

Global Digital Compact

Internet Society's Contribution to the First Revision Of the Zero Draft

May 2024



The Internet Society welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation and would like to express our gratitude to the co-facilitators for circulating the first revision of the zero draft.

The Internet Society's work aligns with our goals for the Internet to be open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy; and we seek collaboration with all who share these goals.

With reference to the first revision of the zero draft, we would like to share the following observations:

- Firstly, additional language is needed to recognize the positive role that complementary access solutions play in bridging the digital divide. There's still an opportunity to recognize the policy, regulatory, and community-based best practices that have enabled such an environment. Numerous examples can be extracted from the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)'s intersessional activities.
- Secondly, we are concerned about the narrow approach proposed for the IGF in relation to the GDC's implementation and follow-up. While we acknowledge the inclusion of language referring to the IGF as a relevant space, the current text falls short by limiting the IGF's role.
- The text misses an invaluable opportunity to build on the existing activities of the IGF to avoid duplicating efforts, as recognized in the Netmundial+10 multistakeholder statement. We believe additional debate is needed on how the IGF may evolve to implement this approach fully, and we recognize that most of that conversation must occur in the context of the WSIS+20 review.
- We recognize the references to the WSIS Forum as a multistakeholder venue to accelerate progress across all SDGs, especially considering the collaborative opportunities.
- Lastly, we are pleased to see:
 - the inclusion of interoperability as a principle,
 - the references to a global, open, and interoperable Internet,
 - language retained regarding the need to avoid Internet fragmentation, and
 - views of the Internet as a force for good in society.

Given the GDC process's high relevance for the future of the Internet and its governance, we insist on our call to allow stakeholders to offer their views as a part of additional consultation rounds.



In particular, we reaffirm the willingness of the technical community to provide valuable insights that help inform the debates by building on their knowledge of the Internet as a complex global interaction of technology, standards, and policies.