

## Closed Informal Consultations on Chapter 3: Science, Technology and Innovation; Digital Cooperation – Conference Room 2, 11 December 2023

**ABOUT:** The co-facilitators of the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future (SOTF), Germany and Namibia, convened closed informal consultations on Chapter 3 of the Pact for the Future on 11 December 2023. The co-facilitators of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), Sweden and Zambia, were also present in this meeting. The objective of this meeting was “to hear directly from Member States on the substantive issues that they would like to see reflected in the zero draft of the Pact for the Future on a chapter-by-chapter basis”.

NOTE: Since the 11 December consultation was closed to civil society and not broadcast on UN Web TV, this bulletin relied on secondary accounts from representatives present in the room and statements made available online.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On Chapter 3, most, if not all, states, impressed on the importance of linking Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to the 2030 Agenda and utilizing its potential as an accelerator. Many developing states called for the Pact and the GDC to draw reference to technology transfer and capacity building as a means to close the tech and digital divide, as well as expanding digital connectivity. Developing nations should be part of the governance process with respect to emerging technology, such as AI, to ensure inclusive development and that no one is left behind. Numerous references were made to human rights approaches and women and girls, ensuring that they were factored in the design phase of new tech, but also ensuring that they had access to education to ensure digital literacy, increasing their presence in STEM education, as well as increasing digital access more broadly as well as present in decision-making processes on STI-related matters. Canada and Egypt had a rare interactive exchange on the issue of technology transfer and closing digital divides with Canada emphasizing the importance of human rights and gender equality and Egypt expressing concern that this created “a flavor” of conditionality.

### HEADLINES:

- ✚ “No hierarchy may be established between the Pact (for the Future) and the (Global Digital) Compact”.
- ✚ We need to take a people- and development-centered approach.
- ✚ Human rights are equally valid online as they are offline.
- ✚ No one should be left behind and no one should be left offline.
- ✚ “We would like to emphasize that the text included in Rev. 3 of the draft decision on the scope [and elements of the Pact], does not constitute a good basis for the zero draft in regard to Chapter 3. As we have indicated in the letter we sent to the co-facilitators on 17 August, the excessive and negative caveating of technology transfer language in a manner that goes beyond the 2030 Agenda is unacceptable” – G77 and China.
- ✚ “It should also recognize that intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation in a way that favors social and economic welfare taking into account national laws, and should call for applying the flexibilities enshrined in relevant international legal obligations ... as well as the consideration of more potential flexibilities to developing countries to assist them in attaining global environmental objectives” – G77 and China.
- ✚ “The EU strongly supports the Internet Governance Forum as the premier independent forum for multistakeholder input for internet governance”.

### RESOURCES:

1. [Letter from the co-facilitators on the Preparatory Process for the SOTF](#) – 19 October 2023
2. [Letter with the draft decision on scope of the SOTF \(rev. 3\)](#) – 30 August 2023
3. [Statement of G77 and China](#)
4. [Statement of the European Union](#)