Antje Leendertse, *Permanent Representative of Germany* & Neville Melvin Gertze, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia*

Global Digital Compact: Anna Karin Eneström, *Permanent Representative of Sweden* & Chola Milambo, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia*

Declaration on Future Generations: Brian Christopher Manley Wallace, *Permanent Representative of Jamaica* & Yoka Brandt, *Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*

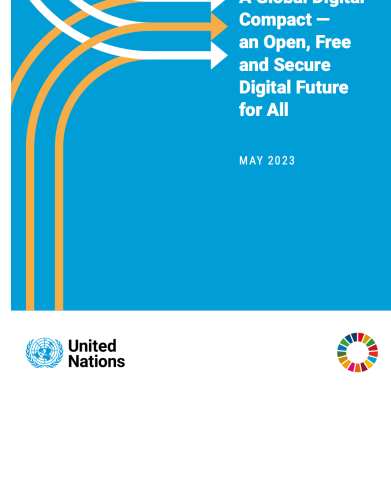
Global Digital Compact (GDC)

To be intergovernmentally agreed by September 2024 ([Website](#)) / Potential annex to PFTF

- Member States are negotiating the GDC, the co-facilitators recently released the **Structural Elements** of the compact. **Zero draft will be out 5 April 2024.**
- [Submit stakeholder feedback on the Elements](#) (8 March)
- **29 Feb Informal Consultations** on the Global Digital Compact ([UN Web TV](#)).
- UN S-G at Davos (2024): “A Global Digital Compact can turbocharge the SDGs and help to close the digital connectivity gap, share data, and build digital public goods.”

A Global Digital Compact - an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All

May 2023 | [UN Secretary-General's policy brief \(Full Text\)](#)



“We need to act now, and with speed, if we are to recover the potential of digital technologies for the **equitable and sustainable development** that is slipping away from us and the planetary crisis that confronts us.

We must work together if we are to **restore the trust** that unconsidered, irresponsible or malicious use of digital technologies has damaged in and among societies, the private sector and States.

Furthermore, we must commit to **sustained follow-up and review**, so that agreed principles and priorities are translated into practice and we do not retreat into siloed debates.”

Excerpts from Member State Statements

29 February 2024, Informal Consultations on the Global Digital Compact ([UN Web TV](#))

Uganda on behalf of G77 & China

“In the preamble section, the group would like to see a reference to the **World Summit on the Information Society**, in particular the Tunis Agenda and the Geneva Plan of Action as one of the pillars to build on in the compact.

In the principles section, the group considers that closing the **digital divide** between countries should be a priority in addition to within countries. Under this section, the group would like to tackle the existing obstacles that developing countries face in accessing digital technologies and innovation, including unilateral coercive measures in the support of the section on commitments and actions. The group considers that digital cooperation must deliver benefits anchored in accelerating the SDGs, as well as the protection and promotion of human rights, including **the right to development**.

Currently, there is no reference to **internet governance** under this section of the document, although this was one of the main issues discussed throughout the deep dive sessions last year. The group would welcome more clarification on the matter and request its inclusion under the Closing the Digital Divides and Accelerating Progress Across the SDGs. The group would like to see a mention of digital public goods for inclusive development alongside digital public infrastructure under the fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space section. The group would like to see a reference to inclusive digital literacy and participation, as well as the importance of avoiding all forms of **discrimination**. In this regard, the group appreciates the inclusion of a standalone section on adding advancing **data governance**, since data related issues are a priority for the group.”

South Africa

“The **WSIS** forum, and related processes co-led by ITU, UNESCO, UN-DESA and UNDP, can play a critical role in achieving our digital development agenda through collaborative, multilateral and multi-stakeholder efforts. The WSIS Policy 20 process provides an excellent opportunity to respond to new ethical plus and regulatory challenges and opportunities arising from new and emerging technologies. The WSIS framework is comprehensive and can be adapted to accommodate new and emerging technologies, including AI. South Africa contends that the structure of the Global Digital Compact can be further strengthened within its preambular principles and follow up and review sections.

