Global Digital Compact Consultations

# REPORT ON THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT- AFRICA CONSULTATIONS 5-6 DECEMBER, 2022

Nairobi, Kenya.



**United Nations** Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology





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## **1 Executive Summary**

The development of a Global Digital Compact is one of the proposals arising from the UN Secretary-General's report titled 'Our Common Agenda' report of September 2021. In this regard, consultations at various levels have commenced with three regional consultations in Kenya, Mexico, and India scheduled to provide an opportunity for input into the draft GDC that will be tabled for adoption at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

This report is a summary of the discussions of the first regional consultations held in Nairobi, Kenya on 5-6 December 2022 bringing together stakeholders drawn from government, civil society, private sector actors, international organisations, academia/research, and technical community from across the African region to reflect on Africa's priorities and interests in the GDC. The Africa consultations were in the form of presentations by key speakers, questions and answer sessions, and three interactive breakout sessions of three groups. There were three guiding thematic areas: sustainable use of digital technologies in the 21st Century: achieving the 2030 agenda and strengthening human rights; protecting a global, open, free, and secure internet, and the impact of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

From the consultations the key recommendations along the three key sub-themes can be summarised as follows:

## Sub-theme 1: Sustainable use of digital technologies in the 21st Century: Achieving the 2030 Agenda and strengthening human rights:

- a. Africa is not just a market for technologies there is thus a need to respect the agency, input, and contribution of the continent;
- b. There is a need to ensure meaningful inclusion of ALL populations including women, children, and people with disabilities in policy consultations for the development of technological solutions to avoid the perpetuation of further inequality and create a safe and secure digital environment for all;
- c. Human rights considerations need to be at the core of any digital technology service interventions;
- d. Make digital technologies affordable, accessible, and of good quality; by addressing existing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure in certain regions;
- e. Ensure GDC is not elitist;
- f. Continuous efforts towards capacity building for policymakers and the general population through education and research;
- g. Governments need to be proactive in developing enabling and regulating policies for emerging technologies; and
- h. There is a need for collaboration between and among actors in government and the private sector in addressing the existing gaps and challenges.

#### Sub Theme 2: Protecting a global, open, free, and secure internet:

- a. Systematically reinforce the African voice, to avoid replicating existing inequalities in the offline World into the digital space;
- b. Invest in digital literacy and safe use of the internet; including sensitisation on cyber security to protect particularly vulnerable persons;

- c. Ensure better clarity on the notions of digital rights, privacy rights, and internet openness and ensure adequate regulatory balance to guarantee respect for the fundamental rights for all;
- d. Facilitate meaningful public participation by availing resources for public participation in this regard, the GDC can become a platform for continuous engagement;
- e. Consider independent continental regulation to ensure context-responsive interventions; and
- f. Encourage investments in African solutions developed by Africans.

## Sub Theme 3: The impact of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in advancing technological innovation while protecting human rights:

- a. Promote the responsible and collaborative use of AI for the public good (education/health/climate etc.);
- b. Enhance representation of Africa in decision-making at the global standard-setting bodies e.g., ISO, ITU-T. There is thus a need to enhance the meaningful participation of Africa by supporting consistent multi-stakeholder participation;
- c. Be intentional in mitigating the implications of AI on economic opportunities/job environment in Africa;
- d. Sustainable investment in awareness creation, capacity building, and the proactive response to the dynamism in AI;
- e. Promote evidence-based deployment of AI and other technologies;
- a. Ensure adequate balance between regulation and innovation;
- f. Enhance collaboration between various stakeholders in the sector and a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach to regulation; and
- g. View the GDC as a living document and a continuing platform for stakeholder engagement.

The Nairobi GDC consultations were made possible through the collaboration of the Government of Kenyan, the German Federal Foreign Office and the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Technology, Mr. Amandeep Gill. This report was developed by Ms. Sarah Wesonga and Ms. Jane Muhia of ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa.

### 2 Background

In September 2020, on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, member states adopted a <u>political declaration</u>, 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 "<u>Our Common Agenda</u>," 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 <u>Summit of the Future</u> in September 2024.

It is against this background that the Kenyan and German governments in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, held multi-stakeholder consultations on the Global Digital Compact, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 - 6 December 2022. The consultations, led by the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Technology, Mr. Amandeep Gill, 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 Global South 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.

#### 2.1 Introduction

The workshop Consultations were moderated by Martin Reinfeldt and Joy Doreen Biira. Day 1 of the consultations was live-streamed on YouTube and can be accessed <u>here</u>. General resources from the workshop including the agenda, presentations, surveys, and key messages can be accessed on <u>this Miro board</u>.

#### 2.2 Objectives of the consultation

- A. Contribute to the exchange of ideas about the potential as well as the challenges in the future use of digital technologies.
- B. Represent your organisations, companies or offices' knowledge and standpoint on principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all.
- C. Develop, together with other stakeholders, tangible recommendations for elements to be included in the Global Digital Compact.

### 3 High-Level Segment/Welcoming Speeches

#### 3.1 UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General Mr Amandeep Singh Gill

In his opening statement, Mr. Amandeep Gill thanked the government of Kenya and all participants for their continued partnership and openness to collaboration. He laid context for the engagement by referencing the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, where member states adopted a political declaration with one of the key commitments being to improve digital cooperation i.e., work together across territorial boundaries and domains (government, civil society, academia, private sector, and the technology community) to address the MISUSE and the MISSED-USE of digital technologies to drive progress on SDGs.

He cited the example of <u>*M-pesa*</u> (Mobile Money) in Kenya and Mpesa-like solutions in the African region as empowering digital technologies that allow all people to participate in a modern economy. He noted that while stakeholders seek to address the misuse of digital technologies it is important to highlight such opportunities that promote the realisation of the SDGs ensuring no one is left behind.

The UN Envoy on Technology stated that the GDC is a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity to reboot multilateralism at the Summit of the Future scheduled for 2024. He highlighted that the GDC would be an opportunity to agree on some shared principles for an open, free and inclusive digital future. He emphasised the need to move from principle to action and that the GDC is the foundational pillar to drive said action.

He noted that a key stream in the GDC was to address the digital divide. Over the two days, all participants would have an opportunity to articulate what an open, free and secure digital future for all, means. He further noted the importance of protecting both online and offline human rights and the significance of aligning technology with human rights.

He encouraged the stakeholders to aim the conversation towards actionable solutions that bring value to member states. He challenged the audience to assess the ambition of the GDC and elevate the conversation to a level for leaders to listen to and find the political centre of the GDC and ensure it reflects the aspirations of Africa and its people, it is relevant to the diverse contexts, and evaluate how it could leverage existing opportunities without leaving anyone behind.

In his closing remarks, he assured the stakeholders that he is present to listen, learn and share and thanked the organisers and GIZ for facilitating the consultations.

#### 3.2 Eng. Daniel O. Obam, Communications Secretary at National Communications Secretariat) Representing Mr. Edwin Owalo the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy, Republic of Kenya.

Eng. Obam commenced his remarks by welcoming all participants to Kenya and thanking the organisers for facilitating the event. He noted that the government of Kenya was undergoing administrative transitions and conveyed apologies on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary who was attending a different meeting to onboard the newly appointed Principal Secretaries.

He then proceeded to read the address on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary:

The Cabinet secretary expressed his gratitude that Kenya was among the three countries nominated to co-host the GDC consultations and reiterated that the country fully supports the UN report, "Our Common Agenda" and is in concurrence with all the 12 Commitments made therein, as they are aligned to the development agenda of the Government of Kenya.

He noted that the aim of the GDC to connect all people, is very much in line with the commitment of the Government of Kenya to avail universal broadband to its citizens. In this regard, he indicated that to fast-track broadband connectivity across the country, the government has already committed to the construction of an extra 100,000 kilometres of national fibre optic cable network. He stated that it aims to enhance government service delivery through the digitalization of all critical government processes and aims to make available 80% of services online in the next year.

The CS noted that when improperly used, digital technologies can fuel divisions within and between countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights, and exacerbate inequality therefore urged the full potential for beneficial use of technology, addressing digital trust and security, must continue to be a priority.

He stated that Kenya has developed robust and dynamic policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to support and promote digital inclusion and a sustainable digital economy and its' nomination to host this vibrant digital consultation is a strong testament to the strides made in the digital space. He reported that the digitalisation of government services, digital business, infrastructure, innovation-

driven entrepreneurship, digital skills and digital inclusion, as well as creating awareness of data protection are among the fundamental pillars the country has identified as drivers for digital transformation.

In his closing remarks, Eng. Obam thanked the Federal Government of Germany, as well as other partners, for committing to support and facilitate a cross-regional multi-stakeholder process in close coordination with the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Technology. He reiterated Kenya's commitment to play its role as a trusted member of the United Nations.

#### 3.3 German Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Sebastian Groth

In his remarks, Amb. Groth welcomed all in attendance and thanked the organisers and partners for bringing the event to fruition. He noted that the Global Digital Compact was a timely and crucial initiative hence the German government took it seriously from the beginning. He thanked the Government of Kenya as well as the Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs who were instrumental in the preparation of the conference. He acknowledged that Nairobi is one of the global digital technology hubs and that such initiatives create an opportunity for most countries in the North, including Germany, to engage, share and learn about innovation from the African continent at large.

He reiterated that the Global Digital Compact project is a core element of the United Nations' common agenda as its members prepare for the next political. The GDC provides a roadmap for digital cooperation as it seeks to bring all stakeholders including governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, etc, together to see what role digital technology can play in advancing sustainable development.

He explained that the objective of the Africa consultations was to bring together all stakeholders to examine how the future of the GDC can facilitate the use of digital technologies for the realisation of the SDGs amidst the existing challenges and also explore how digital solutions could increase benefit and create opportunities for people in the global south. The consultations would further explore and identify the risks and challenges associated with digital technologies including human rights and cybersecurity.

Amb. Groth stated that alongside Kenya, the Federal Republic of Germany shall also be partnering with Mexico, and India as partners for the GDC consultations in the Americas and Asia regions respectively. He commended Nairobi for being open and accommodating to digital technology and innovation and encouraged the continued building of expertise and leveraging on the existing opportunities.

He concluded by stating that in the GDC consultations, the priority for Germany is not development cooperation but to initiate a political conversation- "how do we shape the digital future? How do we develop the next digital cycle?"

## 4 Introduction and Orientation

#### 4.1 Getting to know the participants – Who is in the room?

After the welcoming speeches, the moderators explored, together with the participants, 'who is in the room' today. By raising their hand, each person responded to the following questions:

Which sector or group are you / is your organisation representing?

- Governments
- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- International Organisations

- Academia / Research
- Technical Community

All the above-mentioned sectors were represented with governments and civil society making up the majority of the participants. During this exercise, everyone got the opportunity to quickly introduce themselves.

