

Global Digital Compact

Joint submission development of the Global Digital Compact

Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact



Bangladesh
Internet
Governance
Forum



Bangladesh NGOs Network for
Radio and Communication
Preparing for the Future of Media Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution
Cumulative Status with UN ECOSOC | UN WISD Prize Winner & Champions



Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact & Summit of the Future 2024

Make Bangladesh's Voices Heard at the GDC

The Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) welcome the opportunity to provide input into the Global Digital Compact (GDC) public consultation.

The Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) express their deepest appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Mr. António Guterres for preparing the SG's report Our Common Agenda (OCA). OCA presents a set of guiding recommendations to develop the joint program and respond to current and future challenges including the Global Digital Compact.

BIGF & BNNRC's views will relate to the following areas: 1. Digital Inclusion and Connectivity 2. Internet Governance 3. Data Protection 4. Human Rights Online 5. Digital Trust and Security 6. Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies 7. Global Digital Commons 8. Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BIGF & BNNRC looks forward to further engaging with the UN in its development of the GDC and related activities, including the Summit of the Future 2024.

Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact & UN Summit for the Future 2024 jointly initiated by the Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) in association with the

- (i) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- (ii) Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Program, ICT Division of ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology
- (iii) Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) of the Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact & UN Summit for the Future 2024 is jointly supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh.

The UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology coordinates the Global Digital Compact. The UN Co-facilitators of the Global Digital Compact are Rwanda and Sweden. Consultations with Member States and Stakeholders are scheduled from January 2023 through June 2023, allowing for the remote participation of Stakeholders. The Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) have been participating in the thematic Deep-Dive regularly as the speaker with formal statements in line with the guiding questions for the deep dive.

On behalf of The Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), Mr. AHM Bazlur Rahman has participated in the Global Digital Compact (GDC) - Asia Consultations on March 21 and 22, 2023 in New Delhi, India. Similar consultations have taken place earlier for Africa (in Kenya, December 2022) and The Americas (in Mexico, February 2023). These consultations will lead to the Ministerial Meeting on the Summit of the Future (September 2023) and Summit of the Future - Global Digital Compact (September 2024). Participants for GDC Asia Consultations included stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and international organizations, and had the following objectives:

- Contribute to the exchange of ideas about the potential as well as the challenges in the future use of digital technologies.
- Develop actionable inputs regarding digital inclusion to be included in the framework of the Global Digital Compact.
- Create a shared vision of the challenges and priorities of Asia regarding the digital transformation.

Background

In September 2020, on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, member states adopted a political declaration, Guided by the Charter on how they are going to ensure the future they want and the United Nations they need. Consequently, in September 2021 the UN Secretary-General published his report entitled “Our Common Agenda,” which proposes a Global Digital Compact (hereinafter ‘GDC’) that seeks to “outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all.” The proposed Global Digital Compact is set to be agreed upon at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

It is against this background that the Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication and Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum would like to organise consultations and roundtable on the Global Digital Compact aimed to provide a forum to discuss how the future GDC can facilitate the use of digital technologies for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhance digital access for societies across the country and provide an opportunity for various stakeholders to input into the GDC.

The consultations further aimed to enable discussions about how risks and challenges associated with new technologies can be addressed by anchoring principles for responsible use inside the GDC.

About Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC):

BNNRC is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), SDGs Media Compact of the United Nations and UN WSIS prize winner 2016, Champion 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 for media development and Digital Transformation.
<https://www.bnnrc.net>

BNNRC has been accredited by the Open-ended working group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) 2001-2025.

BNNRC is registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister's, Government of Bangladesh according to the foreign donation regulation as an organization on Information, Communication and Technology for Development (ICT4D).

BNNRC's endeavour is to media development, security of and in the use of information and communications technologies and Build confidence and security in the use of ICTs both knowledge-driven and ongoing issues of media, keeping in view the challenges and opportunities of the rapidly changing reality of media since 2000.

BNNRC's intervention is to increase knowledge and awareness of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and regularly inform policymakers and stakeholders about the rapidity and liveliness of the multifaceted impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

About Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF):

Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) is a multi-stakeholder organization aimed to illuminate issues and create ideas on internet usage in Bangladesh in association with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF). since 2006.

This domestic independent forum has engaged civil society, organizations, government, corporate sectors, technical sectors, media and academia to create partnerships, coalitions and dialogues that demonstrate best practices and help us to move the policy forward.
<https://www.bangladeshigf.org>

BNNRC experiences in UN Process: 2000 – 2023

For over two decades, BNNRC is promoting UN WSIS action line and the UN IGF localization process in Bangladesh. BNNRC strengthens the impact and collective voice of the multi-stakeholder and leads its engagement on a wide range of policies and programs with the highest levels of the U.N., governments, media, academia, and civil society actors about ICT4D.

BNNRC's intervention has been successfully aligned with the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process since 2000. Recognizing the importance of the BNNRC intervention, BNNRC was recognized by the UN World Summit on the Information Society for the 7th time as a winner and champion.

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in two phases in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005, set out a clear vision to harness the vast potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to achieve the development aspirations of all the world's inhabitants. Recognizing the importance of ICT as a valuable asset for economic growth, world leaders expressed their strong political commitment to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society.

