



ORAL STATEMENT

UN Global Digital Compact Informal Consultations with Member States and Stakeholders on Zero Draft

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- The Global Network Initiative, GNI, appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the GDC zero draft and thanks the co-facilitators for their efforts in drafting a strong, forward-looking, action-oriented compact.
- In particular, we appreciate the recognition that human rights should apply throughout the GDC and all technology governance frameworks, as well as its complementarity with development objectives.
- GNI also appreciates the draft's explicit call on states to "*Refrain from Internet shutdowns and ensure that any restrictions are in full compliance with ... the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination.*"
- While the draft represents a positive starting point, some areas could be strengthened:
- First, while we appreciate and support the multiple references to multistakeholderism throughout the draft, it is critical that this term is used in a way that recognizes its understood and applied meaning. In several places the draft refers to *multistakeholder cooperation*, which is a phrase that is not defined or generally understood. We recommend that the draft refer instead to "multistakeholder governance," which clearly alludes to the importance of broad engagement in both creating formal processes and rules, as well as making and implementing decisions.
 - In this regard, we also take note of and look forward to the upcoming NETmundial+10 event, which aims to produce an outcome document that endorses and builds on the 2014 NETmundial principles for internet governance.
- Second, echoing comments from others, the Compact should make clear that existing forums such as the IGF and its NRIs, the WSIS action lines and forum are appropriate existing mechanisms that can and should be used for implementation and follow-up, and resist creating new initiatives or processes.
 - In addition, references to follow-up and review should be centered on the concept of "accountability," which is not currently mentioned in this section.
- Finally, GNI appreciates the draft's recognition of the importance of cross-border data flows and the commitment to the concept of free flow of data with trust. To complement this, it is essential to recognize the importance of maintaining a single global Internet based on shared technical standards and protocols. As such, we recommend that



throughout the document the language used to modify the term “Internet” should include the terms “global” and “interoperable” in addition to “open” and “secure.”

- In closing, we would like to underscore that collaboration has been and continues to be core to the successful development and expansion of the Internet as a shared, open, interoperable, global resource. The GDC must ensure that whatever processes are implemented to carry forward work by the UN and its specialized agencies on critical digital issues acknowledge and build on the work that has already been done and is being done not only under the WSIS process, but also the IGF.