Which age group do you represent?

- Under 30 years
- from 30 45 years
- from 46 60 years
- Beyond 60 years

With 3 participants fitting the first group and 1 participant in the last, the two middle-aged groups made up the vast majority of participants with the 30 - 45 years group being the one with the highest number of participants.

In which language do you feel more at ease?

- English
- French

3 Participants opted for 'French', while all other participants opted for 'English'.

**4.2** Summary of open discourse-What does the digital future look like for Africa? Once the question about 'Who is in the room had been answered, participants were invited to inquire from the person sitting next to them, and vice versa on, 'what a digital future looks like for Africa?' Here is a sample of responses from the participants:

- "The future is bright and promising with the potential leverage developments we've seen from other countries to leapfrog our progress. However, there are challenges on the nexus between rural and urban connectivity that needs to be addressed"- Government representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya.
- "The future is very bright with even more growth potential."- Civil Society Representative, Nigeria.
- "The future offers an opportunity for collaboration, particularly for African-grown solutions and not band-aid solutions copy pasted from the West. There's potential; for multi-stakeholder collaboration and ensuring Africa is connected to the next industrial revolution."- United Nations Agency Representative.
- "There's a need to understand and respect the context. The future also offers opportunities for partnership and collaboration across public and private sectors for the public good."- Technology and Innovation Hub Representative, Rwanda.
- "The digital future for Africa entails 100% penetration and access to technology and ICT infrastructure and ensuring safety digital safety and security for everyone."- Academia and Civil Society Representatives, Nigeria, South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire.
- "The digital future will consider the diverse cultural contexts in the African continent in enhancing digital experiences. It will include consideration for human rights in the context of digital technology, bring development in rural settings, address the digital divide between urban and rural sectors in entrenching human rights and access to the internet."- Ministry of ICT Representative, Benin.

#### 4.3 Anonymous survey

Following the presentations, the moderators shared a link and QR-code (<u>here</u>) to access an anonymous survey which contained the following questions:

- Which country do you represent, today?
- To which degree do you see the internet in your country open, free, and secure? (On a scale from 1 10)
- What would it take to make the internet more open, free, and secure in your country?
- What is your main expectation from the 2 days of consultation?

Findings from the survey are annexed herein and marked 'Annex 1.'

### 5 Lightning Talk - Perspectives from Civil Society

To prepare for the subsequent discussions, Ms Nnenna Nwakanma was invited to present a Civil Society perspective on the Global Digital Compact process and its context.

#### 5.1 Ms Nnenna Nwakanma, Chief Web Advocate at webfoundation.org

Ms Nnenna provided an overview of her experience in the last 20 years in the digital space since the establishment of the digital solidarity fund and how over the years they have worked in Africa, to support the power of ICT for human development. She reiterated her confidence in the UN Tech Envoy Amandeep Gill Singh, based on his extensive experience and appreciated his openness to a multi-stakeholder approach, which is crucial to the process.

On CSO engagement, she reported that the Web Foundation convenes a forum of about a hundred organisations interested in digital cooperation and invited all other CSOs who had mutual interests to join the platform. She noted that it is crucial for civil society to support the government in the GDC journey through collaboration and cooperation.

She encouraged African countries and all stakeholders to not only limit themselves to regional international consultations but also conduct similar consultations at national, sub-national, sectoral, and thematic levels. She shared that the Web Foundation held consultations in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, UAE, Rwanda and Burkina Faso, among a broad base of stakeholders regarding the GDC. She called upon everyone to make use of the extensive resources for conducting consultations that have been developed and availed on the UN Secretary General's Envoy on the Technology's website for the GDC.

She cited her concerns about the sustainability of the consultation process and the importance of ensuring this is not a one-time event. She noted that this can only be achieved if all stakeholders agree to meaningfully engage in the GDC by being intentional and proactive from the consultative process and throughout the implementation process after it is adopted in 2024.

She further shared her apprehension concerning the implementation of the GDC in a manner that ensures it serves the people as intended. Notably, member states may adopt the GDC with little or no sustainable actionable plan to implement it. She expressed concerns from her repeated trauma of engaging in similar processes e.g., the Digital Solidarity Fund as well as the Global and International Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) which despite being active have not yielded concrete policy solutions. Additionally, she noted that the office of the UN Tech envoy, despite its competent leadership, is a quasi-judicial office without the capacity or mandate to implement the Africa development agenda under the GDC.

Lastly, she thanked the German Government for its initiative and internationality in supporting the GDC process.

#### 4.2.1 Summary of Questions, Answer and Feedback Session

a. In developing the technology, we need, who will fund the capacity and how do we ensure that in the continent, we have the people to develop the technology as needed? (Academia, Senegal).

**Feedback:** The DiploFoundation has for instance, been undertaking initiatives to ensure Africans are meaningfully included in digital spaces, strengthening African voices in digital diplomacy and spaces and provide online open resources that enhance the capacity for the meaningful participation of Africans. (DiploFoundation Representative, Kenya).

b. What happened to the digital solidarity fund, is it achieving its initial objectives? African solutions should come from Africa. What is the best way to meaningfully engage African countries to ensure robust, inclusive, and meaningful engagements? (Government, Kenya)

#### Answer by Ms.Nnenna

**Forums like the IGF** are important because the discussions lead to action. Engagements on the sidelines of such events have been quite meaningful. Thematic, regional and community-based working groups are meaningful and efficient as they give precise actions and recommendations and they should therefore be encouraged.

In conclusion, Ms. Nnenna emphasised the need for capacity building to address challenges and poor decision-making that is mostly based on ignorance such as internet shutdowns based on impunity and emotional responses without proper consideration of the bigger picture.

She noted that a good place to start is reflecting on what we have in our own countries, and how we can make the best of it. For instance, Kenyan IGF could be a platform to make decisions, and implement them, cross-fertilise our expertise and share experiences with other African countries. Government should not fear new technology rather it should be open and willing to try these innovations and initiatives.

## 5 Sustainable Use of Digital Technologies in the 21st Century: Achieving the 2030 Agenda and Strengthening Human Rights (Presentation of practical experiences about how digital technologies helped achieve SDGs in Africa)

After the lightning talk, the core of the 2-day consultation session commenced: The exchange alongside three major topics, namely

- Sustainable Use of Digital Technologies in the 21st Century: Achieving the 2030 Agenda and Strengthening Human Rights,
- Protecting a global, open, free and secure Internet: Addressing the Risk of Internet Fragmentation and Reinforcing the Multi-Stakeholder Model,
- Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies: Advancing Technological Innovation and Protecting Human Rights

During these sessions, participants were able to

- 1. Receive an initial input linked to the topic in question, followed by a short Q&A
- 2. Take part in an exchange in breakout groups. Based on guiding questions, these moderated group sessions discussed and worked out aspects linked to the topic, documented them on a digital board and formulated key messages as a summary of what should be included and

considered in the GDC process. All groups discussed the same topic and the same guiding questions in parallel.

3. Finally each group share their results and key messages in the plenary session.

#### 5.2 Ms Rym Jarou, Unit Manager - Technology Driven Entrepreneurship, Smart Africa Alliance

#### Why do we need a single digital market in Africa?

Ms. Jarou started by elaborating that Africa's digital economy is projected to be worth US\$180B by 2025 and that so far, the continent has the fastest-growing urban, mobile population. Consequently, both people and businesses could benefit from a single digital market through trade and commerce, innovation, diversity in investments and improved quality of life through technology

Nonetheless, she noted, there are significant barriers to unlocking this potential. For instance, the continent has over 50 countries with over 50 digital legal, regulations and policies and there are limited cross-countries infrastructures and the continent still relies strongly on non-African infrastructure and products. Additionally, there's a low level of digital skill (data available for a few countries in Africa shows an average of 8% in the standard literacy skills) and digital markets are largely national and do not benefit from the scale of the continent.

She explained that Smart Africa aims to unlock Africa's potential by transforming the continent into a Single Digital Market by 2030, through a bold and innovative multi-stakeholder approach. She added that the Smart Africa Manifesto was endorsed by Heads of State and Government in October 2013 and further endorsed by the AU in January 2014. The principles therein include;

- 1. To put ICT at the centre of national socioeconomic development agenda
- 2. To improve access to ICT, especially Broadband
- 3. To improve accountability, efficiency and openness through ICT
- 4. To put the Private Sector First
- 5. To leverage ICT to promote sustainable development

So far, the Smart Africa Alliance has grown to 35 member states representing approximately 1.1billion people as well as development partners in the private sector, NGOs and academia. In moving forward, she stated that they aim to drive more impact with their new Triennial strategy 2023-2025, driven by three major programmes Sustainable & inclusive digital infrastructure (CONNECT), Digital Empowerment and Capacity Building (INNOVATE) and Digital transformation & Services (TRANSFORM). She concluded by reiterating that the core of the work is cross-border collaboration and in-country support.

#### 5.2.1 Summary of Questions, Answer and Feedback Session

#### **Questions posed:**

- a. On the implementation of connectivity cross border programmes; Kenya has multiple projects aiming at achieving this- how do you leverage the pre-existing programme to ensure they are in tandem and have no duplication (Government representative from Kenya
- b. Is Smart Africa operating under the aegis of another institution? What are the specific activities implemented by smart Africa?
- c. Initially the goal was for Smart Africa to be the equivalent of the digital arm of the African Union, is that still the goal?
- d. What's the progress in allowing for network roaming i.e access to digital services freely across African borders?
- e. How specific is the engagement of Smart Africa in each country? What's the nature of the engagement and how is it structured?

#### Ms. Rym Jarou's Response:

Smart Africa is trying to support countries with their digital infrastructure development and support interconnectivity between countries. Africa's backbone project seeks to connect at least three countries to have shared connectivity and then build the interconnectivity from there.

Smart Africa's manifesto (anchoring document) was endorsed by the AU, they are co-chairs and partners in the implementation. Smart Africa is thus not an institution under the AU but has a close relationship of cooperation with the AU.

Engagements in different countries take various models e.g development of blueprints or policies that can be utilised by the countries or the implementation of a concrete digital project in the country e.g the smart cities in Rwanda. Efforts towards the creation of a One Africa network are still ongoing, and the ambition is still alive and the enthusiasm, but the implementation is not easy, and it is therefore still a work in progress.

Other strategies include the development of guiding blue prints e.g. Tunisia started with specific startups and led the work on the blueprint for the continent. Each country has agency on their key areas of focus based on the maturity of its ecosystems. At Smart Africa, after developing the blueprint, we gather all relevant continental stakeholders to review the blueprint to ensure that regardless of your digital ecosystem, one still has a roadmap to strengthen and advance their digital policies, that is, continental tools for policies and strategies that can be contextualised to specific needs/countries from alliance level to country levels.

