Contribution of Japan for the Global Digital Compact

Introduction

Japan welcomes the opportunity to provide a written input into the process to develop Global Digital Compact (GDC) ahead of the United Nations (UN) Summit of the Future.

Japan supports the initiative of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology to solicit inputs from all stakeholders and ensure transparency and inclusivity in the UN's work. We emphasize the significance of multi-stakeholder approach as core value in policy making in digital and Internet related fields.

Also, we recommend that the work on GDC avoid duplication with other existing work streams in this field and keep appropriate focus on ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the process. From this point of view, we propose the process of GDC respect the previous and existing works in this field both in public and private sectors, and endeavor to closely collaborate with other fora and international, regional and national stakeholders including international organizations.

Connect all people

Bridging the digital divide is a global challenge and it is necessary to ensure connectivity to the networks for all in a way that no one is left behind. To this end, promoting secure and resilient digital infrastructure is important as the basis for connectivity.

It is also essential to raise awareness not only of significance of digital connectivity, but also of network security, data protection and cloud resilience, and to this end it is important to coordinate internationally to support countries, in particular developing countries, in promoting network security, including through capacity building.

Japan supports developing countries and emerging economies to build secure and resilient digital infrastructure, including through capacity building on cybersecurity e.g. through cooperation and partnership with the private sector, international organizations and development agencies.

Japan believes that people of all ages and backgrounds need basic digital skills, to enable them to navigate an increasingly digitally connected world and to close digital divides.

Japan supports other countries to increase digital access under principles of equity, universality and affordability while ensuring that security, interoperability, the protection of personal data and respect for human rights including gender equality are built into global connectivity.

Japan also believes open, interoperable network architecture and supplier diversity in ICT supply chains through Open RAN will contribute to secure, reasonable construction of network infrastructure.

Regulation of AI

International discussions on the AI principles was initiated in 2016 and led to the outcomes such as the OECD AI Principles in 2019 and the launch of the Global Partnership on AI, GPAI, in 2020. Japan believes that the OECD AI Principles are robust and reliable foundation to ensure an open and enabling environment for development and deployment of AI that is grounded in human rights and democratic values.

Currently, there are two major directions around governance of AI, with one towards legally binding regulatory approach and the other towards a non-regulatory approach. Japan believes that it is important to maximize the benefits from innovation and to enable inclusive participation in global society and economy toward achievement of SDGs. Japan strongly supports multi-stakeholder approach in promoting global AI governance.

Taking the opportunity of G7 Presidency, Japan proposed and led the discussion on AI governance interoperability, which ensures transparency and mutual understanding across different AI governance frameworks. We keep our efforts to mainstream this policy instrument for development of global AI ecosystem which needs to be open, enabling and trustworthy for everyone in the world. G7 also launched G7 Hiroshima AI Process, which is expected to examine benefits and challenges of generative AI in an inclusive manner and in collaboration with international organizations, and would be ready to make contributions to global discussions on the technology through this initiative.

Avoid internet fragmentation

Japan strongly supports promotion of the open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet that supports innovation and strengthens respect for democratic values and human rights. In this regard, Japan is strongly committed to promoting one global, unfragmented Internet, and opposing Internet fragmentation as well as excessive government intervention such as Internet shutdowns and network restrictions.

Japan reiterates the importance of working in multi-stakeholder approach for these objectives. With a view to promoting these policy principles, Japan is strongly engaged in hosting successful UN Internet Governance Forum, in October 2023 in Kyoto, in collaboration with national and regional communities as well as all stakeholders from around the world.