UN Global Digital Compact

Review of the Globa Digital Compact: zero draft (01 April 2024)

Purpose of this document

1. The present document has been prepared by the DCO Secretariat to provide comments and suggestions regarding the Global Digital Compact (GDC) zero draft dated 01 April 2024. The document intends to identify direction for DCO strategic contribution to GDC process and implementation. This review is based on the DCO 2030 Strategic Roadmap, as well as synergies between DCO initiatives and GDC objectives as per the zero draft. This document also intends to serve as the foundation for upcoming engagement among DCO Member States, Observers, and Partners to support the successful implementation and follow-up of the GDC process.

2. DCO is honored to have reviewed the GDC zero draft and will participate actively in the GDC process until its conclusion expected by the Summit of Future in September 2024. The DCO Secretariat is willing to elaborate more on the proposed comments and support all stakeholders in leading this crucial process by acting as an **information provider, an advocate, an adviser, and a facilitator**.

Background

3. The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) is **an intergovernmental organization mandated to accelerate the inclusive and sustainable growth of the digital economy to enable digital prosperity for all.** To date, DCO brings together 16 Member States across Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 2022, DCO was granted the status of Observer by the United Nations General Assembly. Through the Observers Committee established by the DCO Council, the Organization engages actively with 39 entities from private sector, civil society, and academia, representing the digital economy ecosystem in its diversity.

DCO 3rd General Assembly – Final Council Declaration (31 January 2024)

4. During the DCO 3rd General Assembly hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain on 31 January 2024, the DCO Council adopted the Final Council Declaration ([LINK](#)) which underscores Member States' collective commitment to **bridging the global digital divide and harnessing digital transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**:

    - (par. 4) **We affirm our commitment to avoid that the global digital divide becomes the new face of development divide** and recognizing the potential of digital transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we recall the need for joint and relentless efforts to ensure that every country, business, and individual gets the chance to prosper in the digital economy and drive progress.
    - (par. 6) **We particularly emphasize the importance of multilateral cooperation** to harmonize digital policies around the world, exchange best practices, enhance digital

skills, build trust, facilitate business expansion across borders, and boost investments where it is most needed.

- (par. 29) **We request the Secretary-General to continue to lead global advocacy efforts**, representing the Organization, to build strong, inclusive, and impactful strategic dialogues with all relevant stakeholders sharing the ambition to enable digital prosperity for all. In this perspective, we call upon all Members to support these efforts, and leverage together the opportunity to shape the future of digital cooperation in the context of the finalization of the **Global Digital Compact** during the UN Summit of the Future.

DCO Contribution to the Global Digital Compact

5. The success of the GDC hinges upon robust and inclusive global digital cooperation and governance. The DCO would like to reaffirm its commitment to contribute actively to these efforts in finalizing the definition, validation, and implementation of the Global Digital Compact, in line with the DCO 2030 Strategic Roadmap, as well as the principle reaffirmed in the DCO Council Final Declaration adopted during the DCO 3rd General Assembly (31 January 2024).

6. **In reference to the section starting with paragraph 52,** DCO respectfully recommends that the GDC highlight the role of all intergovernmental organizations in the modality of follow-up and implementation of the Compact, including DCO which reaffirms its readiness and willingness to actively contribute to the GDC implementation process. DCO will support the efforts its Member States to implement, follow-up and review the GDC, in coordination with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, as well as other UN agencies and platforms engaged to advance digital cooperation.

