
76th Session of the General Assembly

Informal thematic consultation as a follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda"

Frameworks for a peaceful world – promoting peace, international law and digital cooperation

New York, 21 February 2022

JOINT STATEMENT relating to the Global Digital Compact

Mr Vice-President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, The European Union and my own country Switzerland.

We wish to welcome the Secretary General's proposal - put forward in his report "Our Common Agenda" - to agree on a Global Digital Compact that outlines principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all by 2023.

Rapid technological change and digitalization continue to reshape our world, present unprecedented opportunities, while widening digital divides. A global compact to provide principles and improve cooperation for these challenging and dynamic developments is most timely. We echo the need to reach global connectivity by 2030.

We believe that the United Nations provide the appropriate forum for the elaboration of such a compact. An inclusive process should bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and all other actors in a multi-stakeholder approach. The Compact should build on the ongoing work to implement the Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and avoid duplicating or infringing on existing UN processes.

To inform the content of such a Global Digital Compact, we encourage the Secretary General to initiate, as a first step, an informal, open and inclusive process to invite views and inputs from all actors. For this, we call on the Secretary General to make the fullest use of existing fora, in particular the Internet Governance Forum, as well as other relevant processes and initiatives, such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, including related multi-stakeholder roundtables.

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True inclusivity and transparent dialogue will allow for the consideration of the broadest range of perspectives and foster ownership among stakeholders, thereby building a solid, sustainable and balanced basis for further deliberation on the matter.

In this context, we support the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology in coordinating and advancing these efforts and look forward to a speedy appointment of the Envoy.

You can count on our continued support. I thank you.