Output document from the Parliamentary Track

19th UN Internet Governance Forum

18 December 2024

We, parliamentarians taking part in the Parliamentary Track at the 19th UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF), with the theme *Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future*,

Coming together with the shared ambition to strengthen digital cooperation nationally, regionally and internationally,

Welcoming the Global Digital Compact, adopted in September 2024, as a landmark achievement in the area of digital policy,

Sharing the goal set out in the Compact of "an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all",

Acknowledging the numerous challenges to the realization of this goal, including but not limited to the digital divide that persists between and within countries, the ever-changing geopolitical environment, ongoing gender inequalities, disparities and gaps in society, and inequalities in labour markets, as well as the need to combat disinformation, to enhance cybersecurity, to promote effective data governance, to ensure sustainability and to avoid a situation whereby digital technologies further contribute to the climate emergency,

Underscoring the critical role of parliaments in protecting our societies and the rights and freedoms of our citizens,

Acknowledging that the fast pace of technological development presents particular challenges to the development of supportive legislation on digital policy,

Recognizing that it is now the responsibility of all stakeholders, including parliaments, to turn the objectives, principles and commitments set out in the Global Digital Compact into practical actions,

Committed to playing our part in this process, as political leaders, through the parliamentary functions of legislation, oversight and budget allocation,

Observing that artificial intelligence is too important not to regulate, but also that it is too important not to regulate well,

Encouraged by the willingness to work closely with parliaments demonstrated by stakeholders at IGF 2024, including civil society, academia, the technical community, the private sector and UN system organizations,

Further encouraged by the numerous recent examples of inter-parliamentary cooperation, including the growth in parliamentary involvement in regional, subregional and national IGF events, and the adoption, by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), of the *Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology* and the resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*,

Determined to further strengthen the momentum that has been built since the first Parliamentary Track at IGF 2019,

Guided by the goal of helping to build our multi-stakeholder digital future,

1. *Call upon* parliaments to advance digital cooperation by:
    a. participating actively in ongoing discussions on the governance of digital cooperation, including at the 20th IGF, to be held in Norway in June 2025, and at the AI for Good Global Summit and the WSIS+20 review meeting, both to be held in July 2025;
    b. working with the executive branch of their national government or region to push for consensus among UN Member States on an international governance framework for artificial intelligence;
    c. exchanging information about national initiatives to review and update legislative frameworks regarding artificial intelligence;
    d. working on a minimum code of ethics for new technologies, based on a human rights approach, that can be used and implemented by all countries;
    e. supporting the IGF as a key venue for multi-stakeholder dialogue on digital policy, and advocating for additional resources for the pursuit of its mission;

2. *Invite* parliaments to work together, regionally and subregionally, in order to:
    a. develop a shared vision of their common priorities on digital policy in their region, for example by selecting the recommendations from the Global Digital Compact that are most relevant to their context;
    b. take action to advance these priorities within the relevant bodies and to bridge the gaps that persist between and within countries;
    c. explore opportunities for developing common regulatory frameworks and interoperable legislation that works across national borders;
    d. share strategies, and develop guidelines and good practices, on legislating the digital agenda;

3. *Call upon* parliaments to continue to strengthen parliamentary processes, and to:
    a. hold the executive to account for action towards the five pillars set out in the Global Digital Compact, including by holding committee hearings, asking questions of ministers and organizing plenary debates in parliament;
    b. increase investment in building their own digital competencies, based on the needs of each parliament, including building the capacity of parliamentarians, the parliamentary administration, and the institution of parliament as a whole;
    c. demonstrate commitment to multi-stakeholder approaches in parliamentary processes, including by ensuring that the perspectives of civil society, academia, the technical community and the private sector are taken into account in legislative initiatives;
    d. emphasize efforts to address online gender-based discrimination and violence, and to empower women's participation in the tech industry;
    e. create substantive opportunities for youth participation in lawmaking and decision-making processes, and take steps to facilitate youth engagement, including compensation for time invested in youth advisory councils and similar initiatives;
    f. explore agile approaches to lawmaking that are suited to rapidly changing technology environments;
    g. establish systems for the anticipatory governance of future technology shifts, and of emerging technologies such as quantum computing and neurocomputing;

4. *Call upon* the IGF to:
   a. compile information on the numerous forms of capacity-building support that have been referenced at IGF 2024, and to share this information with parliaments;
   b. make the expertise that exists within the IGF community available to parliaments upon request;
   c. further integrate a Parliamentary Track into regional and national IGF events;

5. *Invite* all UN system organizations working on digital policy to:
   a. increase investment in building capacity and digital competencies among parliaments;
   b. raise awareness among parliaments about key international processes and forums for digital cooperation, including the Global Digital Compact, the WSIS+20 process and the IGF;
   c. report regularly on progress against the commitments made through these processes and in these forums;
   d. engage systematically with parliaments, as well as with governments and other stakeholders, in their international, regional and national activities relating to digital policy;

6. *Call upon* the IPU to:
   a. work closely with the IGF, UN system organizations and other stakeholders to develop guidelines for building capacity and digital competencies for parliaments and parliamentarians;
   b. report, to the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2025, on parliamentary action in follow-up to the IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, adopted in October 2024, and to the *Guidelines for AI in parliaments*, published in December 2024;
   c. convey the outcomes of the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2024 and 2025 to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 29 to 31 July 2025;

7. *Invite* national parliaments, UN system organizations and all other stakeholders to report, to the IGF and the IPU, on progress and obstacles on the matters set out above;

8. *Request* that the IGF and the IPU compile a report on such progress and obstacles, and present this report at the 20th IGF, to be held in Norway in June 2025.