With the numerous advocacy-related efforts of BFES and BNNRC, the Bangladesh Government formed the Bangladesh Working Group on UN WSIS in 2002. From the BNNRC, AHM Bazlur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer played a co-founder role of the Bangladesh Working Group on UN WSIS, Mr. Reza Salim of BFES was the secretary of the Bangladesh Working Group on UN WSIS and Syed Margub Morshed, former Secretary and Chairman of BTRC played the convenor of the Bangladesh Working Group on UN WSIS. The government of Bangladesh declared and notified the Bangladesh Working Group on UN WSIS through Bangladesh Extraordinary Gazette on 02 October 2002.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has hosted the Bangladesh Working Group on the UN WSIS secretariat and provided technical cooperation. The Bangladesh Working Group on WSIS has served as a platform for governments, UN bodies, international organizations, media, business companies, technical communities, and other stakeholders to address issues related to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), particularly, focusing on turning the digital divide into a digital opportunity for all in Bangladesh.

Since Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in the 2005 summit, governments and stakeholders have undertaken many initiatives and consultations to bridge the digital divide in line with the UN WSIS agenda.

The WSIS Plan of Action (C1-C11) calls for the effective participation of governments and all stakeholders in developing the information society within a partnership framework.

According to the WSIS Plan of Action, BNNRC has created examples and demonstrated, taking initiatives and projects undertaken to meet the indicative targets set out in the Plan of Action. The Summit was an important landmark in Bangladesh's effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BNNRC has been chosen for the prizes on account of its high standard of a program, innovation, strong leadership, and exceptionally strong commitment towards building an inclusive, people-centered and development-oriented information society in Bangladesh.

BNNRC was involved in the WSIS process from the beginning and organized many consultations in Bangladesh and abroad. During WSIS, BNNRC was an active member of the CRIS – Communication Rights in the Information Society.

Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2006: UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as an outcome of the UN WSIS

UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as an outcome of WSIS. Internet governance was one of the most controversial issues during the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-I), held in Geneva in December 2003.

It was recognized that understanding Internet governance was essential in achieving the development goals of the Geneva Plan of Action but defining the term and understanding the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved proved to be difficult. WSIS-II requested the UN Secretary-General to convene an Internet Governance Forum, as a multilateral, multistakeholder, democratic and transparent platform for discussions on Internet governance issues.

According to the UN IGF mandate, BNNRC co-founds the Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) since 2006 in conjunction with the UN IGF.

BIGF has been played as a multi-stakeholder national forum for Bangladesh aimed to illuminate issues and create ideas on internet usage. This domestic independent forum has engaged civil society, organizations, government, corporate sectors, technical sectors, media and academia to create partnerships, coalitions and dialogues that demonstrate best practices and help us to move the policy forward.

Bangladesh IGF successfully created platforms like

- Bangladesh Kids Internet Governance Forum
- Bangladesh Youth Internet Governance Forum
- Bangladesh Women Internet Governance Forum
- Bangladesh School of Internet Governance and
- Bangladesh Parliamentarians Caucus on Internet Governance, Digital Economy & Media Development (BPCIDM).

BIGF has successfully organized the three days Bangladesh Internet Governance Conferences since 2006 in Bangladesh under the leadership of H. E. Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, MP Chairperson and Mr. Mohammad Abdul Haque, secretary general of Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum.

BNNRC has hosted the Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum Secretariat and provided technical cooperation to the BIGF Secretariat since 2006. In BNNRC terms, the BIGF Secretariat is an extra-budgetary project financed through voluntary contributions from the multistakeholder community in Bangladesh and abroad.

Impact of the BIGF in Bangladesh

As a national platform for discussions, the BIGF brings various stakeholder groups to the table as equals to exchange information and share good practices. Over the years, it has identified a wide range of issues to be addressed by the multi-stakeholder and has shaped decisions taken.

Policy Advocacy with ICANN for Top Level Domain (TLD) in Bangla from 4th UN IGF, Sharm El Sheikh, in Egypt in 2009. As a result, now Bangladesh has to enjoy Dot Bangla Top Level Domain (TLD).

Engage and involve concerned stakeholders including Government with ICANN Neo-Brahmi Generation Panel (NBGP) in Bangla. As a result, concerned stakeholders including the Government involved and negotiated for developing the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR) in Bangla. Now Bangla language will be incorporated in Top Level Domain and Cyber Space.

Strengthened capacities of Multi-Stakeholders to participate effectively in the internet Governance Process through the Bangladesh School of Internet Governance (bdSIG). The process started in 2017. As a result, 541 stakeholders participated in six batches and approximately 135 policy experts, resource persons, and policymakers attended and shared their knowledge.

Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum emerged in 2006 as the first national IGF initiative for an organic and independent forum that discusses issues pertaining to Internet governance in conjunction with UN Internet Governance Forum. As a result, around 2297 Multi-Stakeholders participated in a country-level forum about the IG process for 17 years from the perspective of their respective field while acting in accordance with the main principles of the global IGF.

- Bangladesh IGF delegates participate in UN IGF regularly and translate knowledge from regional and global IGF levels and incorporate global knowledge to national and regional levels through Bangladesh School on Internet Governance.