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#### 5.3 Ms Angela Lungati, Executive Director at Ushahidi & Civic Tech Frontrunner

In her introduction, Ms. Lungati observed that digital platforms are equivalent to fertile land as they represent opportunities. Ordinary citizens must be included as part of the issues and seeking solutions for their issues, solutions should tap into the collective intelligence and agencies of the people that are impacted.

The Ushahidi platform was born out of the 2007/08 post-election violence when a group of 5 bloggers at the time decided to create a platform for ordinary people to share what was happening around them that was not being reported by the mainstream media.

Ushahidi is intentional in shaping solutions by providing a global platform of integrated tools and services. The platform is free and open source, cost-effective and available. It is accessible and usable on readily available solutions e.g., phones. The platform also allows people to engage in local languages that they are familiar with. In a bottom-up approach to information sharing, citizens are more actively involved in actions that affect them and take collective responsibility.

Some examples of how the Ushahidi platform has been applied in advancing SDGs are:

- a. Activists in Egypt have used the platform to monitor sexual harassment against women by plotting harass maps to create awareness and drive community-based interventions and create a shift in mindset on the issue of sexual harassment.
- b. In every election in Kenya since 2008, the platform has been deployed to empower citizens to protect their vote and ensure a fair outcome, by sharing information on potential incidents which are then channelled to the relevant authorities for a response as a preventative measure. The platform will also be used in the upcoming elections in Nigeria in 2023.
- c. Documenting the effects of climate change and collecting climate data, the voice of people in Kenya. The platform has been deployed in the Tana River Climate Change & Livelihoods

Restoration Project to document citizens' experiences on the impact of climate change and use said information to help leaders and governments create solutions.

In conclusion, Ms. Lungati urged stakeholders to look at practical ways of creating inclusion of citizens beyond the boardroom.

#### 5.3.1 Summary of Questions, Answer and Feedback Session

#### **Questions posed:**

- a. How do other countries/stakeholders access or use the Ushahidi platform?
- b. How can we bring in more private sector players in ICT to support similar initiatives and develop open-source systems? (Government representative from Malawi)?
- c. How many languages are used in the Ushahidi platform? In the African context countries have more than 1000 languages, to what extent are translations feasible?

**Ms. Lungati's response:** There are two ways to use the platform. Firstly, you can download the software, take source code and customise it to your needs or use Ushahidi as a host by registering directly on their website. The platform is open in any country. For translations, where certain tools are only available in specific languages such as Swahili, a plug-in can, for instance, be used to aid translation.

In conclusion, Ms. Lungati challenged those who utilise tech-based platforms and use existing open software to explore ways of adding value through collaborations with the private sector to enhance capacity and security.

## **6** Breakout Session 1: Sustainable Use of Digital Technologies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

After the initial presentations and Q&As, the discussion in the breakout groups started, based on the following guiding questions and methodological notes:

- Where are we standing regarding SDGs globally and in Africa?
- How did the use of digital technologies already contribute to addressing the issue(s) and how can it contribute even further?
- Which contribution is necessary from each stakeholder to make digital technologies a strong driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda?
- Please mark what opinions/aspects are disputed within the group!
- Which opinions/aspects resonate most within the group?
- Formulate 2 5 key messages!

Group 1	6.2 Where are we standing regarding SDGs globally and in Africa?	6.3 How did the use of digital technologies already contribute to addressing the issue(s) and how can it contribute even further?	6.4 Which contribution is necessary from each stakeholder to make digital technologies a strong driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda?
	<ul> <li><i>Controversial Opinion</i>- Realistically, achieving the 2030 Agenda on SDG is impossible by 2030</li> <li>SDG 3 and 4 performances in Nigeria have been deprioritised over time and implementation is abysmal</li> <li>Zambia has seen progress in SDG 4 with the implementation of free education under the new administration, quality and standards of education, however, need to be improved. There are opportunities to leverage technology to address many gaps in addressing the quality of education</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>In Rwanda, digital technology has been used in enhancing service delivery for citizens, focusing on ensuring access to digital services for ALL citizens</li> <li>Legal vis a vis digital identity- centring digital identity as a basis for service delivery excludes marginalised populations. Human rights impact should be the foundation of</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Invest in the safety and protection of sustainable digital infrastructure</li> <li>Goal 17-Reassess the nature of public-private partnerships beyond economic interventions, e.g., collaborations based on social, cultural and economic development</li> <li>Human Rights and Digital literacy- review approach in deploying digital tech in</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>In Kenya SDG 17- Partnership for the goals has been exemplary due to multi-stakeholder collaboration</li> <li>In Tunisia- SDGs 2, 3, and 4 are a little bit on track.</li> <li>In Kenya- SDG 16, digital inclusion is progressive, but aspects of human rights are not included in implementing digital responses, and marginalised communities are still being left behind. Human rights need to be at the centre of implementing SDG 16. An emerging contrary opinion was that the adoption of digital technologies in SDGs sought to improve efficiency and enhance service delivery.</li> <li>In Cameroon- The legal framework on ICT is sufficient, the current focus is to improve universal access and coverage and integrate ICT in education (SDG4)</li> <li>In Egypt- embracing technology/adoption of digital services in implementing SDGs is below average by the government due to a lack of investment and access. For CSO- no coordinated leadership, minimal investment, and awareness are still lacking</li> <li>On SDG 10 and 9, Ghana has done well regionally, and digital integration and adoption have improved. Mobile money has been instrumental in advancing sustainable development</li> <li>In Malawi, there is good progress on SDG 5 in advancing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and addressing gender parity in participation in governance on SDG7- Inclusion of solar power to the national grid and on SDG9- Lots of</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>digitisation in service delivery.</li> <li>Use of ATI in fact-checking information/data provided by governments, centring citizen agencies and voices in assessing the impact of digital technologies.</li> <li>Access to digital infrastructure (SDG 8) has improved access to decent work through virtual learning, creating job opportunities and improving well-being and financial opportunities.</li> <li>Inclusive internet- MEANINGFULLY include critical populations to avoid some being left behind e.g., women, PWDs, and children in deploying digital technologies</li> <li>Democratise access to digital technologies is not elitist, cheap, quality, and accessible tech for all</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>service delivery, create more awareness for HR</li> <li>Content moderation- mitigate information disorder (mis and disinformation) to ensure information integrity</li> <li>Trust and accountability at the centre of digital technologies</li> <li>Inclusive policy development</li> <li>Assess the capacity to adopt and implement technologies being developed</li> <li>Push for the adoption of regional and international frameworks on tech and ensure structured coordination</li> <li>Address the cost of digital technology</li> </ul>
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	investment in ICT infrastructure but there is a need for data protection legislation
Key Messages	<ul> <li>i. Africa is not just a market- respect the agency, input and contribution of the continent</li> <li>j. Meaningful inclusion of ALL populations (women, children, PWDs, etc.)</li> <li>k. Centre human rights at the core of digital technology services</li> <li>l. Make digital technologies affordable, accessible and of good quality- ensure GDC is not elitist</li> <li>m. Make the digital environment safe and secure for all</li> </ul>

Group 2	Where are we standing regarding SDGs globally and in Africa?	How did the use of digital technologies already contribute to addressing the issue(s) and how can it contribute even further?	Which contribution is necessary from each stakeholder to make digital technologies a strong driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda?
	<ul> <li><i>Mutual Opinion</i>- We are not on track; from the perspective of the key pillars - environmental, social, and economic</li> <li>The realities exposed by the Covid- 19 pandemic include the digital divide, and the question remains whether the SDGs reflect our contextual realities.</li> <li>Generally, we are not on track as issues such as corruption, poor project design, and lack of buy-in by local populations across different countries are derailing the sustainability of programs e.g., the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To facilitate people's participation and inclusion e.g., use of online tools such as the UNSG Envoy on Technology survey tool to submit feedback on GDC</li> <li>Government digital platforms: enhancing transparency in procurement and payments, enabling the provision of govt services e.g., Kenya's <i>Huduma</i> centrescentralised government services</li> <li>The other side of digital tools. e.g., the use of digital lending platforms to drive access to finances but possibly silently catalysing poverty amongst certain</li> </ul>	<i>Controversial opinion</i> - Private-public sector cooperation; addressing certain challenges e.g. to facilitate access, there is a shared responsibility obligation towards the attainment of SDGs; between the private sector (may provide resources) and governments (enabling environment) <i>Mutual Opinion</i> - Governments need to play their role in addressing the gaps in infrastructure, access, connectivity and digital literacy