7. Since its establishment, the DCO has been actively engaged in informing, advising, advocating, and facilitating cooperation among all Member States in such crucial areas as:

- **Cross-border Data Flow and Trust**. DCO has initiated a multi-stakeholder process among its Member States to enhance cross-border data flows, by developing a collaborative approach towards building interoperability mechanisms for trusted cross-border data flows based shared principles, standards, and solutions.
- **Sustainability of the ICT sector**. DCO, in collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has developed the DCO Sustainability Toolkit for the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector, which is now available for implementation by all DCO Member States. This holistic practiced-based Sustainability toolkit will provide key elements to support DCO Member States in assessing, analyzing, and progressing on the sustainability of their ICT sectors. In addition, focusing on the "Circular economy" pillar of the toolkit, the DCO has launched a specific initiative on e-waste management. This initiative aims to mitigate the cross-border e-waste challenges, boost sustainability, and enhance digital inclusion by promoting a circular economy for the ICT sector.
- **Empowerment and Entrepreneurship**. The DCO Council has approved the establishment of the STRIDE Association for Entrepreneurs, as a grassroot organization in support of

entrepreneurs to empower in the conversation with the governments. The STRIDE Association is the vehicle of projects targeting specific populations (e.g. youth and women) and will also be the platform for a multi-stakeholder's process designed to enhance startup mobility, capacity building, and access to finance. The DCO recognizes the widening gender gap in the digital economy and the economic opportunity associated with the **empowerment and inclusion of women in and through ICT**. To this end, the DCO has developed a Unified Framework 'Empowering Women in and through ICT'. The framework aims to act as a tool and a structured guide to serve various organizations that are evaluating impactful initiatives to enhance women's participation in the digital economy.

- **Investments and Social Impact**. DCO launched in 2022, the Digital FDI initiative that seeks to address the challenges and facilitate the inflows of digital FDI within DCO Member States. Currently implemented in 4 DCO Member States (Cyprus, Oman, Pakistan, and Rwanda), this initiative will also help to develop recommendations and guidelines for governments to improve the investment climate in their digital economies. In addition, DCO has developed a Collaboration Framework for Impact Investment in the Digital Economy to guide Member States in leveraging Private Public Partnerships (PPP) to support the growth of their digital economy.

- **Digital Government Solutions**. DCO has built the IMPACT platform that captures implemented, and scalable government digital solutions of the DCO Member States. The platform will function as a marketplace for the DCO ecosystem to share digital solutions to boost their digital ecosystems, including digital government ecosystems.

- **Digital Skills and Education**: The DCO is launching the DigiSkills Accelerator to develop a digitally skilled workforce tailored to the rapidly changing requirements of global business sectors. It will foster a platform for robust peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of best practices, enhancing digital competencies across the DCO Member States. This will meet the needs of Member States by promoting labor mobility and skill enhancement for both public and private sectors.

- **Data for Development**. The DCO is in the process of launching the inaugural edition of the Digital Economy Maturity Index (DEMI). The DEMI provides a shared vision and evidence-based guidance for decision makers to advance their countries' digital economy maturity, towards a future where digital opportunities are universally accessible.

- **Safe Digital Space.** The DCO aims to ensure a "Safe Digital Space" for all users. Distorted online content, on social media and digital platforms, can create confusion among the global community to distinguish whether they get true or false information. The DCO has issued several publications on online misinformation providing guidelines for addressing this issue. For the continuity of these efforts, the DCO has launched a Digital Information Integrity program, which is a holistic approach to achieve online content integrity, focuses on empowering individuals to critically evaluate information, and fosters a robust digital ecosystem through constructive dialogue. In addition, the DCO is committed to promote, respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of everyone in the digital space. The DCO is also committed to safe online spaces for adults and children alike. The DCO is soon

publishing a policy paper on "Safe Digital Space for Children" that provides principles and recommendations on protecting children's digital rights online.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI).** The DCO is developing an AI Toolkit, a suite of practice-based artifacts to support the DCO Member States and the global community in assessing their readiness to adopt AI at a national level and roadmap the adoption process. The AI Toolkit is also in alignment with the pillars of the Riyadh AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration, signed and adopted by the DCO Member States in 2022. Additionally, the DCO is working on developing a Responsible AI tool which can be used to help take ethics and human rights risks into consideration during the development, deployment, and use of AI across the DCO Member States.

8. In September 2023, the DCO Secretariat supported the establishment of the **UN Group of Friends for Digital Cooperation**, initiated by five Permanent Missions in New York: Bahrain, Cyprus, Pakistan, Rwanda, and Saudi Arabia, showcasing their commitment to global digital cooperation advocacy. The DCO Secretariat is supporting the activities of this Group ensuring inclusive and constructive dialogue among DCO Member States, as well as other UN Members, Organizations, the private sector, and civil society.