The BNNRC and BIGF is aligned with ongoing UN processes, initiatives, & events:

- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
- Secretary-General's High-level Panel for Digital Cooperation
- United Nations Secretary General's roadmap for digital cooperation
- Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- United Nations Secretary-General report "Our Common Agenda"
- Partner2Connect Digital Coalition
- Consultations on the UN Global Digital Compact/ UN Summit for the Future 2024
- UN Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA)

Looking ahead: Strengthening the linkage with the UN Process in Bangladesh

- Organising and national multi-stakeholder consultation on the UN Summit for the Future 2024 preparatory process. The UN Summit of the Future (SOTF), proposed for September 2024 in New York, is a critical milestone in the reform process initiated by the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda (OCA) report.
- Increase the visibility and knowledge of the Our Common Agenda reform, proposals and the preparations leading to the Summit of the Future among the various stakeholders in Bangladesh.
- Contribute to further identifying thematic elements of Our Common Agenda of priority importance for Bangladesh, Promote the development of the common positions about HLPE, SDGs 2nd Summit 2023
- Identify opportunities opened by the "Our Common Agenda" intergovernmental tracks leading to the Summit of the Future to deliver on an ambitious set of outcomes that will reinforce and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Paris Climate Agreement, and other existing global agendas.
- Organising and national multi-stakeholder consultation on UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2025

In its nearly 20 years of operation, the IGF and WSIS has not only advanced diverse and critical thinking but has also been successful at building community. The global IGF and WSIS and its many national and regional initiatives have propagated cooperation and improved technical knowledge. They have brought together different stakeholders - nationally, regionally and globally - to share information and progress on their respective work, address policy matters in an open setting among a wide range of organizations and stakeholders, and produce intercessional output in the forms of the best practice material and policy insights focused on a question or challenge.

Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on Global Digital Compact: Make Bangladesh's Voices Heard at the GDC consultation process for this submission, we held a four-month program.

Based on the 08 thematic areas listed in the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda, we have been organizing formal sessions with the Bangladesh School of Internet Governance, Bangladesh Youth IGF 2022, On the occasion of Universal Acceptance Day 2023, Jointly Organized by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum(BIGF) collaboration with Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology, Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Program of the ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. We had around 10 deliberation sessions about the UN GDC

01. Digital Inclusion and Connectivity

What are the main challenges to Digital Inclusion and connectivity from Bangladesh's perspective?

- Lack of digital literacy among marginalized populations, such as older adults, women, and those in low-income communities
- Lack of understanding among the policymakers on digital inclusion
- Inadequate understanding of cybersecurity
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- Inadequate understanding of cybersecurity
- Gender disparity in digital connectivity
- Cyber criminality
- Lack of meaningful inclusion and connectivity
- Inadequate access through devices and lack of access to high-speed internet, particularly in remote areas
- Lack of digital skills/literacy and lack of local content and services that are culturally relevant and support the needs of the local communities
- Inadequate investment in ICT infrastructure development
- Unequal distribution of network coverage
- High cost of digital devices and equipment creating barriers for low-income individuals
- Inadequate support for users with persons with disabilities
- Limited access to formal and informal digital education opportunities and lack of digital curriculum
- Limited access to e-services due to inadequate infrastructure, connectivity

- Low adoption of e-services by the users and service provider due to an analogue mindset
- Lack of citizen engagement in public investment for digital transformation

Which measures are necessary?

- Public and private initiatives/investment for the expansion of digital education
- Enhance digital leadership among the political party, CSOs, Academia, Media and Government officials through upskilling and re-skilling steps
- Mass awareness of digital hygiene of daily life and promoting alternative dispute resolution
- Initiatives for overcoming gender discrimination in digital education and access to the internet
- Adapt further laws to a cyber environment and educate actors in line with international standards and social-economic, and political context.
- Changing the mindset of the policymakers and bureaucrats
- Optimum utilization of digital public investment
- Introduce disable-friendly devices
- Integrate digital literacy into school curriculums and adult education programs
- Enhance human capacity to adopt emerging technology
- Promoting STEM education at the primary level
- Strengthening vocational training from labor-intensive approaches to digital knowledge-based human resources
- Ensure civic engagement and social inclusion in the investment for digital transformation for digital good governance.

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- Stronger collaboration between public and private sector entities on policy and regulatory development, nationally, regionally and globally as a watchdog
- Ensure globally an open, safe, inclusive and affordable, meaningful internet ecosystem
- Support member states, and policymakers by providing TA and capacity building for enhancing digital literacy and skills to ensure an inclusive information society
- Support member states for optimum utilization of universal service obligatory funds to ensure connectivity in underserved communities
- Introduce a follow-up mechanism for a periodical review of digital inclusion and connectivity at the country level.

- To avoid duplication of existing multi-stakeholder processes and to foster synergies between the WSIS action line, IGF, the Global Digital Compact and the Summit of the Future.
- Transforming the global digital compact as a platform for policy dialogues
- **Establish a country-level network/chapter of the global digital compact for helping stakeholders mobilize to achieve the GDC mandate in light with an emphasis on collaboration and innovation as a country platform. Like Global Compact.**

How can an inclusive vision for the future Internet look like?