<ul> <li>Siaya irrigation programme (SDG 1 &amp; 2) in Kenya.</li> <li>Regarding the digital space there are challenges such as importation of data laws that cannot necessarily be implemented in the African context e.g., GDPR; consideration of the people affected by the digital interventions e.g., PWDs, questions about identity vs identification in the era of digital ID systems, lack of meaningful consultations.</li> <li>It is not all doom and gloom; as SDGs are well communicated; most people know about them but we need to work on their implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>populations who use the platforms without full knowledge of their implications</li> <li>Enhancing research on interventions such as renewable energy solutions such as solar</li> <li>Open data sources such as Ushahidi, and UNICEF Tool-Rapid pro- provide feedback platforms where citizens can voice concerns and policymakers/ govt can respond</li> <li>Use tools to address specific challenges affecting specific populations e.g., enhancing awareness of children's vaccination programmes</li> <li>Enhancing citizen participation e.g UN General Assembly global citizens' assembly utilised online platforms alongside localised support to bridge the digital divide to bring citizens together and deliberate on the climate crisis</li> <li>Use of emerging technologies in the implementation of projects that would otherwise not be plausible; Drone projects in Namibia in the agriculture sector to monitor and respond to specific challenges</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Governments; Assembling the different solutions and ensuring access</li> <li>Government; to develop Open Data policy in Africa; to facilitate innovation</li> <li>All stakeholders; contributions to capacity building</li> <li>Private sector; to upscale skills and experience gaps in the formal education system</li> <li>Need to harmonise interventions! Bring resources and initiatives together (declaration for the future of the internet, ROAM-X indicators, etc)</li> </ul>
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Key Messages	<ul> <li>a. People engagement is critical to ensure context-responsive solutions, the inclusion of specific groups; youth, women</li> <li>b. Government and private sector collaboration is necessary to address the power imbalance issue</li> <li>c. Consideration of the African context and timeline as far as the achievement of SDGs is concerned</li> <li>d. Capacity building is necessary for legislators and the general population</li> <li>e. Technology has to be paired with enabling policy e.g., Open data policy + proactive government</li> </ul>
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Group 3	Where are we standing regarding SDGs globally and in Africa?	How did the use of digital technologies already contribute to addressing the issue(s) and how can it contribute even further?	Which contribution is necessary from each stakeholder to make digital technologies a strong driver for achieving the 2030 Agenda?
	<ul> <li>Financial Inclusion: mobile money, telework, and the digital economy are well developed in the continent, e-Visa, e-tax, e- governments</li> <li>On SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, inclusion)tech has helped avoid post-election turmoil, efficient governance, transparency</li> <li>Reduction in corruption in many countries, more transparency, more accountability</li> <li>In education; during COVID ICT has helped continue operations in education with distance learning.</li> <li>In Agriculture, drone technology is being applied to enhance productivity, and to detect and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More people using e-tax declaration and access to mobile money for payment, ensuring better control by states, transparency, increased access and no more physical constraints, with options such as online payments that have eased transactions</li> <li>More efficiency in processes, more visibility on issues happening because of online activism, and better mobilisation of support.</li> <li>Reestablishment of human dignity, and more</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Remove barriers at all levels (harmonisation of laws in the continent)</li> <li>Being able to build the technologies we use, capacity building, and RESEARCH needs to be developed, and universities need better governance, investment, regulation, and finance.</li> <li>Countries should share best practices and AU has to push countries to adopt best practices.</li> <li>The gender agenda needs to be improved by giving more "effective" education to women.</li> <li>Digitisation is still not yet the #1 priority in public policies, other issues seem to be given more priority</li> <li>Digital literacy/education at all levels, protection of privacy and digital rights, digital living hygiene</li> <li>Access to connectivity should be a fundamental right and priority in global digital cooperation</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>respond to issues that would affect harvests.</li> <li>Impact on food security: better price prediction, and avoiding product deterioration during transport.</li> <li>In Health: drones for supply, AI to assist doctors, IoT connectivity for remote intervention in areas without specialists.</li> <li>Enhanced e-participation: more people getting involved, reduction of the gender gap not completely but, women have more access, more voice, more choice, etc.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Governments and other sectors</li> <li>Access to knowledge products (MOOCs and other sing), reduction of the gender gap not completely but, women have more access, more voice, more choice, etc.</li> <li>Data results in better decision-making governments and other sectors</li> <li>Access to knowledge products (MOOCs and other sing), reduction of the gender gap not completely but, women have more access, more voice, more choice, etc.</li> <li>Dester connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Infrastructure building over all parts of the countries.</li> <li>Include key technology roles (e.g., CDO in Rwanda) in governance.</li> <li>Promote local industry in Africa, hardware/manufacturing industry</li> <li>Better transparency in universal coverage funds, other online training), eduction of the gender gap not completely but, women have more access, more voice, more choice, etc.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better connectivity.</li> <li>Better regulatory framework for the use of new "knowledge" (data, AI,)</li> <li>Research at universities is not well published within the continent</li> <li>Do not reinvent the wheel</li> </ul>
Key Messages	<ul> <li>a. Go beyond numbers to measure the impact of digital education, especially gender considerations, and make sure that women finish education, and occupy higher office roles</li> <li>b. Development of local expertise: research and education</li> <li>c. Better digital infrastructures, services, innovation and investment in key DPI for children such as CRVS, health systems (interoperable) and social registries for shock resilience</li> <li>d. A better understanding of digital rights and privacy, better regulation frameworks, better collaboration (interoperability) regarding these and making sure that implementation follows</li> <li>e. Taking the environmental impacts of digital technology into consideration</li> </ul>

## 7 Protecting a global, open, free and secure Internet

Just like the first topic, the second topic was introduced by a presentation followed by a short Q&A. Later, the participants split up into the same groups as before, worked on the guiding questions and formulated key messages. The results and key messages were then shared in the plenary.

#### 7.2 Addressing the Risk of Internet Fragmentation and Reinforcing the Multi-Stakeholder Model - Josephine Miliza, Africa Regional Coordinator, Association of Progressive Communication- LOCNET Project hosted by KICTANET

Ms. Miliza acknowledged that the topic of internet fragmentation has been discussed for some time, but recent conversations have focused on digital sovereignty and the global control of the internet. These discussions are happening at legislative and regulatory levels, with the stated goal of protecting the end user. However, these efforts are seen as threatening the original concept of an open, interconnected and interoperable internet.

She explained that the Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation is a multi-stakeholder coalition that aims to raise awareness about measures and actions that pose a risk to an open internet. The group has identified three key areas of fragmentation: the user experience, the technical layer, and internet governance and coordination. It brings together a group of 28 stakeholders from the industry including civil society organisations. They issued a joint statement raising concerns about the human risks of internet fragmentation and setting out principles for an open, interconnected, and interoperable internet. These principles include protecting and promoting human rights, the open and interconnected nature of the internet, and the global free flow of information. The group also advocates for efforts to address the root causes of internet fragmentation, promote cooperation to increase trust in the internet, and commit to preserving and strengthening the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance.

#### 7.1.2 Summary of Questions, Answer and Feedback Session

#### **Questions Posed**

- a. Who are the members of the Public Policy implementation on Internet Governance- all stakeholders within the IGF network?
- b. What are the accountability structures in place for internet fragmentation?

**Opinion**: Internet fragmentation can work at the national level, while we work with the envoy at the UN level, local actors could start working on local policy actions e.g. when Nigeria blocked Twitter, citizens downloaded VPNs using US and UN servers which affected algorithms. (Civil Society Representative, Côte d'Ivoire).

- c. Digital dignity- Why are African countries not adopting e-visas?
- d. Why is the internet so expensive in Africa?

#### **Response from Ms Josephine Miliza**

- Membership is open to everyone-I think all stakeholders who are within the IGF framework
- There is no accountability framework yet. Currently, there is no common understanding of what internet fragmentation is and what it is not. This is why discussions through the Policy Network or other coalitions, especially at national and regional levels, are important. Without accountability frameworks, views on fragmentation are very divergent.

## 8 Breakout Session: Protecting a global, open, free, and secure Internet

The participants were divided into the same 3 groups and started the discussion based on these guiding questions and methodological notes:

- What are the main risks for an open, free and secure Internet from an African perspective?
- Which measures are necessary?
- How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?
- How can an inclusive vision for the future of the Internet look like?
- Please mark what opinions/aspects are disputed within the group!
- Which opinions/aspects resonate most within the group?
- Formulate 2 5 key messages!

Group 1	8.1 What are the main risks for an open, free and secure Internet from an African perspective?	8.2 Which measures are necessary?	8.3 How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?	8.4 How can an inclusive vision for the future Internet look like?
	<ul> <li>Lack of technical understanding from decision- makers</li> <li>Adoption of insecure solutions exposes the continent to attacks</li> <li>Africa is not well represented at the international level at decision-making forums</li> <li>Geo-political power play (Ukraine vs Russia)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Increase capacity/competencies in countries (gov, technical, users, etc.)</li> <li>Data protection (confidentiality and integrity)</li> <li>Better cybersecurity</li> <li>Better cyber regulations</li> <li>Cyber-cooperation between countries (build</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Make sure that African countries sign the international conventions</li> <li>Make sure that there is an African voice on the decision table and that it is heard!</li> <li>Make sure that the private sector</li> </ul>	• The consideration that users are not only consumers they are humans

	<ul> <li>Adoption without adaption? exposes users (specifically to regulations)</li> <li>Cyber criminality which pushes countries to shutdown</li> <li>Digital economy: Africa is a consumer and not a producer (digital colonisation) our data is being exploited</li> <li>Africa should not be the only "open": inequality/imbalance in relations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a framework for information sharing)</li> <li>Adapt civil laws to new cyber-environment and educate actors</li> <li>Create cybersecurity agencies and make them functional</li> <li>Take into account local socio-economic-political context (must be locally rooted)</li> </ul>	actions do not contribute to more fragmentation of the internet or do not create a new gap between users (cyber- discrimination)	
Key Messages		f digital privacy/rights, and internet openness ction of existing non-digital ones: reinforce systematically the African voice. -up, etc knowledge building.		

Group 2	What are the main risks for an open, free and secure Internet from an African perspective?	Which measures are necessary?	How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?	How can an inclusive vision for the future Internet look like?
	<ul> <li>Internet shutdowns</li> <li>Technoference; and its social impact on</li> </ul>	<i>Mutual Opinion</i> - Enhancing Access: Infrastructure sharing, a regulatory framework that addresses silos in certain sectors, private and public sector actors- Could GDC for instance include principles on infrastructure sharing to address emerging challenges such as resistance?	<ul> <li>Opportunities in low-tech solutions as well</li> <li>Set out principles on</li> </ul>	Null

<ul> <li>children, and the population</li> <li>Effective policy and an understanding of the implementation of the policies from the consumers' perspective as well as at enforcement by the investigators /prosecutors/ judicial officers</li> <li>Risks to children; cyberbullying, exploitation, and the need to consider their opinions</li> <li>Misinformation and disinformation</li> <li>Neo-colonialism elements; Africa as a recipient of tech solutions/ models, how do we bridge the gaps</li> <li>Cybersecurity risks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Platforms that open conversations to varieties of stakeholders; including citizens,</li> <li>Capacity building/ awareness on the internet risks, and cybersecurity to help counter some of these challenges</li> <li>Specific initiatives for marginalised groups such as women, and girls and also encourage creative use.</li> <li>Sensitisation on the need for responsible use of the internet; expand the training curriculums to subjects such as cyberpsychology</li> <li>Collaborative efforts between regulating bodies e.g., ODC Kenya cannot enforce against digital lending platforms without registration regulation by CBK</li> <li>Affordable internet; Kenya government initiatives such as fibre optic infrastructure expansion; fair competition in the sector, One Area Network, investment mindset based on the centrality of the need for the internet as an enabler of the economy, addressing corruption e.g., Côte d'Ivoire the law allows the use of electric poles to expand fibre connectivity-but only certain companies are given exclusive use</li> <li>Regulations that govern some of the challenges e.g., internet shutdowns</li> <li>African governments: expand participation of stakeholders in standard setting/making forums to enhance engagement of academia, and private sectors as seen in other countries such as China</li> <li>Human rights-centred regulatory frameworks</li> <li>Institutionalise public participation as a mechanism to enhance stakeholder participation at the national, regional and multilateral level</li> </ul>	certain cross- cutting issues; infrastructure sharing • Contextual considerations; power dynamics at the global level
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		<ul> <li>Revenue assurance, Cost-benefit analysis; in assessing the impact of risks such as internet shutdowns</li> <li>Making Africa a single digital market to negotiate with platform owners; following from the example of Europe</li> </ul>
Key Messages	<ul> <li>a. Legislative balance; regulation but protecting individual rights.</li> <li>b. Cyber hygiene; sensitisation on cyber security to protect particularly vulnerable persons</li> <li>c. Meaningful Public participation; avail resources for PP, and decentralised PP; the GDC can become an example for continuous engagement.</li> <li>d. Focus on the three key components; technology, human rights, and legal framework</li> </ul>	