Detailed review and assessment of the zero draft

9. The table below provides a detailed review and assessment of the zero draft. For each key element of the document proposed by the co-facilitators, the DCO Secretariat has listed comments and suggestions, reflecting the DCO 2030 Strategic Roadmap.

Section	Par. #	Text of the zero-draft	DCO Comments / Suggestions
Introduction	3	*Our goal is an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future for all.*	As such the goal of the GDC has been defined at the inception of the process, and since the initial multistakeholder consultations facilitated by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET) and the original co-facilitators. If agreeable of all Member States, we would recommend amending the initial goal to align more explicitly to the ambition of the SDGs: Suggested amendment: "Our goal is an inclusive, **sustainable, human-centric**, open, safe, and secure digital future for all."
Objectives	6	(1) *Close the digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.* (2) *Expand opportunities for inclusion in the digital economy.* (3) *Foster an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space.* (4) *Advance equitable international data technologies governance.* (5) *Govern emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, for humanity.*	In reference to the DCO Charter, the 2030 DCO Strategic Roadmap articulates 3 Strategic Goals which are aligned and will contribute to the implementation of the GDC: Goal 1: Empower businesses of the DCO cross-border digital market to thrive in the global digital economy **(aligned with Objectives 2)** Goal 2: Leverage the full potential of data across the DCO Ecosystem **(aligned with Objectives 4)** Goal 3: Foster an inclusive, human-centric, and sustainable digital economy **(aligned with Objective 1, 3 and 5)** For all these three Strategic Goals, DCO has defined initiatives, monitoring solutions, the Secretariat will be pleased to share and explore areas of cooperation. This reinforces the unique role DCO can play in implementation of the GDC

Principles	7.b)	*(...) our cooperation will harness technologies to fast-track progress and leave no one behind (...)*	Suggested amendments: (...) our cooperation will harness technologies to fast-track progress **on all the SDGs** and leave no one behind. To ensure that digital solutions are explored on all fronts.
	7.c)	*(...) Our cooperation will harness digital technologies to promote and protect these rights, including the protection of children and their rights.*	Suggestion: (...) Our cooperation will harness digital technologies to promote and protect these rights, including the protection of children **and all vulnerable groups** and their rights. To ensure that targeted protection is put in place to protect the rights of women, people with disabilities, etc. online and offline.
	7.g)	*(...) This includes safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems that promote and protect human rights, support sustainable development, and are reliable, explainable, and inclusive.*	Suggestion: (...) This includes safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems **and applications** that promote and protect human rights, support sustainable development, and are reliable, explainable, and inclusive. To reflect that beyond the AI technology itself, the use of AI also should be regulated.
	7.h)	*Innovation-friendly: Our cooperation will foster innovation and the potential for societies and businesses, regardless of size, to reap the benefits of digitalization and thrive in the digital economy.*	Suggestion to add after this paragraph: "**This includes ensuring that businesses, in particular small businesses, can thrive in cross-border digital markets.**" This is aligned with DCO Strategic goal "Advancing collaborative R&D, innovation, and investment in digital opportunities". This addition will provide the framework to work towards more harmonization of digital regulation across borders, since digital development does not stop at borders. By fostering markets expansion across DCO countries, economies of scale can be realized, making digital technologies more accessible and affordable to all Member States.
	7	n/a	Suggested to add one (1) additional principle:

