UNGIS Input for the Global Digital Compact







I. Details

Please select whether you are answering this survey for yourself or on behalf of an entity or organization.

Name of entity/organization:

United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

Type of entity/organization (other):

United Nations (UN) system's inter-agency mechanism

Description of entity/organization:

The United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) is the United Nations (UN) system's inter-agency mechanism for advancing policy coherence and programme coordination on matters related to information and communications technologies (ICTs) in support of internationally agreed development goals. Established in 2006 after the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the UNGIS mandate includes promoting collaboration and partnerships among the members of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) to contribute to the achievement of WSIS goals, providing guidance on issues related to inclusive information and knowledge societies, helping maintain issues related to science and technology at the top of the UN Agenda, and mainstreaming ICT for Development in the mandate of CEB members. UNGIS is comprised of 38 Members and this contribution to the GDC process is framed by the collective UNGIS experience and expertise (visit www.ungis.org to view the list of members).

UNGIS meets annually at the WSIS Forum, which has evolved to become the world's largest annual gathering of the "ICT for development" community and a multistakeholder platform for coordination, information exchange, knowledge creation, sharing of best practices, and fostering partnerships to advance development goals.

As an existing body of interagency digital cooperation, UNGIS stands ready to ensure that efforts across the UN system are coherent, connected and coordinated to achieve maximum, sustainable impact. In the Decade of Action, UNGIS is a ready platform for knowledge

exchange and valuable resource base that could support UN Member States and partners at the global and regional levels in leveraging innovative tools and approaches to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Entity/organization website:

www.ungis.org

Geographic Scope of Activity:

Global

Contact information for submission:

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II. Process of consultation/preparation

Describe the process you followed to collect, consult, and prepare your input.

Input was collected and coordinated through the series of meetings and drafting consultations, including:

- United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) High-Level UNGIS Leader's Meeting, during the WSIS Forum 2023
- United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) Working Level Meeting, during the WSIS Forum 2023
- Online consultations and drafting of input by all UNGIS members.

What is the approximate number of <u>entities</u> that were engaged through process of consultation/preparation of input?

26-50

What is the approximate number of <u>people</u> engaged through process of consultation/preparation of input?

26-50

III. Inputs to the Global Digital Compact

8. Other areas (please specify):

- Value of UNGIS, as an UN inter-agency mechanism, input to the Global Digital Compact Consultations
- ICTs rescuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs;

Area: Value of UNGIS, as an UN inter-agency mechanism, input to the Global Digital Compact Consultations

a) Core Principles

UNGIS' objective is to develop extensive collaboration and partnerships among the CEB members in order to contribute to the achievement of the WSIS objectives, to help to maintain ICT-related issues as well as science and technology at the top of the UN Agenda and finally to mainstream ICT for Development issues in the mandate of CEB members. To this end, UNGIS should complement to existing programmes and projects, including the Global Digital Compact, by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize coordinated action, coherence and effectiveness of the support to countries in their efforts towards achieving the WSIS goals agreed upon by the international community.

In order to achieve its objectives, UNGIS:

- Contributes towards WSIS implementation, primarily at the international level, by mainstreaming the Information Society Agenda into the activities and programmes of CEB members;
- Coordinates with the mechanisms for national and regional implementation established in the Tunis Agenda, as well as the multi-stakeholder implementation process;
- Strengthens the role of the UN System in facilitating access of developing countries to new and emerging technologies, promoting transfer of technology, and mainstreaming science, technology and innovation policies, including ICTs, into national development policies or poverty reduction strategies in accordance with the priorities of countries;
- Facilitates synergies between organizations belonging to the UN system in order to maximize joint efforts, avoid duplication and enhance effectiveness in achieving the WSIS outcomes; and
- Promotes public awareness about how the UN system is implementing WSIS and is facilitating better access for developing countries to new and emerging technologies.

b) Key Commitment/Pledges/Actions

In the ongoing Global Digital Compact process, given the need to ensure that the Compact supports the achievement of the SDGs, UNGIS can play a valuable role in supporting the coordination of all relevant parts of the UN system.

Recognizing that discussions on Our Common Agenda and especially its Global Digital Compact are complementary to the WSIS Framework, the GDC consultation process and subsequent intergovernmental process are invited to make full use of the UNGIS network of more than 30 member organizations.

Area: ICTs rescuing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs

a) Core Principles

Since 2015, the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been aligned by stakeholders to integrate information and communication technologies (ICTs) into their approaches in implementing the activities/initiatives to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Achievements have been made by governments and stakeholders in the nearly 20 years since the inception of the WSIS. However, challenges remain, and numerous new technology trends and policies have emerged.

b) Key Commitment/ Pledges/ Actions

UNGIS agrees that harnessing the power of digital will be vital to rescuing the SDGs, and continues to leverage on the WSIS Framework, and other complimentary processes such as Our Common Agenda and especially its Global Digital Compact.

UNGIS underlines the importance of effective alignment and coordination between the WSIS+20 review process and the GDC process to avoid duplication and look at synergies.

Some UNGIS members will also be sharing their strategies through individual submissions, highlighting the challenges and success stories in implementing digital transformation and propose ways to accelerate the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and digital cooperation.

Any other comments on the Global Digital Compact?

UNGIS, serving as a long-established model of UN collaboration, is working on exploring mechanisms which will contribute to rescuing and accelerating the SDGs, including the ongoing discussions on the Global Digital Compact. Within the framework of WSIS Action Lines and its linkages with SDGs, considering the upcoming WSIS+20 and the Summit of the Future, UNGIS as the first model of an inter-agency mechanism continues to be relevant as a successful example of digital cooperation with 20 years of experience.

UNGIS stands ready to be further leveraged for the good of the UN system and strengthened for enhanced coherence, coordination and collaboration within the UN system.

The WSIS+20 process has already started through discussions at the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and at the WSIS Forum 2022 and 2023. The WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event in Geneva, will take place from 27 to 31 May 2024. All stakeholders are invited to participate and contribute to the Forum's upcoming Open Consultation Process and help shape its program and agenda, also aiming to reflect on the achievements of the WSIS process in the past 20 years, its future direction, and its interconnection with other global processes, including the Global Digital Compact. In parallel, the launch of the official WSIS+20 Open Consultation Process will coincide with the planning and holding of GDC consultations, complementing discussions in both ways.