Group 3	What are the main risks for an open, free and secure Internet from an African perspective?	Which measures are necessary?	How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?	How can an inclusive vision for the future Internet look like?
	<ul> <li>Mutual Opinion- Legislation- clawback legislation that infringes on free speech/online expression         <ul> <li>Infiltration of counterfeit gadgets with backdoor applications illegally mining citizen data and illegal surveillance</li> <li>No proper data protection safeguards to ensure accountability for multinationals</li> <li>Weak implementation and lack of transparency and accountability for private companies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Adoption of independent regulation mechanisms for open, free and secure internet</li> <li>More multi- stakeholder/multi- sectoral collaboration (CSOs, media, academia, private sector, etc.)</li> <li>Regional integration to harmonise policies across borders and</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>GDC should leverage existing laws and not a diplomatic document to strengthen accountability</li> <li>Multi- stakeholder approaches in implementing the GDC</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Affordable, accessible and good-quality internet</li> <li>Decolonise the internet</li> <li>Reclaim the original vision/promise of the internet</li> <li>Sensitisation on internet safety and data protection</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>Market monopoly/ Supply chain gatekeeping</li> <li>Geopolitical exploitation by foreign economic powers</li> <li>Information disorder- the proliferation of fake news (mis and dis-information)</li> <li>Increased OGBV that sometimes transfers offline- cyberbullying, sextortion, etc.</li> <li>Cybercrime legislation limiting FOE online and gagging dissenting and divergent voices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>institutionalise progress/ policies and legislation</li> <li>Digital literacy to be responsive to ICT advancement</li> <li>Peer learning and adoption of best practices for relevant policies beneficial to our contexts</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Ethical use of data while safeguarding fundamental rights for ALL</li> <li>Data ownership and agency</li> <li>Universal open resources</li> <li>Leverage continental bodies e.g., AU</li> </ul>
Key Messages	<ul> <li>a. Independent continental regulation</li> <li>b. Contextual digital cooperation</li> <li>c. Investment in digital literacy and safe</li> <li>d. Respect for fundamental rights for AL</li> <li>e. Encourage investments in African solution</li> </ul>	L	ternet for all (leave no one	e behind)

Following the conclusion of the plenary discussion, the 1<sup>st</sup> day was officially closed by the moderators. Later, the participants met for a joint dinner and networking session in the hotel.

## 9 INTRODUCTION TO DAY 2

## 9.1 Opening remarks, Mr. Yves Iradukunda-Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT and Innovations in Rwanda

The day began with an address by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation in Rwanda, who noted that there was a lot of work to be done towards ensuring that the GDC interventions reflect the needs of those impacted particularly in the African context as had arisen in the discussions from Day 1.

He also noted that they will be conducting national-level consultations in Rwanda to ensure that more stakeholders contribute to the outcome of the GDC. He finished by observing that the development of the GDC would require collective effort toward supporting the UNSG's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General.

#### 9.2 Feedback on the anonymous survey conducted on Day 1

Martin Reinfeldt presented the results from the anonymous survey, annexed herein and marked in Annex 1

#### 9.3 Recap from Day 1

Participants were invited to share their key takeaways from the Day 1 discussions. The key emerging observations were:

- i. It was critical to note the impact of the conversations arising from the consultations and ensure that the consultations are carried on to national consultations at the country level.
- ii. There were wonderful stories about the digital landscape in the continent as told through the discussions so far. However, it was imperative that the various challenges and aspirations be in contact with our realities and as the participants represent various stakeholders, they had a responsibility to impact change through the conversations from day 1.
- iii. The opening speeches enriched the conversations but the presentation by Ushahidi, on the open data source platform really struck a chord as it presented a solution that could possibly be implemented to meet direct user needs.
- iv. Increasing accessibility while enhancing security were two important issues for Africa.
- v. The emerging issues are shared across different countries and thus the GDC consultations should be elevated to regional and continental platforms.
- vi. Africa is not looking to impose, gain superiority or dominate in the digital space rather it is clear that Africa wants to develop and be able to meet the needs of its people and their wellbeing, while still staying true to values such as community and being respectful of culture and diversity.
- vii. The capabilities of digital technologies to enhance production transformation is critical to the attainment of the SDGs.

## 10 The impact of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies: advancing technological innovation and protecting human rights

Following the same sequencing as in the previous two sessions, the discussion around artificial intelligence and emerging technologies started with 3 presentation. In contrast to the other sessions, the inputs were not directly followed by the group work, but by a Fishbowl Discussion which included the presenters on the one hand, but would also - on the other hand - give the opportunity to any other participant to directly engage in the debate in the plenary.

After the Fishbowl Discussion, the participants split into their breakout, worked on the various questions and developed key messages and then later presented them in the plenary.

#### 10.1 Presentation by Mr. Marco Kamiyo- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

In his presentation, Mr. Kamiyo observed that potential of digital technologies to improve is evident from the very technologies that we interact with on a daily basis such as google translate.

Digital technologies and AI have demonstrated certain key benefits including improved productivity, lower operational costs, better decision-making, better product development and use in accelerating employees' skills.

On the other hand, these technologies also pose various challenges including the high cost of implementation, limitations in skill capacities, infrastructural and standard gaps particularly in the developing world, gaps in private and public collaboration, and lack of basic infrastructure in certain areas.

Mr. Kamiyo also highlighted some projects around the World utilising such technologies to provide solutions such as the Fisheries 4.0 Project in Indonesia which has enhanced the management in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, strengthening implementation of the AI Eco System in Jordan to enhance urban planning, to create job opportunities, improve the efficiency of government services and enhance the social and economic development of different sectors.

In Africa, Mr. Kamiyo highlighted the first Creative Hub in Ethiopia equipped with various digital instruments. In Côte d'Ivoire, there is the integration of 41R ecosystems to foster youth employment. Other examples cited are the use of blockchain and smart lenses in Ghana's Agricultural sector, the use of the Internet of Things for geothermal energy in Kenya and Namibia's GIS imagery and AI based on satellites and drones in the sustainable processing of bushes that affect harvest by imaging in the fields and identifying the affected areas that require interventions. He noted that such projects are implemented in consultations with the farmers/ communities to ensure continuity and sustainability.

In his recommendations on appropriate next steps; he noted the need to leverage on the global public goods of the emerging technologies such as open data, and open systems for the industry, the need to enhance training and skills and build a global alliance on AI for the industry, build regional and global networks amongst UN Agencies, Development Agencies and Development Banks and keep learning about Frontier Technologies and AI effects on cybersecurity, jobs, youth and gender.

#### 10.2 Presentation by Mr. Jack Ngare, Technical Director in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Google Cloud

Mr. Ngare observed that in most instances, technology amplifies things that happen in society offline including the negative. While the role of various stakeholders such as government and civil society actors is well defined, the key question for further evaluation is the role of techies and corporations. For a start, he noted that the role of Africans in tech corporations is to amplify the voice of Africans in the development of technologies. He observed that Google has for instance been incorporating local languages across African countries such as Kinyarwanda, Amharic, and Kikuyu.

Further, he noted the potential of AI technologies to amplify the capabilities of the African Continent, while leveraging on Africa's demographic dividend of young people; considering the median age for Africa is 19, compared to countries like China with a median age of 38 while that of India is 27. Thus 60% of the workforce by 2030 will be in Africa, while Africa may not have been part of the industrial revolution as it were, we have the opportunity to be part of the technology revolution, which requires that the continent upscales the skills of its population for them to fully engage.

Mr. Ngare concluded his presentation by highlighting the 7 principles of Google on AI which are:

- 1. Be socially beneficial: positively impact various fields be it healthcare, security, energy, etc while being respectful of the cultural norms in countries where they operate;
- 2. Avoid creating or reinforcing unfair bias;
- 3. Be built and tested with safety in mind; continuously reviewed to respond to the evolving context;
- 4. Be accountable to people; be subjected to the court of human beings and have an appeal mechanism;
- 5. Incorporate privacy design principles;
- 6. Uphold high standards of scientific excellence; and
- 7. Be made available for uses that are in accord with the principles.

#### 10.3 Presentation by Ms. Linda Bonyo CEO, Africa Lawyers Hub

In her introduction, Ms. Bonyo noted that it was imperative that a focus on the possibilities offered by AI technology includes a reflection on policy.

Ms. Bonyo's presentation was focused on the AI legal landscape in Kenya. She observed that one of the main challenges in Kenya was the importation of policy without due regard for the context and without consideration of the opinions of the local professionals. This is of particular concern since some of the key drivers have certain interests in pushing certain ideas to countries like Kenya. e.g the European interest in pushing its digital policies to the rest of the World and the American interest in pushing its emerging technologies across the World.

Some of the key components in the AI landscape fall within 5 categories: AI infrastructure, AI Development Companies/Startups or Communities, AI Governance, AI Advocacy, and AI Sectoral Use. While there are no definitive laws on AI in Kenya, aspects of it are alluded to in policies and provisions on digital technologies. There are also cross-cutting guiding principles emanating from the Constitution of Kenya such as Art 27 on equality and freedom of discrimination, rights to privacy (Art 31), and freedom of expression (Art 33) among other rights. Relevant policy frameworks with an application to AI include the Digital Economy BluePrint, 2019, the Data Protection (General) Regulations, 2021, the National Broadband Strategy 2018-2023 and the Kenya National Digital Master Plan 2022-2032 among others.

Notable Regional frameworks include the African Union Data Policy Framework and the Blue Print on AI for Africa. She observed that in general, the approach in most African countries is the criminalisation of cybersecurity issues with minimum focus on user protection. However, there are more progressive approaches in some North African Countries such as Morocco and Egypt.

In terms of international frameworks that could offer guidance on best practices, Ms. Bonyo highlighted the EU-AI Act, UNICEF Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, OECD AI Principles, America's Blueprint for AI Bill of Rights, and the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). In addition, Ms. Bonyo highlighted some key regulatory considerations emerging from practices across various countries in handling AI such as the establishment of an AI expert Advisory Group in Canada, the establishment of an independent AI oversight body in Singapore, the establishment of Research centres as seen in Morocco, application of AI in strategic sectors as seen in Mauritius's National AI Strategy, encouraging public participation in AI as seen in UAE's National Program for AI and Think AI Initiative, *inter alia*.

In conclusion, therefore, Ms. Bonyo noted that there is a need for Kenya and Africa to stay ahead and avoid always being recipients of technology and also ensure effective policy, institutional and legal frameworks for the application of AI, without necessarily just mirroring laws from other countries and regions without due regard for our context.