			(k) **Economic prosperity focused**:
			Comments: As the GDC strives to cultivate a digital economy where every individual has a role to play and possesses the requisite skills, it is a pivotal principle for driving economic growth across all regions. This becomes increasingly vital as the digital economy rises to greater prominence within the global economic landscape.
Commitments and actions	9	*(...) We commit to connect all people to the Internet (...)*	Suggested amendment: To add "**and ensure that mobile and Internet data are affordable to all**". Since affordability of internet services and devices is often as much a barrier as connectivity itself.
	10.b)	*Develop innovative financing mechanisms and incentives, in collaboration with the World Bank Group other multilateral developments banks and the private sector, to connect the remaining 2.6 billion people to the Internet and to improve the affordability of connectivity. Our goal is entry-level broadband subscription costs at less than 2 percent of average income of the bottom 40 percent of national populations (SDGs 1 & 9).*	Would recommend considering additional elements: "Develop innovative financing mechanisms, incentives **and blended finance models for impactful multistakeholder collaborations**" This paragraph may be expanded, or a new subparagraph may be added to reflect the importance of tax incentives to promote entrepreneurship and investments in all tiers of the ICT supply chain, encourage the adoption of ICT by all categories of businesses and end users.
	11	*To fully harness the benefits of digital connectivity we must ensure that people can meaningfully use the Internet and safely navigate the digital space. We recognize the importance of skilling and access to digital learning, taking into account the specific social, cultural and linguistic needs of each society and people of all ages and backgrounds.*	This paragraph should reflect the challenge of misinformation to certain vulnerable groups.
	12.a)	*Establish national digital skills strategies, adapt education curricula at all levels and provide for adult training programmes for the digital age. Our goal is 80 percent of women and men with basic digital skills and at least 60*	Expand the commitment to include the establishment of **adaptive learning frameworks** that continuously evolve with technological advancements, ensuring the broader population keeps pace with digital skills requirements.

		percent with intermediate or advanced digital skills (SDGs 4 & 5).	The goal is to ensure that all citizens, regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status, can safely, effectively, and ethically navigate the digital world. This commitment should include the development of learning materials and programs that are accessible and relevant to all populations, reflecting the linguistic, cultural, and ability-specific needs of learners. Additionally, it should promote lifelong learning opportunities to keep pace with technological advancements and changing digital landscapes. Suggested amendment / language: Add "**Establish and continuously update adaptive learning frameworks to enhance digital literacy across all levels of society. These frameworks should focus on equipping individuals with a broad set of digital skills, including but not limited to cybersecurity, digital ethics, critical thinking in digital environments, and the responsible use of technology.**" This addition will reflect the fact that, even when countries have developed national digital skills strategies, the challenge remains that the education system (tertiary and vocational) has not been able to meet the required needs. There is a gap between the supply and demand of education, thus a reform of curricula is required. The curricula should be adaptive. This would mean a change in assessment, qualification frameworks, competency frameworks etc. Curriculum change should begin at the primary and secondary school level. A focus on marginalized groups is essential. Ways to address this would be linked to strategic policies, however policies should include incentives for implementation. In addition, the policies should clearly indicate the target. Public Private Partnerships are critical for both funding and digital learning and technology.

In addition, reskilling and upskills is crucial, again a thorough skills audit and skills needs analysis is required to identify gaps and implement correct training interventions

DCO has is particularly focused on women and girls' digital education. In this context, DCO is launching the **DigiSkills Accelerator** to develop a digitally skilled workforce tailored to the rapidly changing requirements of global digital economy. It will foster peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices, enhancing digital competencies across the DCO Member States. This will not only match the needs of the Member States but also promote labor mobility and skill enhancement for both public and private sectors.

The **DigiSkills Accelerator** will roll out **technical** programs covering topics of the digital economy. The DigiSkills Accelerator will execute three key strategic programs:

1. **Executive Learning Programs**
    The DigiSkills Accelerator will roll out **technical programs** covering topics of the digital economy with a demand for sharp expertise, such as **digital trade, cross-border data flow, digital taxation, and artificial intelligence**. These programs will be specifically designed for government officials of DCO Member States and will be tailored to meet their specific needs and circumstances.

2. **Freelancing Programs**
    The DigiSkills Accelerator will roll out freelancing programs to empower talents and jobseekers from the Member States to thrive in the evolving digital landscape and meet the growing demand for skilled freelancers. These programs will cover a range of skills necessary for today's freelancing opportunities including business acumen skills and the latest advanced digital skills, equipping participants to attain remote work and local or global market opportunities. The programs will also include practical, hands-on training to provide real-world experience.

