Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 5

A Global Digital Compact — an Open, Free and Secure Digital Future for All
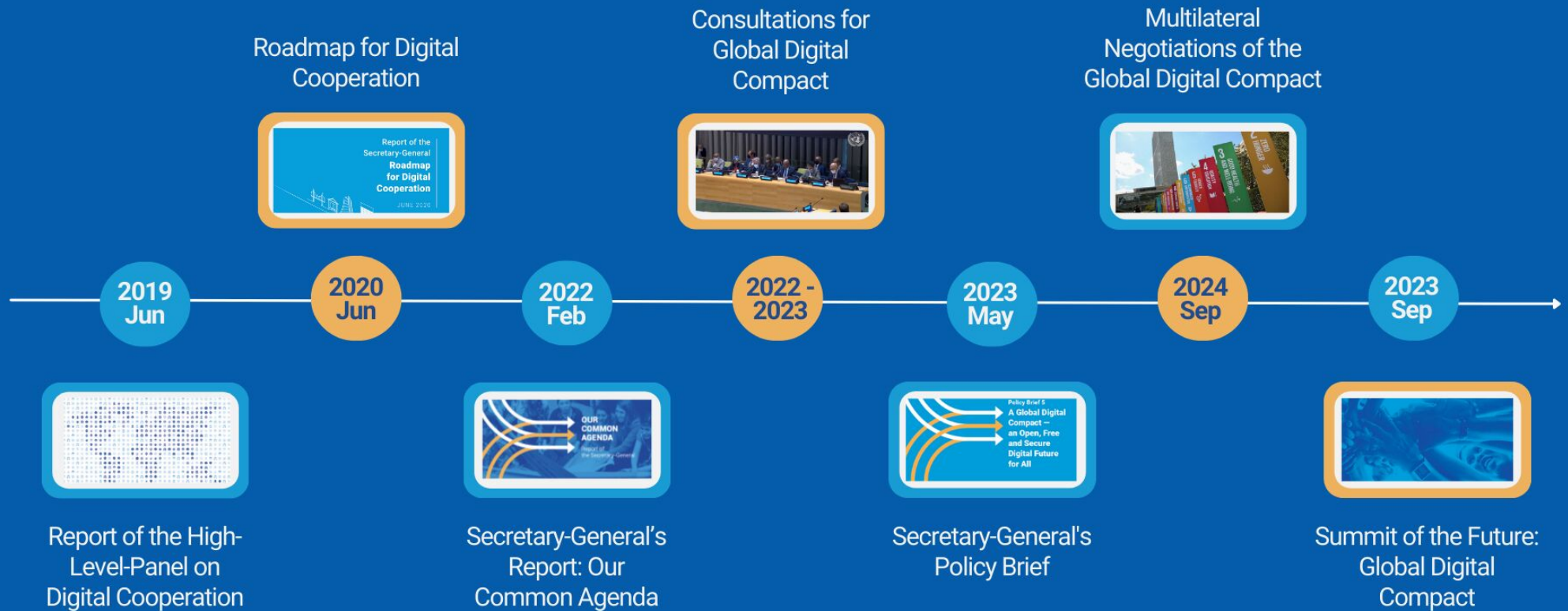
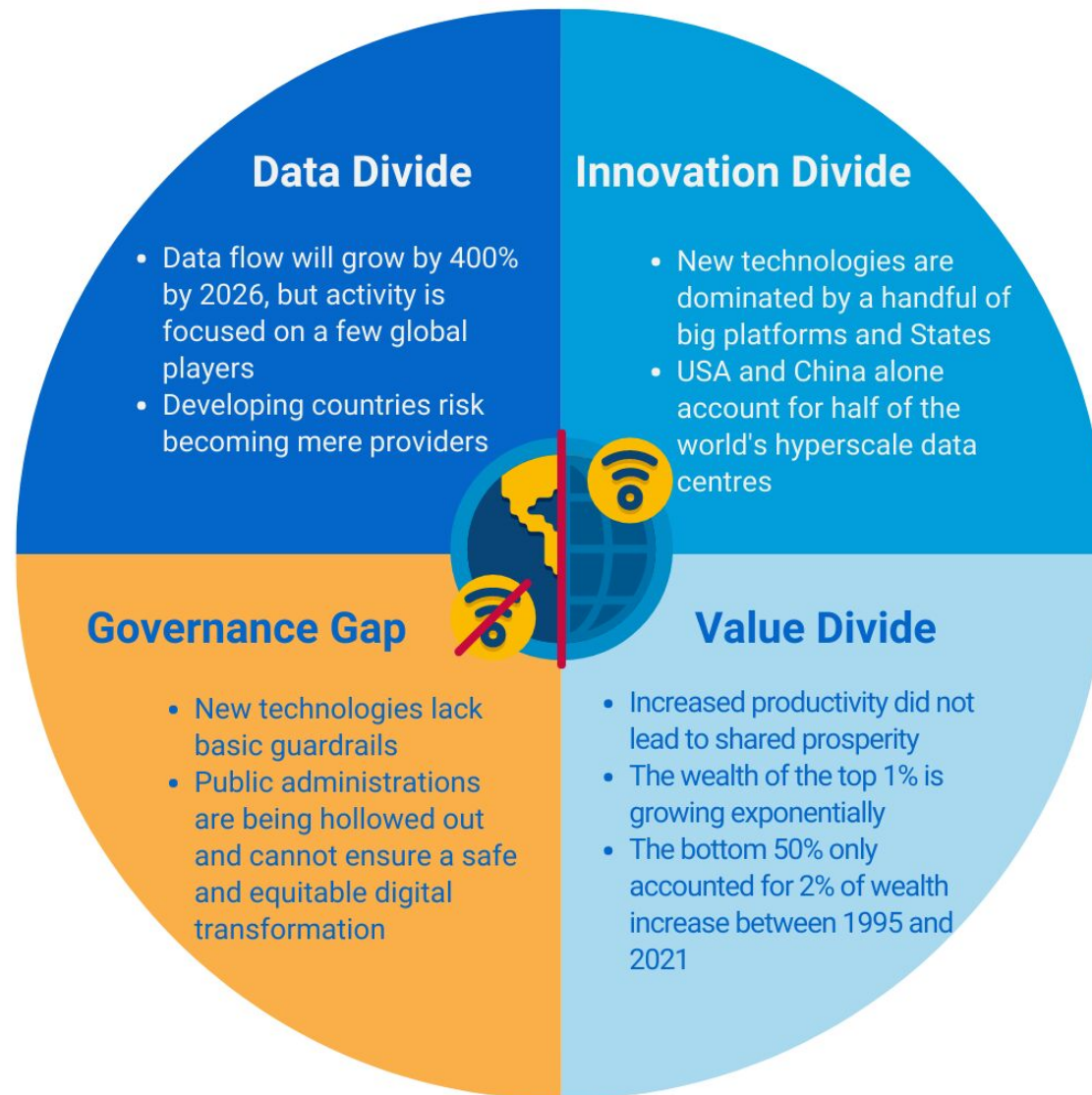MAY 2023