- Digital inclusion needs to cover remote and hilly areas and also cover underprivileged groups including transgender, and ethnic groups as well as male and female
- Promote community networks and other alternative meaningful connectivity solutions.
- Encourage manufacturers to develop low-cost, high-quality devices
- Establish subsidy programs to help low-income individuals purchase devices
- Adopt accessibility standards for devices and equipment to support users' persons with disabilities
- Develop comprehensive digital literacy programs targeting marginalized populations and bridging the digital gaps (women in STEM education)
- Encourage further collaboration between governments, NGOs, and the private sector to offer digital literacy training
- Integrate digital literacy into school curriculums and adult education programs
- Provide accessible online resources and platforms for self-learning
- Invest in the development and promotion of user-friendly e-services for health, education, and public administration. Encourage digital transformation in the public sector to improve service delivery
- Provide training and support to help citizens adopt e-services
- Prioritize accessibility and inclusiveness in the design and implementation of e-service

02. Internet Governance

What are the main challenges to Internet Governance in Bangladesh?

- Lack of understanding of the policy framework on the Internet governance ecosystem
- Misuse and abuse of the Digital Security Act at the implementation level
- Lack of frameworks and capabilities to protect privacy and other important human rights online
- The need for sufficient public, private, and civil society capacity building for maintaining their digital infrastructure.
- Lack of healthy information ecosystems and low-level understating of local contexts and stronger commitments to social digital rights.
- Lack of understanding of cyber resilience as an opportunity, not a burden
- Rural areas face special connectivity-related challenges including access to affordable digital devices.
- Lack of rural and hilly area-specific broadband policy framework

Which measures are necessary?

- Enhance cooperation and coordination among the stakeholders.
- People-friendly and investment-supportive policy framework in Internet governance
- Facilities optimum and effective use of digital infrastructure facilities
- Policy making process of Internet governance should encourage effective participation
- Adopting appropriate tax and fee structure for rural broadband
- Explore, support, and implement complementary appropriate solutions to rural connectivity
- Local context and culture-sensitive content need to be developed and disseminated through digital services.
- Identify innovative financing mechanisms to support community-led initiatives for digital transformation
- Strengthening public domain and promoting free independent plural media around online content, moderation, and platform accountability
- Ensure a free, independent, viable, and plural media landscape.
- Strong protections for journalists and whistle-blowers through self-regulatory mechanisms by the media.
- Protect the citizen's rights to freedom of expression, access to information, and equality as well as protecting citizen's rights to privacy, association, and public participation.

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- Sharing the global good practices of Internet governance
- Framing global framework for international bodies facilitates multi-Stakeholder participation in international events related to internet governance.
- Guiding international standards for pro-people internet governance structure
- GDC should ensure the un-fragmented safe, global, secure, and inclusive Internet.
- GDC should strive to increase interoperability between national digital rules, with the US - EU Data Privacy Framework and commit to intergovernmental regulatory dialogue to ensure that new rules strengthen shared values in the era of the internet.
- GDC should continue support for overcoming the roadblocks to internet adoption such as affordability, digital literacy for knowledge and skills, locally relevant content with the local language, safety and security, and meaningful access to the citizens.
- GDC should encourage the effective use of social obligation funds (SOFs) for targeted, time-bound, robustly according to the mandate.
- GDC should follow up the NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action line C1 – C11.
- GDC should further strengthen IGF and WSIS Forum for discussing ways to address the process of the localization and globalization of ICANN governance.
- GDC should speed up ICANN as a truly global organization serving the public interest and meaningful participation at the country level.
- GDC should establish an official linkage with the Unicode consortium for reorganize the Unicode governance for serving the public interest and meaningful participation in the country level.
- GDC must create a strong global internet governance system for digital transformation.
- GDC should guide and create a global governance framework to stop the current culture of exporting selected packages and promote diverse views and interests of the countries. Current practice is that a small group of companies and a few powerful governments export to the world as faits accomplis.

How can inclusive governance foster digital services?

- Governance based on local culture, values and practice
- Internet Governance mechanism to facilitate digital transformation.
- Avoiding duplication and complexity among the responsible bodies
- Implement universal service funds to ensure connectivity in underserved areas
- Further support and investment are required for community networks and other alternative connectivity solutions.
- Framing further Internet governance framework for responsible, lawful fair use.

03.Data Protection

What are the main challenges to data protection in Bangladesh?

- Lack of understanding regarding the data governance ecosystem including who governed, who controlled, and who are responsible for sharing data locally and globally.
- Facing challenges of giant platforms controlling data, protections put users in control, utilities encourage data sharing, protocols enable data sharing and exchange, and governments control data.
- Lack of Investment in improving knowledge and capacity about data protection.
- Low levels of data literacy among general citizens and policymakers
- Lack of efficiency in data governance.
- Lack of awareness about data rights, community data, and community rights!
- Lack of awareness about informational rights, privacy, access to information, freedom of expression
- Human error is the biggest challenge in data privacy and security.
- Absence of regulatory framework for Data Protection
- Inadequate measures for confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data in public and private sectors
- Trends of hacking and espionage by organized cyber-criminal groups
- Absence of mechanism for effective personal data protection and the protection of the right to privacy
- Practice using personal data for commercial purposes
- No proper cross-border data protection safeguards to ensure accountability.
- Selling health data for commercial purpose create challenges to privacy

Which measures are necessary?

