WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact:
what, why, when, where, how?

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The WSIS+20 review and the Global Digital Compact





What was WSIS



Two phases:

- Geneva 2003 – Declaration of Principles and Action Plan
- Tunis 2005 – Tunis Agenda (financial and internet issues)

Core principle:

- ‘a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society’

Outcomes include:

- Institutional framework (action plan, WSIS Forum, IGF
- approaches to international discussion (including multistakeholder participation)
- ten- (and now twenty-) year review

A second inflection point?



- The information/digital society has moved from aspiration to observable reality



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- The information/digital society has moved from aspiration to observable reality
- The emergence of AI and other frontier technologies



A second inflection point?



- The information/digital society has moved from aspiration to observable reality
- The emergence of AI and other frontier technologies
- The centrality of digitalisation to broader international goals
  - The geopolitical context for international cooperation
  - The Summit of the Future and the GDC



Thinking about the review



Three phases:

- How far have we come?
- Where are we today?
- Where do we want to be in future?

Three goals:

- To preserve what we value
- To promote what we want
- To prevent what we fear

Six themes

Inclusion

Environment

Integration

Governance

Standards

Multistakeholder processes

The Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact



"a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments including to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives."



"expected to outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all."

The Global Digital Compact zero draft

The zero draft is available at https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Global_Digital_Compact_Zero_Draft.pdf

Principles:

- inclusive
- development-focused
- human rights
- gender equal
- environmentally sustainable
- accessible and interoperable
- responsible and accountable
- innovation-friendly
- multistakeholder
- forward-looking

Objectives

1. Closing the digital divides and accelerating progress across the SDGs
2. Expanding inclusion in the digital economy
3. Fostering an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space
4. Advancing equitable international data governance
5. Governing emerging technologies, including AI, for humanity