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GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT POLICY BRIEF

Released 25 May 2023

Stronger Global Digital Cooperation in 7 Steps

Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

Consultations for Global Digital Compact

Multilateral Negotiations of the Global Digital Compact

2019 Jun — **2020 Jun** — **2022 Feb** — **2022 - 2023** — **2023 May** — **2024 Sep** — **2023 Sep**

Report of the High-Level-Panel on Digital Cooperation

Secretary-General's Report: Our Common Agenda

Secretary-General's Policy Brief

Summit of the Future: Global Digital Compact

United Nations
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The Digital World

is one of Divides

Data Divide

- Data flow will grow by 400% by 2026, but activity is focused on a few global players
- Developing countries risk becoming mere providers

Innovation Divide

- New technologies are dominated by a handful of big platforms and States
- USA and China alone account for half of the world's hyperscale data centres

Governance Gap

- New technologies lack basic guardrails
- Public administrations are being hollowed out and cannot ensure a safe and equitable digital transformation

Value Divide

- Increased productivity did not lead to shared prosperity
- The wealth of the top 1% is growing exponentially
- The bottom 50% only accounted for 2% of wealth increase between 1995 and 2021

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A Global Digital Compact: Reaping Benefits and Mitigating Risks

Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

Human Rights Online

AI

- Close the digital divide and connect the remaining 2.7 billion unconnected people

- Strengthen the demand for digitalization through digital public goods and infrastructure

- Nurture innovation for development to unlock the potential of digital technologies

- Harness data at scale to inform policy, programmes and development outcomes

- Develop principles and Standards for Data Protection and Privacy

- Design Standards for Digital Infrastructure

- Sharpen accountability for harmful and malicious acts online

- Protect the Global Nature of the Internet
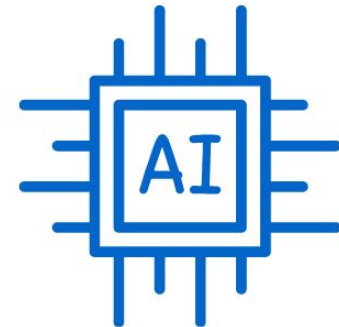
- Move beyond self-regulation towards multi-level governance frameworks

- Introduce effective and harmonized cross-border principles

- Convene stakeholders to align AI technology

- Incentivize digital investment toward solving global challenges

The UN Secretary-General's Objectives and Actions

Upholding Human Rights
Make sure that human rights are the foundation for an open, safe and secure digital future.