## **11 Fishbowl Session**

Participants engaged in an insightful fishbowl session posing questions to the presenters and engaging in discourse on the issue at hand. Some of the key points arising from the session were:

- a. The need to bridge gaps in skills and understanding of law and tech; by addressing gaps in formal education but also paying specific attention to enforcement agencies including lawyers and the Judiciary to ensure they are well informed as they determine issues touching on AI.
- b. The impact of data-based solutions that are informed by inclusive data subjects results in flawed solutions that reinforce societal biases and exclusion.
- c. The absence of adequate policies and practices around data handling, sharing and storage particularly by private actors. However, Mr. Ngare noted that principles around data are still a problem even for the biggest organisations but it gets better with conscious efforts towards enhancing data sets to inform algorithms, while we cannot afford to wait for perfect data to develop and innovate, there is need to continue encouraging informed consent on the use and sharing of data for the greater good.
- d. Ms. Bonyo also observed that there is a need for efforts towards creating a balance between the rights to privacy for users and commercial use of data for certain benefits such as for research purposes. She also noted that there are challenges with the existence of monopolies of data amongst bigger corporations and thus the need to consider policies on the sharing of data with other stakeholders such as start-ups. She also observed that organisations such as the Lawyers Hub, are working towards developing model laws that could guide countries seeking to develop laws and further buttressed the need to enhance skills locally (Africa) to facilitate meaningful engagement.
- e. Mr. Kamiya reiterated the need to enhance indigenous capacity on the use of data, the integration of data sets to enhance productivity, strengthening the innovation ecosystems and the need to facilitate basic research needs in the developing world.

- f. It is important to invest in research in African Universities as reinforced by the role of universities in the birth of existing global tech companies e.g., Google born out of Stanford University, or Facebook which began at Harvard University.
- g. The goal should not be the actualisation of data sovereignty but rather the potential to meet the needs of society for the greater good e.g., by using technology and data to enhance education for children on various platforms.
- h. There is a need for proper principles on the capacity-building components and skills transfer in projects implemented in countries with lower skill capacities as well as cooperation between lawyers and tech experts to ensure responsive laws and policies.
- i. There is a need for the African continent to work towards creating the Continent as one Trade Area even in the digital components to ensure more collaborative and collective approaches to issues affecting all countries including data and AI gaps, better bargaining power, lower costs and breakdown silos.
- j. Considerations for special groups particularly vulnerable groups such as children to ensure that their interests are adequately considered even though they are not part of such consultations in their own right. In this regard, it was noted that existing principles such as the UNICEF Principles on AI and Children are an important reference point for such considerations.

## 12 Break out session: on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies

The participants entered three breakout sessions for discussions guided by the following questions:

- Which opportunities and risks do AI and other emerging technologies offer?
- How can they be regulated?
- Who should be in charge of standard setting and regulation?
- How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?

The groups were also invited to mark what opinions or aspects were disputed in the group and which resonated most within the group and also formulate 2-5 key messages from the discussion. Herein is a summary of the responses to the guiding questions from the groups as also presented in the plenary session

Group 1	12.1 Which opportunities and risks do AI and other emerging technologies offer?	12.2 How can they be regulated?	12.3 Who should be in charge of standard setting and regulation?	12.4 How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?
	<ul> <li>Opportunities</li> <li>Improves quality of education and collaboration with private sector to migrate from traditional academia</li> <li>Improves standards of education through responsive and personalised learning</li> <li>Creates job opportunities -outsourcing of remote/virtual jobs on the continent</li> <li>Improves analytics in various sectors-agritech, health tech, climate action</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Country-based multi stakeholder collaboration in developing regulations</li> <li>Empowering AI diplomats in governance and decision making</li> <li>Transformative cross-border labour</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Co regulation based on meaningful multi stakeholder collaboration (country/regio nal/continental )</li> <li>Set guiding principles for</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Developing and setting international standards on the development, use and deployment of AI</li> <li>Link GDC to binding legislation and fundamental rights</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>International collaboration on AI for public good</li> <li>Risks         <ul> <li>AI and automation risk economic opportunities for the majority of Africans but create an opportunity for the creation of new economic opportunities that adapt to new technologies.</li> <li>Inadequate data governance frameworks pose a risk to the protection of the use and misuse of personal data. e.g. fintech</li> <li>Algorithm biases and manipulation of data based on pseudoscience.</li> <li>Content moderation-opportunities to integrate human input to improve CM processes and eliminate algorithm biases</li> <li>Ethics washing</li> </ul> </li> <li>Resonates: AI creates more opportunities than risks Disputed: self-regulation vis-à-vis co-regulation-how do we ensure independence and accountability?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>laws and protection for workers</li> <li>Mandatory disclosure for the use of AI in processing personal data</li> <li>Transparency and simplification of regulatory processes on the use of AI</li> <li>Invest in awareness and knowledge creation on AI for meaningful participation</li> <li>Invest in healthy cross-border data ecosystems</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Facilitate international peer learning/sharing of experience on the use of AI in governance</li> <li>Sustainable actionable principles and milestones</li> </ul>
Key Messages	<ul> <li>h. Promote the responsible and collaborative use of AI for the public good (education/health/climate etc.)</li> <li>i. Be intentional in mitigating the implications of AI on economic opportunities/job environment in Africa</li> <li>j. Sustainable investment in awareness/ capacity building and the proactive response of dynamism in AI</li> <li>k. Evidence-based deployment of AI and other technologies</li> <li>l. A multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach to regulation</li> <li>m. Invest in data foundation including open data</li> </ul>		

Group 2	Which opportunities and risks do AI and other emerging technologies offer?	How can they be regulated?	Who should be in charge of standard setting and regulation?	How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?
	<ul> <li>Opportunities</li> <li>Positive impact on research</li> <li>Potential appropriation of AI and other emerging technologies for the greater good</li> <li>Role of various actors in capacity building evaluating whether the tech addresses our needs and priorities in sectors such as health, and education</li> <li>Potential for Africa to have its own data centres; considering various factors such as readily available energy sources.</li> <li>Risks</li> <li>AI cannot fix everything, and cannot replace human beings, especially in content moderation as it lacks historical context</li> <li>Risks to individual rights particularly privacy, and safety of data collected e.g when some organisations sell data</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continental approach at the AU Level and at regional organisations. e.g. EAC, ECOWAS</li> <li>Data cooperatives; leveraging on the youth population</li> <li>Reflect on why and how more intentionally; beyond data sovereignty/centres and national interests</li> <li>Enforcement mechanisms that enhance our resilience</li> <li>Ratification of Malabo Convention to reach the threshold and then amend to reflect context</li> <li>Children rights approach in AI Strategy</li> <li>Cyber diplomacy, which is lacking in the continent, there is also no information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>AU and other Regional Blocs</li> <li>Private Sector actors</li> <li>Governments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A framework on digital diplomacy and fostering cooperation</li> <li>Eliminate silos between countries and regions e.g Africa South of Sahara and North Africa</li> <li>Establishment of a data exchange point in Africa</li> <li>Encourage/ support States to have specific institutions on data governance and resource them</li> <li>Create/enable platforms for collaboration e.g. conferences, practical simulation exercises</li> <li>Address knowledge gaps on AI to avoid potential divide</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>Lack of representation of marginalised/minority groups in the design of the AI that may enhance existing biases offline and catalyse other issues such as data colonisation</li> <li>Risks from cyber breach</li> <li>Potential exclusion of persons who lack the relevant skills</li> <li>Social impacts of AI vs the profit considerations</li> </ul>	sharing and cooperation to address challenges e.g. South Africa fibre optic cables running in Nigeria territorial waters. Cooperation is necessary for solutions towards sharing costs and resources. The challenge extends to departments at the national level and even between actors in the private sector		<ul> <li>Clarify what data is needed; specific data sets</li> <li>Establish binding principles to an extent; for operationalisation and enforcement</li> </ul>
Key Messages	<ul><li>b. Enhanced collaboration between</li><li>c. View the GDC as a living document</li><li>d. Interoperability as a principle; A</li></ul>	vledge gaps and create a common un n stakeholders who play various roles nent and continuing platform for the Africa has not been involved as much eaningful participation of Africa throu	s in the sector exchange in the global standard-set	

Group 3	Which opportunities and risks do AI and other emerging technologies offer?	How can they be regulated?	Who should be in charge of standard setting and regulation?	How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?
	<ul> <li>Opportunities         <ul> <li>Applications in all sectors to make them more efficient and even transform them, improve people's life (agriculture, health, economy, innovation, cultural inclusion, education)</li> <li>Transcription to local languages in Africa with application in society, health (talking to automate can be more comfortable), education, knowledge sharing</li> <li>Creation of new jobs if we are able to 'reconvert' people</li> </ul> </li> <li>Risks         <ul> <li>Biases and fairness: AI can amplify social inequalities (those without access have less access) and can exclude some people</li> <li>AI can be a threat to data privacy</li> <li>AI can be a threat to job security for people without the right skills</li> <li>Lack of the appropriate energy and infrastructure</li> <li>Algorithms are not transparent</li> <li>Lack/breach of ethics of AI Use</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use of AI and ethics</li> <li>Data collection and data usage; who can collect and what can be collected</li> <li>Regulation should not be a stopper to innovation</li> <li>Impact of society should be understood and there should be transparency</li> <li>Establish a level playing field when it comes to data (big tech have an edge on small start-ups): should we introduce a tax for 'universal AI' to give AI rights to everyone?</li> <li>How to make it participatory so that everyone has a voice.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not making things too heavy (risk of inefficiency if many actors are involved): we should leverage existing bodies</li> <li>Multi-actor approach (what is the role of each entity? How to use the existing legal bodies: government, regulator (different from the government), intra- governmental organisations(regional), global institutions (UN) , private sector, platform owners, academia, foundations, civil society, communities (tech devs, online community, diaspora), media, SME</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Guidelines for countries</li> <li>Facilitate cooperation dialogue and knowledge sharing between all stakeholder</li> <li>Encourage countries to champion AI(and for each pillar)</li> </ul>

Key Messages	<ul><li>b. African Member States have to take the lead and be proactive</li><li>c. We need a balance between regulation and innovation</li></ul>
	c. We need a balance between regulation and mnovation
	d. Gender Agenda; We need more women to be implicated (e.g. African Women in AI)
	e. Facilitate cooperation dialogue and knowledge sharing between all stakeholders

## **13 Closing remarks**

#### 13.1 Ms. Regine Greinbreger, German Cyber Ambassador

In her closing remarks, Ms. Regine Grienberger reflected on her own life experience with key moments from the time in 1989 when she used an electric typewriter to now when German embassies around the World are all connected through an intranet and currently working towards a digital embassy.