			3. Digital Skills for Jobs The DigiSkills Accelerator will roll out training programs to bridge the digital skills gap between the available skills, i.e., the supply, and the know-how needed to fuel DCO Member States digital development, i.e., the demand. These programs will cater to a broad audience, covering digital skills from basic to advanced levels, tailored according to the specific needs and contexts of the Member States.
	12.g)	*Develop common digital competency frameworks and training standards to facilitate pooling of training resources and the mobilization of public and private funds in support of capacity-building.*	Suggested amendment to add a few elements in the paragraph to ensure inclusivity of this commitment: "Develop common digital competency frameworks and training standards **in cooperation with a variety of stakeholders** to facilitate pooling of training resources and mobilization of public and private funds in support of capacity-building in **all regions of the world.**"
	13	*"Safe, inclusive, and interoperable digital public infrastructure has the potential to deliver services at scale and increase social and economic opportunities for all. Open-source software, platforms, data, standards, and content that can be freely used and adapted can empower societies and individuals to direct digital technologies to their development needs. These digital public goods are key drivers of inclusive digital transformation."*	DCO aims to catalyze the adoption of digital government solutions and digital public goods across the DCO ecosystem to facilitate more efficient government operations and service delivery. This is currently being done through the IMPACT Initiative which aims to maximize knowledge sharing and cooperation on digital government solutions. The IMPACT marketplace for Digital Government Solutions has been launched during the UN SDG Summit in September 2023, with the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moving forward this platform could become available for countries beyond DCO Member States.
	15.b)	*Promote the adoption of open standards and interoperability to facilitate the use of digital public goods across different platforms and systems (All SDGs)*	To address the issue of lack of interoperability across countries we recommend adding: "... different platforms, systems, and **borders**". It could include working to increase cross-border data flows, at least for data related to digital public goods.

	15.c)	*Recognise the digital public goods standard as an enabler of public and private investment and digital cooperation (SDG 17)*	We suggest strengthening the language of this commitment beyond "recognition" to ensure we can **leverage** the full potential of digital public goods and channel public and private investment and foster multi-stakeholder collaboration.
	16	*We recognize that equitable and affordable access to digital technologies can unlock the potential of the digital economy for every society. We recognize digital access to encompass opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge, research, and capacity as well as technology transfers.*	Comments 1 With the rapid advancement of technology there has been an increase in gender inequality in the digital economy which can be attributed to unequal access, lack of awareness, and online security issues. DCO has recognized the current gap and has identified that digital economic growth cannot occur without the empowerment and inclusion of more women in and through Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). To address this gap, DCO has developed a **Unified Framework on Empowering Women in and through ICT.** The framework aims to act as a tool and a structured guide to serve governments, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations in monitoring and evaluating initiatives and/or developing actionable recommendations to enhance women's participation in the digital economy. DCO is aligned with this specific element of the GDC and our work in striving to minimize the gender divide in the ICT sector could support this objective of the GDC. Comment 2: In addition, through Initiative called WE-Elevate, DCO aims to economically empower women by integrating them into the digital economy. WE-Elevate operates on four pillars: enhancing business and digital skills, facilitating market access, improving financial inclusion, and enabling regulatory reforms. The project focuses on enabling women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to transition from traditional to digital commerce, thereby tapping into a broader market via e-commerce.

