



Note by the secretariat

Statement by co-facilitator of Global Digital Compact, Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative and Ambassador at the Swedish Mission to the United Nations, New York

Purpose

To inform the Group about the intervention made by co-facilitator of Global Digital Compact, H.E. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to UN during the 40th CWG-WSIS&SDG.

Action required

This document is transmitted to the Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDG **for information.**

References

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

COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON WSIS & SDG, February 1 2024

Statement by

**Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström,
Permanent Representative and Ambassador at the Swedish Mission
to the United Nations, New York**

- Thank you for inviting us as co-facilitators for a Global Digital Compact to this timely meeting. We appreciate the opportunity to interact with the Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG, also now with Zambia in this setting.
- A Global Digital Compact is the opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to shape a **shared vision of digital cooperation** as envisioned in the SG's "Our Common Agenda" ahead of the Future Summit and ensure that it serves the SDGs.
- As you are all aware, we've had a **multi-stakeholder preparatory process in the form of deep-dives in the spring of 2023** in which we explored possible areas to be part of a compact. In this process, we've also had close interactions with the WSIS community.
- The consultations reinforced objectives and actions to collectively harness the benefits and manage the risks of digital technologies for all. Among others the important roles of **IGF, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, WSIS** were emphasized. It was also highlighted that a GDC should not duplicate existing forums and processes.
- Our assessment of initiatives so far can be found in the **Issues paper** circulated during this year's High Level week.

- We would now like to **build momentum**. A genuine global conversation is underway, and it is essential that Member States and stakeholders continue to play a role in these discussions.
- In preparation for the **intergovernmental negotiations on the Compact**, we plan to convene **informal consultations** with Member States and stakeholders, respectively, in **February and March**. **Guiding questions will be distributed before** the first consultations. Based on these consultations we will take into account views expressed and invite Member States and stakeholders to submit written input on our **suggested framework for a Global Digital Compact**. This will inform our preparation of the zero draft of the Global Digital Compact.
- Sweden and Zambia are appointed as co facilitators for an **intergovernmental process**. As you have much experience in, multistakeholders play a key role in digital cooperation, in line with the Tunis agenda. Member States are therefore encouraged to listen to multistakeholder representatives and vice versa during the consultative phase, while the negotiation will be conducted with Member States. We will however explore ways to keep stakeholders engaged throughout the process.
- We have a **big task at hand** and there will be challenges. But we also see many areas where there is **convergence**. We hope to be able to navigate the obstacles and reach an agreement that promotes development and equality through agreed principles and objectives to collectively harness the benefits and manage the risks of digital technologies, including the rapid development of artificial intelligence.

- In this process, we want and need to build on achievements already made and leverage existing platforms.
 - We are therefore keen to hear your view of **the best possible outcome for a GDC, and how you see WSIS+20 aligning with the Compact**. In this regard, we look forward to facilitating an open, transparent and inclusive process. We encourage your active engagement throughout the process.
- Thank you.