ICT has made life richer, connected, and work easier but with current worries around cyber security. With the continuous scope and dimensions of change in the sector, one can only imagine what will happen in the next 30 years. While at the beginning the new experiences with technology and the tools it provided were like child play with new toys, recent experiences have been quite sobering buttressing the need for such consultations.

Ms. Grienberger acknowledged that she had learnt a lot about specific needs, aspirations and expectations towards the GDC during these 2 days and that she remains committed to advocating for the results of this regional consultation session on the German and international level.

She finished her remarks by thanking the organisers and GIZ and the participants for all the good ideas and insights shared over the past couple of days.

# 13.2 Mr. Yves Iradukunda-Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT and Innovations in Rwanda

Mr. Iradukunda thanked the participants, the German government for facilitating the consultations, and the Kenyan government for hosting the consultations. He encouraged participants to carry forward the messages emerging from the discussions and conduct national consultations.

#### 13.3 Eng. Daniel O. Obam, Communications Secretary National Communications Secretariat-representing the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Digital Economy

Eng. Obam also began his remarks with reflections on his own life experiences chronologically acknowledging the advancements of technology making reference to key moments in his life like when he used floppy disks when working on his master's dissertation and his very first phone in the late 90s that could not fit in his pocket due to its size.

He thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for supporting the consultation process, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, all government representatives, and the participants for engaging in the consultations targeted towards a formula for implementing the outputs from the GDC Africa consultations.

#### 13.4 UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Under-Secretary-General Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill

Mr. Gill thanked previous speakers and expressed gratitude that he could count on stakeholders as the team that co-creates and built the GDC. He also expressed gratitude for the openness and collaboration, constructive criticism in a respectful way, as witnessed throughout the two-day consultations amongst the different stakeholders, a model that could be upscaled or downscaled.

He emphasised the need for a sober appreciation of the opportunities in the digital space while being mindful of the risks, collaboration and dynamism in collaboration.

Mr. Gill reiterated that his office welcomed all inputs from the national and stakeholder consultations and reminded stakeholders of the public call for inputs on the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on the Technology website.

Finally, he highlighted the need to continue advocating for evidence-based decision-making and respect for contextual experiences which entails the respect, inclusion and acknowledgement of the agency of the communities we are seeking to impact being mindful of the power dynamics, who is potentially being excluded and the power implication of technology.

Mr. Gill's remarks marked the end of the two-day consultations. Participants were encouraged to stay in touch and keep the conversations going and were invited to a closing reception.

#### 13.5 Conclusion

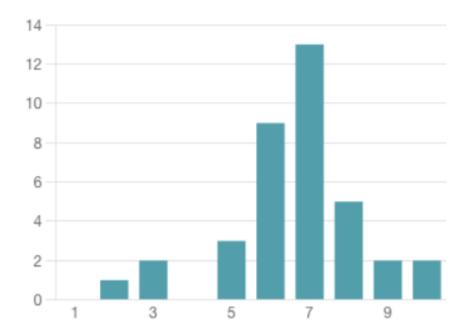
The GDC Africa consultations held in Nairobi, Kenya, marked the beginning of the other regional consultations that will follow in Mexico in February 2023 and in India in March 2023. In this regard, the participants also got an opportunity to share their messages with the participants in the upcoming consultations based on their experiences in Nairobi, through video or written messages that would be transmitted to other participants (see Annex 2).

The inputs from these consultations, the submissions to the UNSG's Envoy on Technology through the provided <u>online</u> tools and policy briefs will inform the GDC that will be agreed on at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, whose theme, 'multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow' appropriately reflects the intent of the GDC in the fast-evolving digital arena.

THE END.

## **Annex 1- Findings from Anonymous Survey**

To what degree do you see the internet in your country open, free, and secure?



Average out of 39 responses: 6.65

Which country do you represent, today?	To which degree do you see the internet in your country open, free, and secure?	What would it take to make the internet more open, free, and secure in your country?	What is your main expectation from the 2 days of consultation?	
Nigeria	5	More democratic policy	Identifying practical solutions and implementations	
Austria, UN	9	Knowledge and capabilities	Learn from African experiences that we can take global	
Senegal	7	Respect for digital rights	Understanding and knowledge sharing	
Kenya	10	It's free	Learn more from govt and civil society	

United Nations	6	Digital Public Infrastructure and Data Protection Legislation	Better insights into African perspectives on the GDC	
Kenya	6	Affordability still needs to be tackled.	Practical and tangible solutions from engaging discussions	
Nigeria	6	Power and infrastructure	The implementation of frameworks	
Kenya	3	Meaningful public participation	Multistakeholder engagement resulting in a better understanding and protection of interests of the user most at risk	
Ghana	10	Make it more affordable	Exchange ideas and increase collaboration through networking	
Nigeria	7	Legislation, improved infrastructure, access to power, funding	Peer learning on improving digital access in underserved communities	
Rwanda	9	More capacity for network engineers	Better understanding of what GDC is	
Malawi	7	More enabling policy, reducing the cost, more carrier-neutral infrastructure	Contribute more to the Global Digital Compact, engage more participants and learn from them and progress made in those countries.	
Rwanda	8	Enable people's digital literacy	Clear Action Items	
South Africa	7	Make data cheaper and improve the infrastructure	Improve our understanding of African digital landscapes, their challenges and possible solutions	

Kenya	7	Rules for hate speech and prosecution of the violation of digital human rights		
Egypt	6	If the internet is more open and available, and the communities are aware of the data security	To learn more about the digitalization of the development sector considering the data protection	
Rwanda	8	Last mile connectivity	Strong recommendations into the GDC	
RWANDA	8	Collaboration between Government, Private sector and Civil Society	Exchange ideas and connecting with all stakeholders	
Kenya	5	Government driven all-inclusive initiatives	Easily understandable and actionable points	
Kenya	6	Capacity building and more awareness	To understand what the impact of the digitization will look like. Understand the role of each country in realising inclusive digital space and security	
Kenya	7	Good Government policies and effective ICT institutions	Share knowledge and experience. learn from experts	
Global	3	<ol> <li>More structured citizen participation;</li> <li>Inclusively co-created rights-based frameworks; and, 3) mitigation of neocolonial models of state-sponsored spying, corporate-sponsored spying, and externally derived rights-based models</li> </ol>	d participation processes to enrich the GDC.	

Côte d'Ivoire	7	Laws and Regulations, cybersecurity framework, open the internet market to more company and access to submarine fibers and address infrastructure digital divide. Education and communication on usage of the internet	Comprehensive and clear guidance on how to achieve the goals of the GDC
Kenya	6	Implementation of data protection law, cyber security capacity development for SMEs, strengthening of digital sovereignty, address online gender- based violence, tackle dis/misinformation, engagement in international multi-stakeholder fora like the IGF, advocate for 'one' Internet and a multi-stakeholder governance of the Internet	Concrete actions African countries can take to work toward an open, free and secure Internet, discuss how data protection can be strengthened at a continental level
Kenya	6	Addressing infrastructure gaps, openness in legal and policy and consequences thereof, respect for human rights, clarity and accountability on the role of private sector particularly platform owners particularly	Key recommendations/ actions that will be considered by States in their consideration of the GDC
Kenya	7	Greater collaboration between Government and private sector to support innovation.	Networking

Kenya	7	More government support, create more security awareness, better implementation of internet usage policy	Better understanding of the level of internet penetration and usage in Africa, how to improve internet usage	
Cameroon	6	Government can take measures such as promoting the use of the internet for everyone at very low prices and sensitive people for internet danger.	To bring answers to how the internet can be used by all people	
Kenya	8	Collaboration with all players in the internet ecosystem. Regulators, policymakers, ISPs, rights defenders and users	Action points for all players to bring about freer safer internet for all.	
Zambia	7	Regulation and laws that encourage freedom of thought, speech and expression	I expect the consultations to be informative, eye-opening and a foundation from which pan-African digital collaboration can be built on.	
Kenya	7	Freedom of expression	Learning & Networking & Prioritize needs	
Kenya	6	Funding and supporting startups that are pushing the tech industry in a better direction.	To understand how funding should be directed for the next years regarding tech.	

Cameroon	7	- développer une infrastructure large bande ; développer une industrie locale du numérique, encourager la recherche et l'innovation, renforcer la confiance numérique, réduire les coûts d'accès, mettre en place un cadre légal sur la gouvernance de l'Internet, la cybersecurité et la lutte contre la cybercriminalité	La principale attente est que les contributions issues des consultations menées dans le cadre des présentes assises soient prises en compte dans le Pacte numérique mondial pour réduire la fracture numérique entre l'Afrique et le Nord.	
Cote d'Ivoire	5	Review the cost of the internet connection Downwards and secure the digital infrastructure by the approval of standards	During these two days I hope that all the conclusions adopted will be imposed on the different countries of Africa for the glorious future of digital technology in the continent for the well-being of the African populations	
	2	infrastructure and affordable Internet	meaningful contribution towards Internet governance issues	
Kenya	7	Affordability of the internet, constant availability of power and electricity.	Solutions to data protection from foreigners mining data	
Kenya	8	Infrastructure to penetrate to remote areas	Understanding AI and preparing for its change in my society	

## Annex 2- Messages to the Americas and Asia in preparation for their regional GDC Consultations

What message(s) would you like to pass on to your colleagues in the Americas and Asia in preparation for their regional GDC Consultations?

Be as inclusive as possible

Treat Africa like an equal partner.

Be prepared in advance and participative. Express the strong vision and what you think can really have an impact

We need to leverage our collective resources, knowledge, intelligence and faith in tech for good.

The consultative forum was enlightening. We were able to exchange ideas on the solutions to data protection issues on AI and emerging technologies. Similarly, we were able to analyse the risks associated with emerging technologies in the African setup.

Your voice is critical for the GDC to reflect the needs of your country, region, and the world. Make this consultation process count!

The consultations here have been very engaging and exciting. Lots of knowledge is shared, learnt and developed. The interesting aspect is the opportunity to contribute to making the digital world a better place. We have done our part, over to you!

Working towards a trustworthy AI is imperative. Collaboration between its users(people), companies, technologists and governments is key.

Your voice is important...make it heard. The consultations are participation friendly and I encourage you to say all that you think is important. 1. GDC MUST cater for regional differences and inequalities.