			Comment 3: This paragraph can be expanded to **include access to financing options and/or commitments.** Member States should be exploring new financial instruments for innovation research and investments into digital businesses especially for digital startups and SMEs.
	17	*Widening the opportunities for inclusion requires an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment that supports innovation, nurtures digital talent and skills, and promotes digital entrepreneurship. Such environments, at international and national levels, support investment and the voluntary transfer of digital technologies on mutually agreed terms to developing countries.*	Suggestion for implementation: Governments could explore an innovative grants mechanism for digital solutions. This could incentivize entrepreneurs to develop new technologies and explore start-up financing which combines public and private capital to de-risk investments. Such a mechanism would leverage public funds to make start-ups more attractive to private investors, ultimately mobilizing more capital for entrepreneurs.
	19.b)	*Call on regional and multilateral organizations as well as governments to support national digital readiness assessments and, where requested and as appropriate, provide technical assistance to national authorities (All SDGs)*	Comment: As an information provider and advisor, DCO is constantly looking to equip its Member States with the required tools to support nation-wide digital transformation strategies and include emerging technologies in their national agendas to reap their benefits. To this end, DCO is developing an **AI Toolkit**, a suite of practice-based artifacts to support the DCO Member States and the global community assess their readiness to adopt AI at a national level and roadmap the adoption process. The development of the **AI Toolkit** is activation of the Riyadh AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration, signed and adopted by DCO Member States in September 2022. The RAICA consists of the following seven key pillars: Bridging the digital divide, Empowering underprivileged communities, Promoting digital development, Combating climate change through AI, Ensuring fairness and nondiscrimination, Driving innovation in AI, and Engaging in international collaboration & cooperation in AI. DCO is ready to share the content of the RAICA and the subsequent AI Toolkit with other stakeholders involved in the implementation and follow-up of the GDC.
	20 and 27	*We recognize all human rights to be enablers of sustainable development and closing digital divides. We commit to promote, respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of*	DCO is committed to promote, respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of everyone in the digital space. DCO is also committed to developing safe online spaces for adults and children alike.

		everyone in the digital space. We will apply international human rights law in the design, development, deployment, use and regulation of digital and emerging technologies so that users are protected from harm, bias and all forms of discrimination and can fully benefit from digitalization. We recognize the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in this endeavor, especially the private sector, including as outlined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. *We must urgently eliminate and prevent technology-facilitated gender-based and sexual violence, hate speech, discrimination, information manipulation and disinformation, cybercrime, cyberbullying and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. We acknowledge our collective responsibility to establish and maintain robust risk mitigation and redress measures that also protect privacy and freedom of expression.*	The DCO is soon publishing a policy paper on "Safe Digital Space for Children" that provides principles and recommendations on protecting children's digital rights online. DCO is aligned and in support of fostering an inclusive and open, safe, and secure digital space and aligned with the GDC commitments in this area. Specifically focused on the human rights implications of AI, DCO is also working on developing a Responsible AI tool which can be used to help take ethics and human rights risks into consideration during the development, deployment, and use of AI across DCO Member States.
	24	*We recognize that the Internet is a critical global resource for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. In order to be accessible and interoperable to all, it must be stable and unfragmented.*	In reference to DCO intervention during the Thematic Deep-Dive on Internet governance session on April 2023, we want to emphasize the importance of collaboration and equal opportunity for a more agile and inclusive approach to Internet governance which aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure everyone has access.
	28	**Additional paragraph**	Suggestion to add two commitments related to cluster 3 – Digital trust and safety: (g) Promote new and emerging technologies that have a safety-by-design approach embedded in their standards and protocols. (h) Work jointly with the private sector to ensure that children under the authorized age do not have access to inappropriate content through social media platforms.
	30	*Access to relevant, reliable, and accurate information and knowledge is essential for an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital space. We will work together to promote information integrity, tolerance, and respect online, as well as to protect the integrity of democratic processes. We*	DCO has published a scientific research paper and a whitepaper on online misinformation, in addition to "Guidelines for Combating Online Misinformation in the era of Digital Economy", an outcome of a DCO initiative that gathered insights of global professional and experts through global roundtables.