- Personal and Institutional data security including the human rights perspective need to be reflected in the legal framework
- International standard need to be addressed in legal framework
- Foster institutional responsibility for effective data protection
- Encourage innovative solutions for better public service delivery through data-driven decisions.
- Enhance the scope of research to identify innovative data for solutions.
- Create opportunities for new jobs and more investment through data-driven analysis.
- Make government more transparent and accountable through data governance.

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- Sharing the global good practices of Internet governance
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- GDC should guide and create a global governance framework to stop the current culture of exporting selected packages and promote diverse views and interests of the countries. Current practice is that a small group of companies and a few powerful governments export to the world as faits accomplis.

How do we wish to have effective data protection in the future?

- Enforcement of legal framework for data protection
- Promote ethical and responsible data protection
- Promote a culture of security in public and private sector data
- Establish a data ownership mechanism
- Leverage cross-border data governance
- Align your data governance with enterprise governance, business strategy, and organizational value streams to ensure the program delivers measurable business value.
- Understand your current data governance capabilities and build out a future state that is right-sized and relevant.
- Define data governance leadership, accountability, and responsibility.
- Ensure DG support by an operating model that effectively manages change and communication and fosters a culture of data excellence.
- Address exclusion at all levels of data governance.

- Data should constantly be re-evaluated and assessed.
- Consider techno-political impacts. Developers and engineers often build technological products to serve the business needs of a few (read above male, with power, money, etc.)
- Adopt transparent practices.
- Consider the possibility of less or no technology as better.
- Investing in improving knowledge and capacity about Data Protection is very important. Low levels of digital literacy among general citizens and among policymakers present a major hurdle to effectively implementing data governance and protection laws.

03.Human Rights Online

What are the main challenges to human rights online in Bangladesh?

- Use of digital technology to use for suppressing and violent human rights
- Lack of due diligence which can ensure that technology products and terms of service comply with human rights principles and standards.
- Due to limited access to digital devices human rights information are not accessible to a large number of people
- The benefit of the Judicial system is not yet fully digitalized, as a result, the benefit of online legal services takes more time
- Lack of awareness of policy-makers and mass people about human rights online
- Lack of proper legal tools for addressing illegal and harmful contents
- Cyber-bulling of adolescent girls and women are risk of threats and attacks.

Which measures are necessary?

- Making access to the Internet affordable
- Judicial information both at upper courts and lower courts needs to be open digitally for easy access of the stakeholders
- Ensure online safe spaces, and transparent and accountable content governance frameworks.
- Framing legal framework for taking action against the persons responsible for misinformation, disinformation, and mal information

- Encourage the private sector to engage in dialogue with relevant State authorities and civil society in the exercise of their corporate social responsibility, in particular, their transparency and accountability encourage civil society to support the dissemination and application of the guide so that it provides an effective tool for Internet users.
- Promote and use trustworthy network infrastructure and services suppliers, relying on risk-based assessments that include technical and non-technical factors for network security
- Protect and strengthen the multistakeholder system of Internet governance, including the development, deployment, and management of its main technical protocols and other related standards and protocols.
- Refrain from undermining the technical infrastructure essential to the general availability and integrity of the Internet.

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- GDC can contribute towards guiding principles on business and human rights
- Develop system-wide guidance on human rights, due diligence and impact assessment in the use of new technology.
- GDC should play an important role, as a catalyst for stimulating a united approach to the protection of human rights online.
- GDC should develop a regional framework to prevent misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information
- GDC should promote coordination with other state and non-state actors, within and beyond the country with regard to the standards and procedures which have an impact on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet
- GDC should promote online safety and continue to strengthen our work to combat violence online, including sexual and gender-based violence as well as child sexual exploitation, to make the Internet a safe and secure place for everyone, particularly women, children, and young people
- Promote safe and equitable use of the Internet for everyone, without discrimination based on sex, race, color, ethnic, national or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of an indigenous population, property, birth, disability, age, gender identity or sexual orientation.

- Promote cooperation in research and innovation and standard setting, encourage information sharing regarding security threats through relevant international fora, and reaffirm our commitment to the framework of responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

How can ensure access to human rights digitally?

- Expansion of internet service across the country
- Expansion of digital literacy about human rights
- Making internet service affordable and accessible without disruption
- Protect the right to privacy and other human rights in the digital space
- The Internet has a public service value. People, communities, public authorities, and private entities rely on the Internet for their activities and have a legitimate expectation that its services are accessible, provided without discrimination, affordable, secure, reliable, and ongoing.
- Furthermore, no one should be subjected to unlawful, unnecessary, or disproportionate interference with the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms when using the Internet.
- Ensure that existing human rights and fundamental freedoms apply equally offline and online
- Actively promote the guide to human rights for Internet users among citizens, public authorities and private sector actors and take specific action regarding its application in order to enable users to fully exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms online
- Promote affordable, inclusive, and reliable access to the Internet for individuals and businesses where they need it and support efforts to close digital divides around the world to ensure all people of the world are able to benefit from the digital transformation.
- Foster greater exposure to diverse cultural and multilingual content, information, and news online. Exposure to diverse content online should contribute to pluralistic public discourse, foster greater social and digital inclusion within society, bolster resilience to disinformation and misinformation, and increase participation in democratic processes.