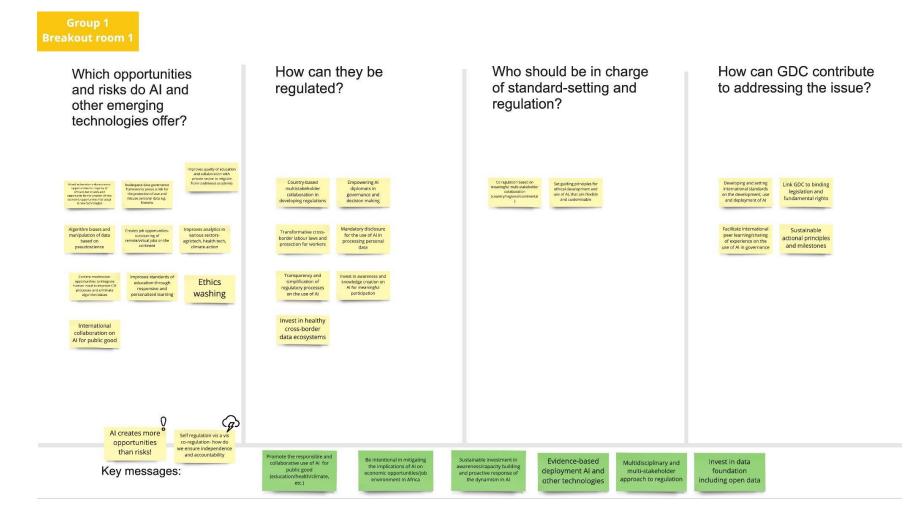
2. Affordability of digital technology is a huge constraint for African countries. Africa needs AFFIRMATIVE ACTION to be able to afford safe and sustainable technology, both hardware and software; both human and machines

I wish you the best in your deliberations. In Africa we were intentional about sharing insights, learnings and best practices and what would work on the continent as well as how to leapfrog our challenges and embrace the opportunities technology brings. We looked at regulations, policies, multi-stakeholder consultations and what the GDC could accomplish.

1. To Discuss Human and Digital measures to bridge the gap between Artificial Intelligence and Humanity.

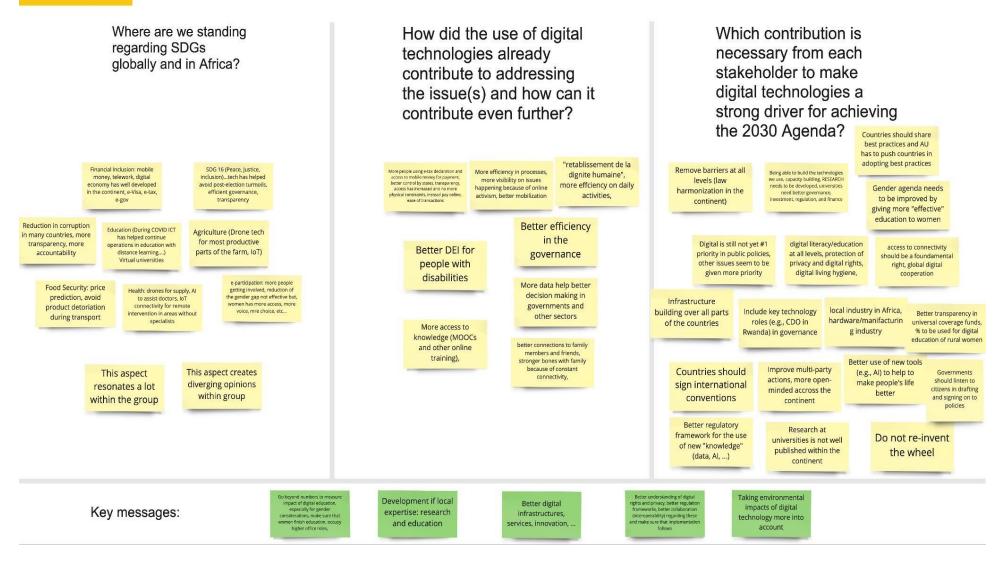
2. To discuss and encourage emotional based Artificial Intelligence and take into consideration that some best decisions are made emotionally

### Annex 3

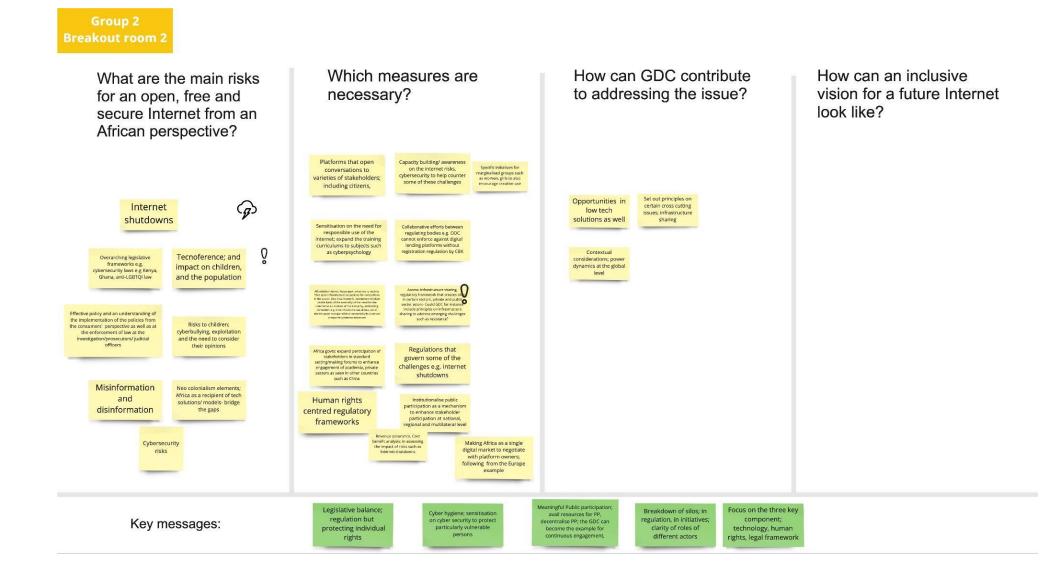


**Breakout room 2** Which contribution is How did the use of digital Where are we standing necessary from each technologies already regarding SDGs stakeholder to make globally and in Africa? contribute to addressing digital technologies a the issue(s) and how can it strong driver for achieving contribute even further? the 2030 Agenda? 0 To facilitate people participation+ inclusion e.g. use Resonates-Governments to play their role in addressing The realities exposed by the Governments We are not on track; from Govt digital platforms: enhancing of online tools such as the UNSG Covid-19 pandemic: the transparency in procurement and payments, enabling provision of govt services e.g. Kenya's Huduma Assembling the the perspective of the key digital divide: do the SDGs Envoy on Technology survey to the gaps infrastructure submit feedback on GDC different solutions and pillars -environmental, reflect our contextual +access+ connectivity+ digital social, economic realities? exclusion centres- centralised services ensure access literacy Importation of the data laws that cannot necessarily be implemented in the African context e.g. SDPR; consideration of the people affected by the digital interventions e.g. PWDs, identify vis identifications Private+public sect We are not on track; corruption poor project design, across diff countries derailing the sustainability The other side of digital tools. e.g. Research.e.g. Government- Open cooperation; addressing use of digital lending platforms to drive access to finances but possibly silently catalysing poverty amongst renewable energy Data policy in Africa; to of programmes e.g. Siaya irrigation programme (SDG 1 & 2); buy in from certain challenges e.g. identification lack of meaningful consultations facilitate innovation solutions such as solar to facilitate access local populations certain populations It is not all doom and gloom; Address specific challenges Private sector\_ to open data sources such as Ushahidi, SDGs are well communicated All stakeholders; affecting specific populations UNICEF Tool-Rapid pro- providing a upscale skills and most people know but we feedback platform where citizens awareness on the need e.g. awareness on children need to work on experience gaps in the can voice concerns and policy vaccination programmes for capacity building implementation makers/ govt can respond, formal education system Global Assembly: global citizens' Use of emerging technologies in the implementation of projects that would otherwise not be Need to harmonize Shared responsibility to assembly utilized online platforms alongside localized support to interventions! Bring resources SDG; between private sec and initiatives together (may provide resources) and bridge digital divide to bring citizens plausible; Drone project in Namibia in agriculture (declaration for the future of the governments (enabling together and deliberate on the internet, ROAM-X indicators, etc) climate crisis. environment) People engagement is critical Consideration of the African Capacity Building for Technology has to be Government and private to ensure context responsive context and timeline as far as Key messages: aired with enabling policy legislators and the sector collaboration to olutions, inclusion of groups; achievement of SDGs is e.g. Open data policy + address the power issue general population youth, women concerned proactive government

Group 3 (with interpretation) Main meeting room



Breakout room 1 What are the main risks for an open, free and secure Internet from an African perspective?	Which measures are necessary?	How can GDC contribute to addressing the issue?	How can an inclusive vision for a future Internet look like?
schutdowns,       Lack of technical understanding from decision makers       Adoption of insecure continent to attacks         Africa is not well represented at the international level       Geo-politic power Russia)       Adoption wellow dataget on the secure play (Ukraine vs. Russia)         Oppercriminality pushes countries to shutdown       Geo-politic power attack at means and secure play (Ukraine vs. Russia)       Adoption wellow dataget on the secure play (Ukraine vs. Russia)         Oppercriminality pushes countries to shutdown       Bust excert attack at means and secure play (Ukraine vs. Russia)       Africa should not be the regulations)         This aspect resonate sa to secure play (Ukraine vs. Russia)       Bust excert attack at means and secure play (Wraine vs. Russia)       Mice should not be the regulations)         This aspect resonate sa to secure play (Wraine vs. Russia)       Bust excert attack at means attack at the secure play (Wraine vs. Russia)       Mice should not be the regulatore in regulatore in relators         This aspect resonate sa to russian attack at means attack	Better cybersecurity         Better cyber regulations           Cyber-cooperation between countries chould framework information sharing         Adapt civil laws to new cyber-environment, and educate actors           Create cybersecurity agencies and make them functional         Take into account local scolo-economic-politic context (must be locally rooted)	Make sure that African infrarance in a fraction of the sure that there is an African voice on the decision table	Users are not only consumersthey are humans
Key messages:	Better clarify the Digital inequalities are a notions or digital reflexion of existing non- digital ones: reinforce grivacy/rights, internet systematically the african openess voice	Awareness, education, follow up, etc knowledge building	



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<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	Adoption of independent regulation mechanisms secure internet	GOC should be (werze opionoais document to strengthen accountability	Affordable, accessible and good quality internetDecolonise the internetReclaim the original vision/promise of the internetSensitisation on idata protection data protectionEthical use of data while safeguarding fundament lights for ALLData ownership and agencyUniversal open resourcesLeverage continental bodies e.g. AU
Key messages:	Independent Contextual continental digital regulation cooperation	Investment in digital literacy and safe use of the internet. Affordable internet for all (leave no one behind) Respect for fundamental rights for ALL For Alfrican solutions developed by Africans	

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