		recognize that digital and emerging technologies can facilitate the manipulation and interference of information in ways that are harmful to societies and people and create risks for international peace and security. We will counter disinformation and mitigate the risks of information manipulation in a manner consistent with human rights and freedom of expression.	To continue these efforts, DCO has launched an Online Content Integrity program – a holistic approach to achieve online content integrity focusing on empowering individuals to critically evaluate information and foster a robust digital ecosystem where technology and dialogue converge. This program involves initiatives such as the "Race to Zero Online Misinformation" aiming to cultivate a digital space where content on social media and streaming platforms adheres to self-regulatory principles and standards to combat misinformation.
	31.c)	*Promote access to **information** in conflict and crisis situations, to protect and empower communities in situations of vulnerability and marginalization.*	Suggestion to add "**verified and official**" before "information"
	32.a)	*Call on social media platforms to enhance the transparency and accountability of their systems, including terms of service and content moderation policies in local languages, to empower users to make informed choices (SDGs 9 & 10)*	See comment on paragraph 30.
	33 and 41	*We recognize that equitable and interoperable data governance is essential to advance development objectives, protect human rights and foster innovation. The increasing collection, sharing and processing of data, including by AI systems, may amplify risks and challenge established data protection and privacy norms. We recognize the urgent need for strengthened international data governance to unlock the full potential of digital and emerging technologies.* *Cross-border data flows are a critical driver of the digital economy. We recognize the potential social and economic benefits of responsible cross-border data flows, in particular for small and medium enterprises. We will identify innovative, interoperable and inclusive mechanisms to maximize data flows within and between countries while respecting relevant data protection and privacy norms.*	DCO recognizes the importance of global cooperation on data governance to maximize the opportunities for exchanges of data while also ensuring privacy, protecting consumers, maintaining ethical standards, and safeguarding national security. In October 2023, DCO published a report, accompanied by a policy brief, on "**Enabling Cross-Border Data Flows Amongst the Digital Cooperation Organization Member States**". The report analyzes various data governance policies and regulations that affect cross-border data flows across DCO Member States. The report also examines the key regional and global frameworks (interoperability mechanisms) that are currently in place to enable trusted exchange of data across borders. To this end, the DCO Secretariat envisions a 'DCO Interoperability Mechanism' that could be adopted by all or a subset of its Member States to facilitate trusted cross-border data exchanges. Such an interoperability mechanism would focus on the regional, multilateral, and bilateral arrangements that can enable cross-border data flows – hence enabling free flow of data with trust.

				This mechanism would constitute a framework to outline the conditions for DCO Member States to participate through mutual equivalence recognition – a set of '**DCO Privacy Principles'** that harmonize data privacy standards across DCO Member States and align them with global best practices; and **DCO Model Contractual Clauses** to be included in contracts between data exchanging entities in the DCO Member States participating in the Mechanism. In addition, the DCO Secretariat intends to implement a **DCO Data Embassy** initiative amongst its Member States that will enhance the economic and social benefits of global data storage, while prioritizing data privacy and integrity
	39		*We recognize that data is critical for tracking, targeting, and accelerating progress across the SDGs as well as responding effectively to crises. We commit to strengthen international cooperation to close the current serious gaps on data for development and to increase the public availability of SDG data. We will champion the responsible use and sharing of data within and between countries to advance progress across the SDGs.*	DCO, as an international organization mandated to work towards the sustainable growth of an inclusive digital economy, intends to launch the '**DCO Digital Economy Maturity Index' in 2024**, to provide a roadmap that will guide countries, specifically DCO Member States, to improve their digital economy and enhance data-based decision-making processes. The Index will periodically provide insights, information and data to all stakeholders and will consolidate relevant indicators related to the digital economy and identify new indicators to appropriately capture the digital economy maturity positioning.
	43		*We recognize that the pace and power of emerging technologies are creating new opportunities but also new risks for humanity, some of which are yet unknown. We recognize international, regional, national and industry efforts underway to advance the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems according to their priorities and needs. We commit to adhere to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.*	DCO is committed to governing emerging technologies, including AI, for the greater good of humanity. This is evidenced by DCO's Riyadh Artificial Intelligence Call to Action (RAICA, see comments on paragraph 19.b)) which is designed to identify and address present, emerging, and future development issues in the field of AI and highlight ways to use AI as a tool to benefit lives around the world, improve the quality of work, better design public policies, and bring efficiency into the ecosystem. This is to be achieved through seven key pillars, each comprising principles that address methods to ensure that all enjoy the benefits of AI, and the harm is felt by none.