The Preamble must clearly state that the purpose of the Global Digital Compact is to foster and **strengthen international digital cooperation** to advance the full implementation of the **2030 Agenda**. On Principles, the Global Digital Compact must promote an international digital environment for the unfettered distribution of **digital public infrastructure** that is conducive to the creation of a global, inclusive, **development-oriented and people -entered** information society and knowledge economy. That environment must must facilitate the adoption and deployment of ICTs to bridge the digital divide, drive socio-economic development and attain the SDGs. On Follow-up and Review, the Global Digital Compact needs to establish a fixed schedule for follow-up and review, building upon the existing WSIS review process. South Africa believes that without this, there is a risk of duplicating efforts and failing to fulfill the promises and commitments outlined in the Compact.”

United States

“[The] GDC is a timely opportunity to advance an open and secure digital future that is anchored in **human rights** and enables the attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. This commitment includes a focus on issues including improving digital literacy and skills acquisition, leveraging technology approaches like **DPI** with appropriate safeguards, closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide and accelerating digital transformation. This commitment also includes strengthening capacities for individuals to use the internet safely and in their own language, and realize the economic and social potential of the digital economy, particularly for those in underserved or vulnerable communities. It also means tackling head on challenges posed by the scale, speed and reach of online platforms like technology facilitated gender-based violence....

Any calls for **sharing or transfer of technology** or knowhow in the principles or commitments need to be **voluntary and mutually agreed terms**. On follow up, the United States does not support mandating new institutions or duplicative processes like the proposed Digital Cooperation Forum. Instead, the GDC should strengthen and improve existing UN institutions and processes, including WSIS and the IGF, and welcome all stakeholders and UN agencies to identify where they can contribute to implementing GDC outcomes according to their mandates and core competencies.”

European Union

“**Human rights and sustainable development** are intertwined, making the enjoyment of human rights crucial for an inclusive, safe and responsible digital future.... The principles should also translate into tangible commitments to advance **human rights in the digital space**, linking principles with implementation in key areas such as **global connectivity** and **digital public infrastructure**. Similarly, **gender equality** should be placed at the core of the GDC....

The EU strongly supports the value of a **multi-stakeholder approach** to digital cooperation, such as internet governance, as a key GDC principle leading to concrete commitments. This approach ensures that all relevant stakeholders are engaged in shaping the digital landscape. The GDC should explicitly reinforce this inclusive and collaborative governance model, while recalling the importance of existing fora and processes, highlighting its significance in achieving a democratic, transparent, inclusive, sustainable and effective digital ecosystem. To stimulate new partnerships, responsible innovation and increased investment in digital development. The **Internet Governance Forum** must remain the primary platform for public policy debates pertaining to the internet. Beyond this, the multi-stakeholder model should apply to other digital areas such as AI and platforms.”

A Declaration on Future Generations

Potential annex to the PFTF ([Website](#))

- Zero Draft scheduled to be released 8 April 2024 ([Timeline](#))
- UN S-G's policy brief: [To Think and Act for Future Generations](#) (March 2023)
- [Stakeholder inputs](#) submitted by 22 January 2024

2024 UN Nairobi Civil Society Conference

May 9 & 10, 2024 | Register on [Indico](#) by 26 March 2024, 5 pm ET ([Website](#))

“The United Nations Civil Society Conference would provide an opportunity for multi-stakeholder engagement ahead of the Summit of the Future and a venue for civil society to participate in the preparations process. The conference would provide civil society with an additional platform to speak out and share ideas that could contribute to the Pact for the Future negotiations, in line with SDG17 and the Common Agenda's vision of networked multilateralism.” ([Conference Narrative](#) from Department of Global Communications)

Conference Co-Chairs:

- **Carole Ageng'o**, Global Initiatives Lead & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International
- **Nudhara Yusuf**, GGIN Executive Coordinator at Stimson Center



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