Digital Cooperation for the SDGs
Make targeted investments in digital public infrastructure and ensuring that digital tools are a force multiplier on the Goals.

Agile Governance of AI and other Emerging Technologies
Ensure the design and use of AI and other emerging technologies is transparent, reliable, safe and under accountable human control.

Global Digital Commons
Ensure digital cooperation is inclusive and enables all relevant stakeholders to contribute meaningfully according to their respective mandates.

Inclusive, Open, Secure and Shared Internet
Safeguard the free and shared nature of the Internet, and reinforce accountable multistakeholder governance.

Digital Trust and Security
Strengthen cooperation, develop robust criteria for digital platforms and build capacity to make the internet safe.

Digital Connectivity and Capacity Building
Empower people, through digital skills and capabilities, to participate fully in the digital economy

Data Protection and Empowerment
Ensure data is governed for the benefit of all, by making sure people have capacity and tools to meaningfully participate online.

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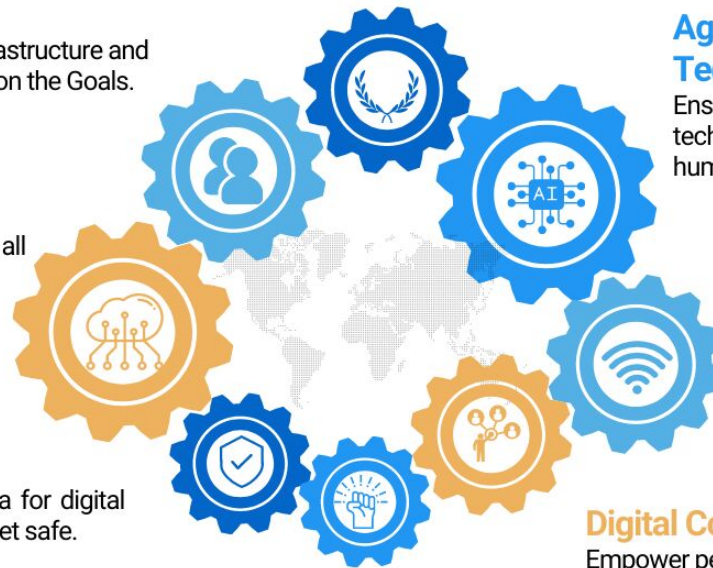
A New Paradigm: Governance Connectivity

A global approach is the only way that governance of digital technologies can help **close existing gaps** and prevent new ones from emerging.

Only by incrementally **aligning national, regional, and industry tech governance approaches** around common principles and goals we can deliver on the promise of an inclusive digital future for all.

ANNUAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIGITAL COOPERATION FORUM

HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY BODY FOR AI

DIGITAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY MECHANISM

Digital Cooperation Forum

Emerging from the GDC and convened by the UN Secretary-General

Facilitate

transparent dialogue between digital multi-stakeholder frameworks and reduce duplication.

Review

the implementation of the agreed Global Digital Compact's principles and commitments.

Promote

cross-border learning on digital governance and highlight policy priorities for decision-making.

Building a Common Framework for Artificial Intelligence

Design and Use of AI	Transparent, reliable, safe and under human control
Core of AI Governance	Transparency, fairness and accountability
Combining	International guidance and norms, national regulatory frameworks, technical standards, human values, and societal goals

Establish a High-level Advisory Body for AI

- Consider emerging regional, national and industry AI governance arrangements.
- Align regulatory standards with universal human rights and rule of law frameworks.
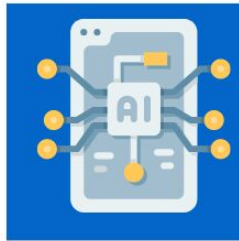
Develop Sector-based Guidelines

- Agree with industry associations for on guidance for the design, implementation, and audit of AI-derived tools.
- Support from relevant UN entities such as UNESCO (Recommendations on the Ethics of AI) and WHO (Ethics and Governance of AI for Health).

Build Regulatory Capacity in the Public Sector

- Build judicial capacity.
- Ensure AI regulations and public procurements advance inclusion, safety, security and address arising risks.

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