- Protect individuals' privacy, their personal data, and the confidentiality of electronic communications and information on end-users electronic devices, consistent with the protection of public safety and applicable domestic and international law.
- Promote the protection of consumers, in particular vulnerable consumers, from online scams and other unfair practices online and from dangerous and unsafe products sold online.

05.Digital trust and security

Which measures are necessary?

- Implication of laws for digital security
- Promoting ethical responsibility for all stakeholders
- Priorities broader issues of trust and security to reap the benefits of the digital domain.

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How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- GDC should steer a cyber-crime treaty for an international, regional safe, and secure online platform
- Implication of international laws in the use of ICT, norms of responsible state behaviour, and related capacity-building efforts
- A universal statement to be endorsed by the states in which elements of common understanding are set out could help to shape a shared vision for digital cooperation based on core values

How can enhance digital trust and security?

- Promoting culture for ethical use of the internet
- Strengthening the monitoring role of respective agencies

06. Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies

What are the main challenges to Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies?

- Lack of understanding of policymakers and stakeholders on Artificial Intelligence
- Lack of competencies and create an entrepreneurial culture to leverage AI.
- A salient challenge for decision-makers in the development sector for addressing the consequences of AI in development planning
- Risk of losing jobs if coping with AI and its consequence is not well addressed
- Lack of evidence-based research regarding the scope of AI implications in different sector

- Lack of long-term vision to address the impact of AI in industrial sectors
- Political authorities and law enforcers using surveillance technology and facial recognition to target specific minority groups, journalists or activists.

- The abuse of image generation and/or language models to promote misinformation for political manipulation or even to harm an individual

- The increasing AI digital divide, as countries utilizing AI become more advanced while others are left behind

- The lack of diversity among the creators, developers and deployers of AI technologies.

- Algorithms that foster polarization or radicalization in online platforms, with terrible real-world consequences

- AI used to screen individuals for jobs, houses, college admissions, or loans using biased data that reinforces systemic patterns of discrimination like racism, sexism, ageism, and ableism

Which measures are necessary?

- In-country Multi-Stakeholders consultation for developing regularities

- Developing AI focal points in different ministries, divisions and agencies
- Transformative cross-border labor laws and protection of workers
- Mandatory disclosure for the use of AI in processing personal data.
- Eliminate silos among the countries and regions
- Address knowledge gaps to avoid potential divides.

- Transparency and simplicity of regulatory process for the use of artificial intelligence
- Public leaders need to promote external development, build AI competencies, and create an entrepreneurial culture to leverage AI.
- Improve the quality of education and collaboration with the private sector to shift from traditional academia
- Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Criminal purposes
- Improve the standard of education through responsive and personalized learning
- Creation of job opportunities –outsourcing of remote/ virtual jobs in the continent.
- Facilitates the provision of open, non-discriminatory, and inclusive training data, models, and open-source AI applications
- Advocates for value-based AI that is rooted in human rights, and international norms such as accountability, transparency of decision-making and privacy
- Improve analytics in various sectors- such as agro-tech, health tech, and climate action.
- Invest in awareness and knowledge generation on AI for meaningful participation

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

- Government and Private Sector actors
- Regulation based on Multi-Stakeholders consultation
- Set guiding principles for the ethical development and use of AI that are flexible and customized.
- GDC should develop a global framework for building, expanding and transferring knowledge to AI, improving access to training data and AI technology, developing political frameworks for ethical AI and improving data protection.
- Linking GDC for binding legislation and fundamental rights
- GDC create a platform to lead and facilitate working on artificial intelligence (AI)
- Create a multi-stakeholder advisory body on global AI cooperation to build global capacity for the development and use of AI.
- Address the lack of representation and inclusiveness in global discussions, and harness AI to support the Sustainable Development Goals
- Develop a guideline for Building a Tech Future Aligned With the Public Interest

How can enhance the role of Artificial Intelligence and Other Emerging Technologies?

- Creating expert systems: the system which exhibits intelligent behaviour, learns, demonstrates, explains and advises its user.
- Implement human intelligence in machine-creating systems that understand, think, learn and behave like humans.
- Localized AI to improve public services, strengthen private sector development and foster sustainable development.
- Leveraging AI for social and economic growth
- Developing strategy for job-filled economic growth in Bangladesh

- Developing and setting international standards on the use of AI.
- AI for public service delivery, manufacturing, agriculture, smart mobility & transportation, skill & education, finance and trade and healthcare

- A framework on digital diplomacy and fostering cooperation.
- Establishment of a data exchange mechanism
- Create and enable a platform for collaboration such as conferences, and practical simulation exercises.
- Allow journalists and credible bodies to review the ethical dimensions of algorithms used to find or distribute content, to locate and investigate bias and discrimination, such as false political advertisements targeted at voter suppression of minority groups.

07.Global digital commons

What are the issues of concern related to Global Digital Commons in Bangladesh?

