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| Contribution by Saudi Arabia, South Africa (Republic of), Egypt (Arab Republic of), Kuwait (State of) and Tunisia |
| INTERNET PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT |
| **Purpose**Given the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CWG-Internet, which mandate discussions on international public policy matters related to the Internet, this document addressing key international Internet-related public policy issues emerging from the Global Digital Compact (GDC), which could be further discussed in the CWG-Internet.**Action required**The Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues is invited to **consider** this document. |

# 1 Introduction

The Global Digital Compact (GDC), adopted in September 2024, marks a key milestone in the evolving landscape of. It reflects a collective effort by all stakeholders to address critical challenges in the digital space. In this context, it is essential to highlight the role of the CWG-Internet as a platform for discussing these critical aspects. With the GDC outcomes now established and the CWG-Internet’s mandate centered on Internet-related public policy issues, ensuring alignment between these global commitments and ongoing discussions is imperative. This contribution underscores some key issues emerging from the GDC, as demonstrated in the following section, and aims to bring them to the international Internet-related public policy CWG-Internet for in-depth discussion.

# 2 Discussion

 **Digital inclusion and bridging the digital divide** – Ensuring universal and equitable access to the Internet remains a fundamental policy priority. The GDC emphasizes the need for policies that support affordable and reliable connectivity, to enable inclusive participation in the digital economy and society.

 **Cybersecurity and trust** – Strengthening cybersecurity frameworks is a critical aspect of the GDC. It calls for international cooperation to address the increasing complexity of cyber threats, promote best practices in security policies, and enhance global trust in digital systems. Additionally, it highlights the need to counter misinformation and disinformation that undermine public trust in digital spaces.

 **Governance of artificial intelligence (AI)** – The rapid advancement of AI presents significant opportunities and challenges. The GDC advocates for the development of international AI governance frameworks that promote transparency, accountability, and ethical considerations while ensuring interoperability and responsible AI deployment.

 **Equitable and interoperable data governance** – Data has become a vital asset in the digital economy, and the GDC stresses the importance of secure and responsible data governance. It calls for frameworks that enable cross-border data flows with trust, safeguard privacy.

# 3 Proposal

Given the Terms of Reference of CWG-Internet, which focus on international Internet-related public policy issues, continued dialogue and engagement on these topics within the CWG-Internet can contribute to policy discussions at the international level. By fostering discussions on these key issues, the membership of ITU can support the ongoing evolution of digital governance frameworks, promote international cooperation, and facilitate the exchange of best practices to support a more inclusive, secure, and sustainable digital future.

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