RIPE NCC South East European Roundtable Meeting for Governments and Regulators

Shaping the future of Internet governance at the European and Global Levels

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RIPE NCC Service Region

Exploring the evolution of the IGF and the Global Digital Compact - Timeline

- The World Summit on the Information Society **WSIS,** 2003-2005

- The Internet Governance Forum, 2006

- NetMundial, 2014

- WSIS +10 Review, 2015

- NetMundial +10, 2024

- WSIS High Level Forum, 2024

- Global Digital Compact, 2022 - 2024

- UN GA Summit of the Future, 2024

- Internet Governance Forum, 2024

- WSIS +20 Review, 2025

WSIS IG outcomes

- Geneva Declaration of Principles & Plan of Action 2003

- Tunis Agenda 2005

- Internet Governance Forum (IGF) established

- Para 36**. "We recognise** the valuable contribution by the **academic** and **technical communities** within those stakeholder groups mentioned in paragraph 35 to the evolution, functioning and development of the Internet."

    - https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html

Global Digital Compact Process

- UN General Secretary initiated in 2022 to achieve "an open, free, secure and human-centred digital future"

- Informal and written consultations with stakeholders on Zero Draft '22-'24

- High level principle and SDG goal orientated document Intergovernmental process

- Consensus document to be negotiated by Member States

- GDC will be in the annex of the Pact of the Future, UN GA in Sept 2024

- GDC Co-Facilitators meeting with stakeholders on 24 April

- GDC Zero Draft Readings On 2-3 May: Member states only

RIPE NCC engagement on GDC

- RIPE NCC Deep Dives Stakeholder Participation, 2023

- RIPE NCC GDC response, 2023

- RIPE NCC response to the outline of Zero Draft, 2024

- RIPE NCC submission to the EU process on GDC Zero Draft, 2024

- RIPE NCC GDC stakeholder consultations, 2024

GDC Zero Draft document structure

- Principles (10)

- Objectives (5)

- Commitments by 2030 - structured against Objectives

- Follow up and Review Mechanisms

    - https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact

GDC Zero Draft Principles (10)

- Inclusivity

- Development focused - leave none behind

- Human Rights based - based on international human rights law

- Gender equal

- Environmentally sustainable

- Accessible and interoperable (equitable access to data and digital technologies)

- Responsible and Accountable

- Innovation friendly

GDC Zero Draft Principles cont...

- Innovation friendly

- Multistakeholder: Governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community, academia and international and regional organisations have roles and responsibilities in advancing safe and secure digital future. Our cooperation will involve all stakeholders, according to their respective mandates, functions and competencies

- Forward looking

GDC Zero Draft 5 Objectives

- 1. Close the digital divide: (3) clusters: Connectivity, Digital literacy, Digital public goods and infrastructure

- 2. Expand opportunities for inclusion in digital economy (1) cluster: Access to digital technologies

- 3. Foster and inclusive, open safe and secure digital (4) clusters: Human rights, Internet Governance, Digital trust and safety, Information integrity

- 4. Advance equitable international data governance (4) clusters: Data privacy & security, Data exchanges & standards, Data for Development, Cross-border data flows

- 5. Govern emerging tech, including the AI, for humanity

GDC Zero Draft on Internet governance

- Para 24 - "Recognise that the Internet is a critical global resource for Equitable digital transformation.
In order to be accessible and interoperable to all, it must be stable and **unfragmented**."

- Para 25 - "We recognise and commit to uphold the role of the Internet Governance Forum and multistakeholder (MSM) cooperation in maintaining a universal, free and secure Internet at the governance, content and technical layers."

GDC Zero Draft on Internet governance

- Para 26

- a) Promote a universal, free and secure Internet and take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all.

- b) Support the IGF as a durable bottom-up MSM platform for discussion on PPI.

- c) Increase diverse participation in the IGF

- d) refrain from Internet shutdowns and ensure that any restrictions are in full compliance with international law, including with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination

GDC Zero Draft on Digital Trust & Safety - Para 27-20

- Para 28 - commitments by 2030 (a) - (f) to:

- a) promote a safe and trustworthy online space for all users

- b) prioritise the level and implementation of national online child safety policies and standards

- c) institutionalise regular collaboration between online safety institutions to protect privacy, freedom of expression and access to information (SDG 17)

- d) ensure laws and regulations on the use of technology, in areas such as surveillance and encryption, are consistent with international standards and norms on privacy, freedom of expression, due process and access confirmation and effective recourse (SGDs 10 &16)...

On GDC Follow up and Review

- Para 52 - 65

- Para 53 that calls for diverse stakeholder participation. GDC should strengthen the existing multistakeholder governance framework including technical community

- Para 56 recognises processes from WSIS and ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO agencies to support implementation

- Para 61 calls for formation of UN new office resources and staffing

- Para 63 calls for GDC portal within 12 months and member states to report

- Para 65 - convene a High Level Review every 2 years - starting 2025

RIPE NCC on GDC Negotiation process challenges

- GDC process and its outcomes should remain principle-based and oriented on the achievement of the SDGs, while the development and implementation of concrete actions should be defined and assessed through established fora and existing platforms, including the IGF at national, regional and global levels.

- Go beyond Geneva Principles and recognise the Technical community's contributions in ensuring the stability, neutrality, security, and functionality of the global Internet, as well as addressing emerging challenges.

- Ask to integrate technical community organisations in multilateral processes and establish a special advisory role for the technical community within the GDC framework.This role would recognize the indispensable expertise and neutrality of the technical community in Internet governance.

On GDC Challenges...

- Ambitious document

- Need for special emphasis on enhancing stakeholder cooperation, participation, and process transparency, particularly within certain multilateral fora - e.g. include the technical community into governance processes for its unique governance expertise and better cooperation. The WSIS +10 review had extensive stakeholder participation, fostering inclusivity, diversity and legitimacy;

- Additional coordination at the UN Gen Sec office level, particularly in relation to the roles already played by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and relevant UN agencies in this area.

- Creates duplicative and parallel process within the UN and UN agencies?

RIPE NCC responses to IG processes

1. WSIS CSTD WSIS +20 Review Consultation, Feb 2024

2. IGF consultation - The Internet we want, Mar 2024

3. GDC Zero Draft Outline Consultation UN Co-Facs, Mar 2024

4. GDC Zero Draft Consultation with EU stakeholders, Apr 2024

   - https://www.ripe.net/membership/internet-governance/multi-stakeholder-engagement/ripe-ncc-contributions-to-external-consultations/

RIPE NCC Commitments to GDC

1. RIPE NCC Committed to enhancing the ongoing dialogue and collaboration with governments and UN agencies within existing fora.

2. Pledged to:

- offer technical and operational expertise, guidance, and capacity- building initiatives to tackle forthcoming challenges in digital transformation in our efforts to close the digital divide, the collaboration between the technical community and governments, especially those from developing nations, is paramount. This partnership fosters capacity-building initiatives and facilitates the expansion of connectivity, ensuring equitable access to digital resources for all.

- cultivate stronger partnerships with both governmental and relevant stakeholders, with the aim of driving innovation and steering the development of the Internet infrastructure - in alignment with the objectives delineated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9, which focuses on strengthening industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

Discussion

- Q&A