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**Our Common Agenda
Discussion Series**

**Meeting 3 Summary - Humanity, Technology, and the Global Digital Compact
21 July 2022**

Welcome and Opening Remarks - Muznah Siddiqui, Stimson Center
- The Global Digital Compact is an opportunity for the UN to introduce a multistakeholder process around the accessibility and regulation of digital technologies to extend connectivity, provide accurate information, and manage data protection.
- Thematic consultations convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly highlighted that there is consensus among Member States and Civil Society surrounding the need for a Digital Compact.
- Which principles, whose rights, and whose vision should inform the Compact and how are such principles present in ideation, innovation, and development?
- Should ensure the Compact is not a static set of guidelines, is flexible, leaves no one behind, is cross cutting, holistic, builds bridges, and creates space for dialogue amongst the global community.

Lead-Off Speakers

- Digital connectivity should be at the heart of the Compact; address issues re digital inclusion, data protection, human rights, gender equality, misinformation, AI, digital public goods.
- Governments alone cannot address such issues effectively; we need major tech companies, academic institutions, and other NGOs at the table; partnerships need to be built.
- Challenge: understanding the current state of play of technologies and developing a universal code of conduct since technological development moves far more rapidly than policy.
- The tech field provides an opportunity to break down traditional silos in the UN and to function in a more coordinated fashion e.g. through technological networking.
- Consultation around the Compact needs to start with data and evidence based conversations.
- Need to build on work done by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology.
- At a minimum we need to connect the entire global population by 2030. Where there is no access, the benefits cannot be harnessed.
- The Compact is an opportunity to assist in achieving the SDGs. Technology is at the heart of education, health, and agriculture; this will be a priority of the new Envoy on Technology.
- It will be the task of Member States to decide on the contours of the process, the Secretariat is creating space for open consultation including through a platform on its website.
- Models at the heart of business and tech companies, often based on profit motive, also inform development of algorithms. How can fundamental issues underlying these models and their impacts be considered?
- The digital world is essential to the 3 UN pillars of human rights, peace and security, and economic development and the SDGs. The digital divide is increasingly one of the most significant drivers of inequality and conflict in the world.

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COMMON HOME OF HUMANITY | Global Call to Action Against Poverty People Rising To End Inequalities | gnwp Global Network of Women Peacebuilders | GPPAC A Network of People Building Peace | DEMOCRACY WITHOUT BORDERS | NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-NY | Cepei Knowledge from the Global South

- "The saddest aspect of life right now is that science acquires knowledge faster than society acquires wisdom." - Isaac Asimov. How can rapid advances in tech be linked to wisdom?
- Internet shutdowns prevent people from exercising rights to expression and can provide a cover for governments to violate human rights.
- There is no internationally recognized definition of hate speech, disinformation, and freedom of information in human rights law. Need clearer consensus around these terms.
- Huge divide between language of technologists and language of human rights diplomacy.
- How can community standards and commitment to human rights be situated in tech companies' work?
- Importance of due diligence and disclosure; companies must know and show human rights and demonstrate that through transparency.
- We need to do a better job in ensuring that the vision of the people who are most affected by our decisions, for whom the online world is a lifeline, is reflected in the Compact.

Points from Plenary Discussion
- There is a link between access to digital technologies and participation in civic life.
- Need to experience human rights as much online as offline.
- Need a specific strategy for Civil Society participation in digital policymaking.
- Policing by big tech companies is not enough, although they should be encouraged to submit human rights reports, which is an important first step.
- Proposal for a global charter of digital rights as a starting point so that all can enjoy the same level of access and digital rights; governments can ensure its implementation at the national level.
- Social media platforms are being used to exploit women and children. How to ensure that the Compact will be gender sensitive? Is the UN Office on Drugs and Crime involved in this process?
- To what extent will the Compact be connected to the Future Generations Declaration and the Summit of the Future?
- How to avoid proliferation of processes; how to mainstream issues around the Compact through existing human rights bodies? How to build on functioning multi stakeholder approaches?
- How to ensure we benefit from the wisdom found in including a diversity of perspectives?
- While there is importance in setting high standards, how to hold governments accountable, particularly those that do curtail human rights?
- Need to extend the conversation beyond traditional digital technologies such as social media and messaging platforms to new and evolving technologies including the metaverse and NFTs.