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| Contribution by the secretariat | |
| ALIGNMENT OF WSIS PROCESS WITH GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT (GDC) AND SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE | |
| **Purpose**  The objective of this document is to provide information on the alignment of WSIS Process with Global Digital Compact (GDC) and Summit of the Future, as well as future action.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDG is invited **to note** this document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [CWG-WSIS&SDG website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx); UNGA Resolutions [A/RES/70/125](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F125&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), [A/RES/70/1](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), [A/71/212,](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F71%2F212&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) [A/70/299](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F299&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), [A/70/684](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F70%2F684&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), [A/RES/73/218](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2Fres%2F73%2F218&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False); UN ECOSOC Resolution  [E/RES/2022/15](https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FRES%2F2022%2F15&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False); [Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf); [Resolution 172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf); [Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council [Resolution 1332 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en), [Resolution 1334 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en); [WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf); [WTSA Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2022); [WRC [Resolution 61-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-3-2023))](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-3-2023); [World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap.](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0047/en) | |

**ITUs engagement in the GDC Process**

**1.** Engaging with the GDC Co-facilitators:

* 1. ITU has taken up every opportunity to contribute to the intergovernmental process to develop the Global Digital Compact and plans to continue doing so as new opportunities arise.
  2. ITU actively participated in the series of thematic deep-dive consultations, organized by the then co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Rwanda and Sweden to the United Nations in New York, with keynote remarks from the ITU Secretary-General on Digital Connectivity and Inclusion and statements from the floor by ITU subject matter experts in several of the thematic deep dive consultations.
  3. ITU also participated in the GDC online consultation process, facilitated by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET), with an online submission: [ITU’s contribution to the GDC](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_ITU.pdf). There was also a [WSIS Forum’s and UNGIS’ contributions to the GDC.](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_WSIS.pdf)
  4. ITU organized in Geneva roundtable discussions on the GDC for the co-facilitators during the WSIS Forum 2023 (see below), and two other meetings for the co-facilitators on 7 December 2023 with Missions and UN agencies respectively.

**2.** ITU contributed in inter-agency groups and settings to various of the UN Secretary-General’s [Policy Briefs](https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs), although the recommendations they contain are the UN Secretary-General’s. These groups and settings included the UN Sustainable Development Group Working Group on Our Common Agenda, core inter-agency groups established for some of the policy briefs, and some meetings of the UN Secretary-General’s Executive Committee and Deputies Committee to which ITU was invited and at which the policy brief drafts were discussed.

**3.** ITU, as the co-chair of [UNGIS](http://www.ungis.org), organized the UNGIS Leaders High-Level Meeting during the WSIS Forum 2023. GDC was one of its discussion topics, where members exchanged ideas, views and proposals and provided a shared commitment and recommendations on what remains to be done to connect the unconnected.

3.1. Recognizing that discussions on Our Common Agenda and especially its Global Digital Compact are complementary to the WSIS Framework, UNGIS called on all stakeholders to leverage the learnings of the implementation of the WSIS Framework and related process in their deliberations on Our Common Agenda. Among other things, such efforts have sought to avoid duplication of existing processes and fora and to foster synergies between the WSIS+20 process and preparations for the Summit of the Future and the GDC.

3.2. [UNGIS Input](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_UNGIS.pdf) for the Global Digital Compact was submitted. ITU is convening an UNGIS meeting on 7 December 2023 for GDC Co-Facilitators to provide an update on GDC.

**4.** The [WSIS Forum 2023](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/) contributed to advancing the global digital agenda and promoting the use of ICTs for sustainable development through the multistakeholder approach, fostering dialogue and meaningful discussions around key ICT-related issues and trends, including those related to the GDC and the Summit on the Future. The sessions on GDC included the following:

4.1. A [Ministerial roundtable](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/354), which benefited from the presence and contributions of 40 Ministers/Deputies. One of topics discussed was the WSIS Ministerial Contribution to the GDC Consultations. The discussions on Our Common Agenda and especially the GDC were recognized as complementary to the WSIS Framework. The meeting invited all stakeholders to leverage the learnings of the implementation of the WSIS Framework in their deliberations on OCA.

4.2. The [Global Digital Compact Informal Roundtable discussions](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/445), led by the Co-Facilitators of the GDC, to gather opinions from different stakeholders on:

* + - * + the six topics for the Deep-Dives of the Global Digital Compact;
        + how the UN-system can create added value in the area of digital;
        + how they see their role in contributing to harnessing the power of the digitalization as an enabler for the SDGs.

4.3. The discussions were held in two sessions with Civil Society and with Private Sector and Technical Community

4.4. A high-level dialogue on [*How New Technologies Can Foster Digital Inclusion: A Multistakeholder Input to the Global Digital Compact*](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/399) was organized by the German Federal Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, the Government of Mexico and ITU, and UNESCO also held sessions on WSIS+20 review and Global Digital Compact.

**5.** Invitation of Co-Facilitators to CWG WSIS&SDG:

5.1. To support complementarity and alignment, ITU has provided regular updates to Council/CWG on the processes, and invited the co-facilitators for the GDC to present. Remarks by H.E. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to UN in New York, were shared with the CWG WSIS&SDG 39th meeting on 17 October 2023. H.E. Eneström, and H.E. Chola Milambo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to UN, will be invited to present during the CWG WSIS&SDG 40th meeting.

5.2. H.E. Antje Leendertse Co-Facilitator Permanent Representative of Germany to UN, and H.E. Neville M. Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to UN, will also be invited to present on the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future.

**6.** Updates and briefings to Member States in NY and Geneva:

6.1. The diplomatic missions in Geneva and New York have been regularly briefed on the ongoing preparations for WSIS+20 and its alignment with GDC process. The latest briefing was provided to the Permanent Representatives to the UN in Geneva on 5 October 2023, while Permanent Representatives to UN in New York were briefed by the ITU DSG on 26 July 2023.

6.2. A WSIS Forum 2023 Ambassadors roundtable discussion also took place on 13 March 2023, featuring approximately 50 Ambassadors to the UN in Geneva, where they also deliberated on the WSIS+20 review and the GDC with following outcomes: GDC discussions could consider ongoing multistakeholder discussions on WSIS+20. The WSIS Action Lines are particularly important as they capture emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in the digital world beyond 2025. WSIS Forum will continue to play an important role in digitalization; the GDC process must reflect the needs of developing countries to create more equitable prosperity and reduce structural inequalities; to avoid duplication, WSIS+20, GDC, and Summit of the Future should be synergized.

**Future action:**

Leading up to the Summit of the Future 2024, ITU is closely monitoring the preparatory process guided by the co-facilitators the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia under the auspices of the 78th session of the UNGA. ITU will also take up any opportunity to contribute to the GDC process and the Summit of the Future more broadly. As a specialized UN agency based in Geneva, ITU is also endeavouring to garner support from the Geneva communities, including through initiatives such as organizing informal gatherings, like ITU Secretary-General’s demystifying breakfast on GDC with the co-facilitators, UNGIS meeting with the co-facilitators, and extending invitations to the co-facilitators for the Summit of the Future to present in CWG WSIS&SDG meetings, among other engagement.

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