- Lack of clear understanding of Global Digital Commons
- Digital solution is often limited through copyright and propriety systems
- Mostly digital public goods are not easily accessible because they are often unevenly distributed

Which measures are necessary?

- Promote digital public goods, including through greater investment, amplified efforts, and strengthen coordination
- Engage in immediate capacity building and resource development for the UN system to better understand and utilize open-source goods and digital public goods

- Ensure cross-fertilization, coordination, and synergy with the other roundtables undertaking the implementation of the Secretary General’s roadmap, including but not limited to, digital inclusion, global connectivity, capacity-building, and digital human rights
- Identifying and developing financial models for developing and maintaining digital public goods.
- Promoting awareness, understanding, and capacity for governments and societies to be able to use digital public goods.
- Engaging with the open-source community, human rights groups, and governments to establish a sound understanding of human rights implications for open-source goods and related governance frameworks.

How can GDC contribute to addressing the issues?

- Making access to Digital Public Goods Alliance
- Facilitating Global Data Access Framework
- Establish a strategic and empowered Multi-Stakeholders high level body for Global Digital Cooperation and actionable outcomes
- GDC should coordinate with Digital public goods platforms, which share digital public goods, engage talent, and pool data sets
- GDC can steer digital public goods alliance, which responds directly to the high-level panel recommendations.
- GDC should promote robust human rights and governance frameworks and inclusion for such “goods” all to deploy digital public goods as part of their immediate responses and in the future, approaches to achieve the SDGs

What can be our future actions on Global Digital Commons?

- Enhancing the visibility of the Internet Governance Forum for promoting access to Global Digital Commons
- Coming together will allow the international community to ensure that technology is harnessed for good and it presents a level playing field for all.
- Digital public goods should adhere to privacy and other applicable laws, standards and best practices, do no harm
- As a global public good, the digital commons should be available for use and reuse by anyone who needs it, without restrictions or barriers such as patents, copyrights, or other forms of intellectual property protection.
- This enables people and communities around the world to benefit from shared knowledge and resources, and to collaborate and innovate more effectively.

08. Accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

What are the issues of concern related to SDGs in Bangladesh?

- Lack of Data and metadata for SDGs progress tracking
- Lack of generating data for monitoring and evaluation
- Lack of resource mobilization for SDGs implementation
- Lack of effective initiatives for SDGs localization
- Lack of efficient coordination among the government agencies responsible for SDGs implementation
- Inadequate partnership among the government and other stakeholders
- Inadequate stakeholders' engagement for SDGs implementation
- Non-state actor's initiative for SDGs implementation is not reflected in the Government progress report
- Gaps in aligning the SDGs with the mainstreaming development plan.
- Along with health, education, and other sectors, Covid-19 has adversely affected informal sector employment and overseas employment. Rapid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic to restore human health, confidence, employment, income, and economic activities is required.
- Traditional sources of funding are inadequate, and the government needs to find innovative ways for SDG financing. Financing for SDG1 is also a challenge. Additionally, resource
- Mobilization particularly from external sources is also a big challenge.

Which measures are necessary?

- Develop effective mechanism for SDGs related data governance
- Enhance coordination and collaboration among the government agencies and non-state actor's
- Ensure funding arrangement for SDGs implementation by 2030
- Enhance monitoring of SDGs implementation
- Inclusive Framework for SDG Localization
- Lack of Data on Indicators and insufficient domestic spending on SDGs
- Capacity Building of the institutions Bangladesh's readiness and what can be done further finance, technology, and capacity building

- Ensure significant mobilization of resources from new and innovative sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.
- Significant changes and shifts have taken place in the foreign assistance landscape in recent years. Along with traditional development partners, some southern countries have emerged as an important source of economic and technical cooperation for the Global South including Bangladesh. In the wake of severe challenges caused by climate change, climate financing is emerging as an additional complementary window of development financing which is expected to have larger implications on overall foreign assistance and interventions to ensure sustainable development. On the other hand, there is an agreement both at national and global discussions for enhanced transparency and accountability of foreign assistance through making all types of aid data public.

How can GDC contribute to addressing SDGs implementation?

- Global Digital Compact should work as catalysts for harmonizing to improve digital cooperation, bridge digital divides and accelerate the positive contribution of digital technologies in developing countries.
- GDC should emphasize and engage with SDG 16 implementation in line with enabling of culture digital transformation and governance.
- At the global level, building on past experiences the international community has been striving to harness the benefits of development assistance and accordingly several high level meetings on development cooperation set out clear commitments to be adhered to both by providers of development assistance and partner countries.

What can be our future actions on SDGs?

- Mainstreaming SDGs into national planning processes in view of national priorities
- Management, coordination and leadership for SDGs implementation
- Financing and other means of implementation including systemic issues
- Availability and Adequacy of Data to Monitor the SDGs
- Partnership and stakeholder participation including institutional arrangements.
- Digital Information Centers in grassroots levels contributed to access to information in many areas of SDGs

- Digital technology significantly contributed to achieving SDGs.
- Digitalization in workplace safety monitoring and inspection mechanism already contributing positively to improving Occupational Safety and Health at the workplace of Bangladesh.
- An effective coordination mechanism is important to ensure results-oriented partnership management within the government and between the government and development partners. For this, there is a need to maintain and nurture constructive and mutually beneficial coordination mechanisms. The fundamental of the partnership between the government and development partners is that it should be rooted deep in the spirit of equal partnership. Further, the government aims to ensure coherence, transparency, and predictability for effective climate change finance.