				DCO is also working on developing a **Responsible AI tool** which can be used to help take ethics and human rights risks into consideration during the development, deployment, and use of AI across the DCO Member States.
	44	*International cooperation on AI governance is urgently required to inclusively assess and address the potential impact of AI systems on all societies and individuals, and to promote coordination and interoperability across emerging AI governance frameworks. We commit to advance equitable and inclusive approaches to harnessing AI benefits and mitigating risks.*		DCO understands the importance and relevance of international cooperation and aims to constantly create synergies with other international organizations to achieve digital prosperity for all. DCO Riyadh Call AI Call for Action (RAICA) Declaration, signed and adopted by the DCO Member States in September 2022, comprises a particular pillar on "Engaging in International Collaboration and Cooperation in AI". This pillar advocates for the development and implementation of international codes, standards, and regulations for AI's ethical and responsible deployment in society. DCO previously presented interventions on the topic of AI Governance on May 2023 during the UN Global Digital Compact consultations.
	49 (iii)	*Support inclusive academic partnerships for research and knowledge management on AI.*		DCO is continuously collaborating in research with academic institutions, fulfilling its role of an information provider. Particularly on AI, DCO has collaborated with the National University of Science & Technology (NUST) in Pakistan to develop and release a research paper that describes applications of Generative AI (GenAI) in the public sector, identifies challenges of GenAI and explores collaborative recommendations and solutions between stakeholders in the digital economy to unlock its transformative potential. The paper proposes recommendations in several areas, including formulating ethical guidelines and national AI strategies, early AI adoption by the business community, and creating awareness and digital literacy of GenAI tools to address misconceptions.
Follow-up and review	61	*We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital technologies. We also recognize the importance of enhancing UN system-wide coordination on digital and emerging technologies. To this end, we recommend that the General Assembly decides*		Regarding the establishment by the General Assembly of a dedicated office coordinating digital and merging technology in the Secretariat, we would like to highlight the importance for this office to coordinate all efforts and initiatives beyond the UN system, including through a cooperation mechanism with technical intergovernmental organizations

		to establish a dedicated office for coordinating digital and emerging technology in the Secretariat, based on a detailed proposal on the operational functions, structure, resources and staffing, including provisions for a liaison presence in Geneva, and, in that regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit this proposal to the General Assembly during its 79th session.	mandated to enhance digital cooperation, such as DCO, in order to streamline efforts and maximize resources and expertise. Suggested amendment: "We recognize the role of the Secretary-General in leading UN system-wide collaboration on digital technologies. We also recognize the importance of enhancing UN system-wide coordination on digital and emerging technologies, **as well as a more inclusive coordination mechanism, beyond the UN-system, with other global intergovernmental organizations mandated to enhance digital cooperation** (...)"
	62	*To track and monitor progress we request the Secretary-General to provide, within 12 months, a Compact implementation map that reflects the contributions of existing mechanisms and all relevant stakeholders in support of commitments and actions and identifies potential time-bound targets for their achievement*	We suggest making sure that the Compact implementation map consolidates all efforts and will reflect the wide range of activities planned by countries. In this perspective, DCO is willing to explore how to support monitoring activities, based on agreed key performance indicators, timelines, and relevant entities to the Compact implementation map to ensure the successful, and consistent implementation of the Compact, with clear and tangible outcomes aligned with the SDGs.
	65	*a) appoint co-facilitators at the 79th session to conclude open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental consultations to determine the modalities for the high-level meetings entitled "High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact"* *(b) appoint co-facilitators at the 80th session to conclude open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental consultations to agree in advance a Progress Declaration for adoption at the High-Level Review.*	DCO is ready and willing to support the work of the co-facilitators to ensure that the consultations leading to the High-level review of the GDC, will be inclusive and will involve all stakeholders, beyond the UN-system, including other intergovernmental organizations mandated to enhance digital cooperation.