

UN-HABITAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

Background

In September 2020, the Secretary-General released <u>Our Common Agenda</u>. This report proposes a <u>Global Digital Compact</u> to improve digital cooperation and "outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all". The Global Digital Compact builds on the recommendations from the <u>Roadmap for Digital Cooperation</u> and will be the main outcome of a multi-stakeholder technology track at the Summit of the Future (September 2024). This process should include the United Nations, the private sector and civil society, grassroots organizations, academia and individuals globally.

Ahead of the negotiations on the Compact (expected during the 77th session of the General Assembly 2022/2023) and the Summit, the UN Secretariat launched an inclusive preparatory process including an online space to shape the Global Digital Compact and contribute with ideas, opinions and views in the following areas:

- 1. Connect all people to the internet, including all schools
- 2. Avoid internet fragmentation
- 3. Protect data
- 4. Apply human rights online
- 5. Accountability for discrimination and misleading content
- 6. Regulation of artificial intelligence
- 7. Digital commons as a global public good
- 8. Other areas

More details on the process can be found in the <u>Global Digital Compact Background Note</u> and the <u>Guidance Report</u>.

UN-Habitat responses to the survey

Area	Core Principles	Key Commitment / Pledges / Actions
1. Connect all people to the internet, including all schools	Bridge the digital divide in terms of connectivity, skills and literacies of vulnerable groups Internet accessibility and affordability	 Ensure equal access to the internet and meaningful connectivity by increasing digital literacy Promote partnerships and collaborations to ensure accessibility and affordability of internet (including last mile connectivity) to access and use digital solutions Increase capacity in assessing and addressing digital divide in terms of gender, age, race and educational level and capacity in the Digital Equity pillar of UN-Habitat's people-centered approach Bridge the digital divide especially for marginalised groups and informal settlement communities Empower and upskill (local) governments to lead in bridging the digital divide for all urban residents











2. Avoid internet fragmentation	 Safeguard fundamental interoperability Adequate internet policies Open-source platforms 	 Promote systems at all governance levels (local, regional, national, global) that are fully interoperable Support (local) governments in setting up adequate internet policies and design open-source platforms with open-source data, accessible by all
3. Protect data	 Personal rights, protection of self and personal relation in private and public sphere (no profiling) Ensure shared data ownership and protection 	 Following the People-Centered Smart Cities Flagship principles: Build more efficient and secure data management systems and protect citizens' privacy when using digital services. Promote regulations and laws to ensure that people are able to control what happens to the data generated by and about themselves, who gets to see and use it, and for what purposes. Promote data governance frameworks and set standards and responsibilities for better accountability and inclusivity and risk mitigation from data collection and data sovereignty from people and communities Promote and implement cybersecurity tools at both national and local government levels to secure data exchange and ensure that citizen data is protected.
4. Apply human rights online	Ground digital infrastructure and services in human rights and ensure the protection and promotion of human rights in digital spaces	 Increase capacities to develop, procure and effectively use digital technologies in an ethical, inclusive and sustainable way to make sure that no one is left behind Support the design of standards and guidelines to include human rights principles such as privacy, equal access freedom of expression and representation into digital platforms, infrastructure and services Create open and participatory opportunities to shape the development and use of technologies Promote international cooperation in data protection, privacy, digital identity, surveillance technologies, online violence and harassment Promote the Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights - Protect, Respect, Remedy' Framework











5. Accountability for discrimination & misleading content	N/A	N/A
6. Regulation of artificial intelligence	Transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination of data, content and algorithms.	Following the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CC4DR) principles: • Ensure access to understandable and accurate information about the technological, algorithmic and artificial intelligence systems that impact people's lives, and the ability to question and change unfair, biased or discriminatory systems.
7. Digital commons as a global public good	Provide digital public goods that are open, accessible and interoperable	Following the New Urban Agenda (§92, §156, §160): Increase public oversight, accessibility and interoperability of data and infrastructure Ensure robust human rights and governance frameworks to enhance trust in technology and data use while ensuring inclusion and mitigating potential risks Endorse the principles of the Digital Public Goods Alliance Promote the adoption of open standards, procurement guidelines Prevent vendor lock-in practices
8. OTHER (1): Smart cities governance	 Sustainability and accessibility of tools and technologies Promote digital governance frameworks in smart cities to ensure the development of technical solutions have impactful positive outcomes to people and that they address needs 	Following the People-Centered Smart Cities Flagship Programme and the New Urban Agenda: • Support national and local governments with their digital transition, applying a multi-level governance strategy to help build skills and capabilities to develop, procure and effectively use digital technologies in an ethical and inclusive way to make sure that no one is left behind. • Ensure that deployment of technology and innovation is used to ensure sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity and human rights in cities • Evaluate the need for technology to address public issues and narrow equity, environmental and social inequalities in smart city activities











8. OTHER (2): Local leadership on digital cooperation	Strengthen the role of mayors and local governments in driving the digital cooperation agenda	Following the collaboration between UN-Habitat and the SG's Office of the Envoy on Technology: • Set up a Global Alliance of Mayors for Digital Cooperation • Support the development of guidelines and a playbook on local action for strengthened digital cooperation • Promote digital cooperation principles at the local level globally, and strengthen the role of mayors as digital leaders • Translate the Global Digital Compact to action at the city level
---	---	---

Contributors

#	Full Name	Email
1.	Abdinassir Shale Sagar	Abdinassir.sagar@un.org
2.	Pontus Westerberg	Pontus.westerberg@un.org
3.	Isabel Wetzel	<u>lsabel.wetzel@un.org</u>
4.	Hazel Kuria	Hazel.kuria@un.org
5.	Florencia Serale	Florencia.serale@un.org