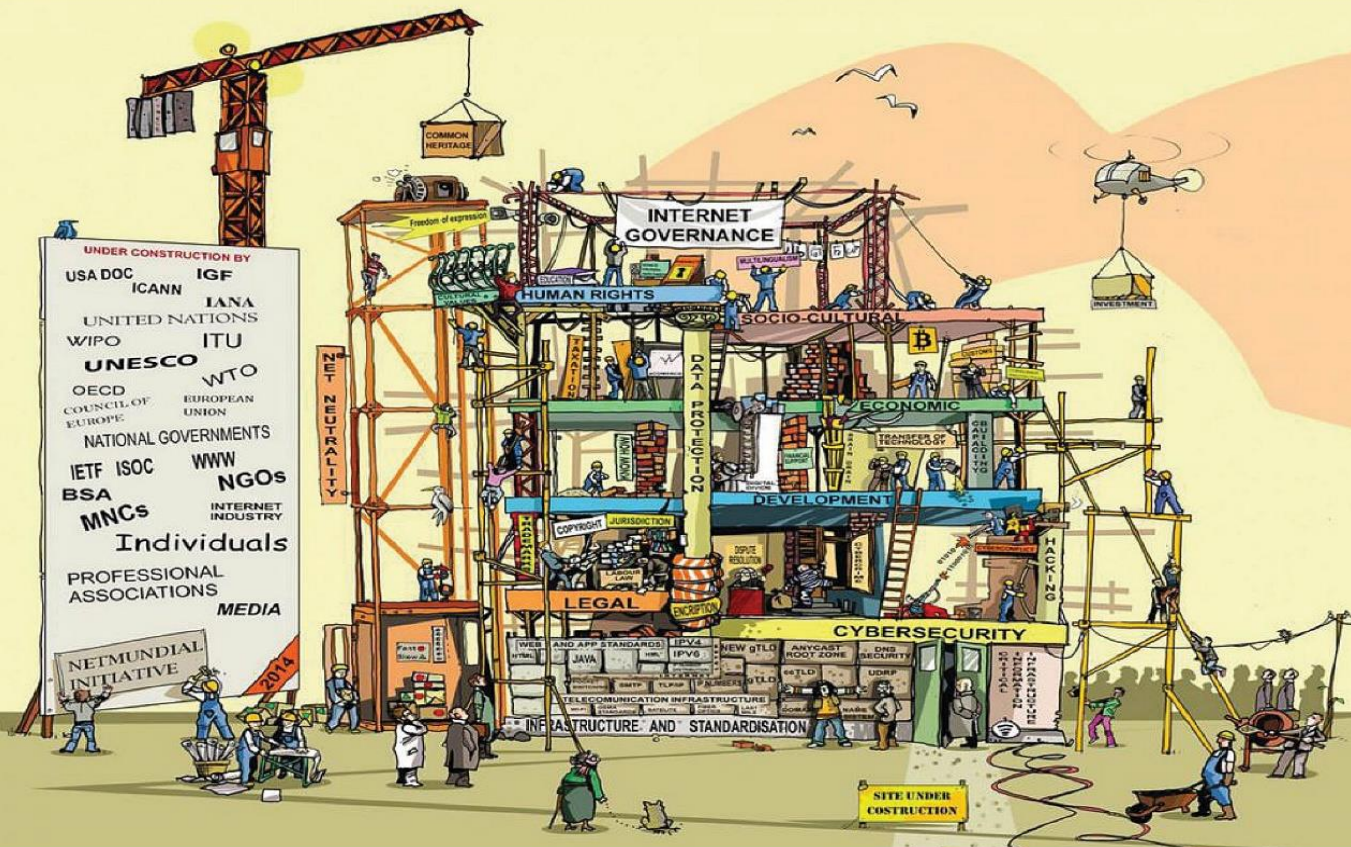
We hope this contribution will nurture the Global Digital Compact, with the objective to achieve an open, free, and secure digital future for all. The Tech Envoy should also uphold and improve the current multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance, which is open, inclusive and decentralized.

The independent position of the Tech Envoy, under the direct responsibility of the UN Secretary-General, can also ensure that the promotion and protection of international human rights standards are mainstreamed through all the strands of action of the Roadmap's and Common Agenda's implementation, making clear that the priorities remain profoundly interconnected.

Joint submission development of the Global Digital Compact: Organization are.

- 1. Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) and**
- 2. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)**
- 3. Bangladesh Kids IGF**
- 4. Bangladesh Youth IGF**
- 5. Bangladesh Women IGF**
- 6. Bangladesh School of Internet Governance and**
- 7. Bangladesh Parliamentarians Caucus on Internet Governance, Digital Economy & Media Development (BPCIDM).**

For any questions about the submission and more detail, please email BNNRC 's Chief Executive Officer Mr AHM Bazlur Rahman at ceo@bnnrc.net and BIGF's Secretary General Mr. Abdul Haque Anu at mahaqueanu@gmail.com







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