



# SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

**BULLETIN NO. 46:**

**Pact for the Future**

**Chapter 3 Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation**

**Comparison between Rev-1 and Rev-2**



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# Pact for the Future: Chapter 3 on Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation

## Comparison between Rev-1 and Rev-2

**ABOUT:** The [Zero Draft](#) of the Pact for the Future was released on January 26th, 2024, to initiate formal negotiations ahead of the Summit of the Future (SOTF) in September 2024. A chapter-by-chapter first reading in early February led to a compilation text, followed by a paragraph-by-paragraph second reading from late February to April. A revised [compilation text](#) was circulated on April 3rd, 2024 (refer [here](#) for the ICH bulletin #28 on the first and second readings). In line with the Membership's directive to make the Pact for the Future more concise and action-focused, [Rev-1](#) was released on May 14th, 2024 (refer [here](#) for the ICH bulletin #35 comparing the Zero Draft and Rev-1). This was followed by the second revision, [Rev-2](#), on July 17th, 2024. This bulletin will focus on Chapter 3: Science, Technology, and Innovation and Digital Cooperation, comparing Rev-1 and Rev-2 in light of the compilation text to provide detailed insights.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The recent revisions (Rev-2) introduce several significant updates that broaden and refine the approach to science, technology, and innovation (STI). The revised version emphasizes the importance of international cooperation, shifting focus from immediate actions to **collaborative efforts** to maximize STI benefits. It expands the scope to address disparities both **within and between** developed and developing countries, including broader targets such as **hunger, food security, education, and social protection**. Gender equality receives increased attention, with Rev-2 addressing gender divides, including the gender digital divide, signaling a deeper commitment to tackling gender-based disparities in STI. The language has been updated to specify "**meaningful access**" to critical technologies, reflecting a commitment to ensure that all people benefit from technological advancements. Stakeholder engagement is broadened to include **technical, academic, and civil society groups**, promoting a more inclusive approach. The role of digital and emerging technologies, including AI, is highlighted as crucial for sustainable development. The language has been simplified to emphasize innovation, access, and trust, and now broadly calls for **increased capacity-building** in STI by developed and **capable developing countries** for the benefit of developing countries, without specifying the types of support. Rev-2 places a greater emphasis on human rights than Rev-1. It strengthens human rights language and extends protections to include indigenous and local communities, as well as **traditional afro-descendant populations**, thereby enhancing the inclusivity of the framework. It also specifies comprehensive financing for research and infrastructure and shifts focus to directly supporting national governments. These changes reflect a commitment to a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approach to STI.

**DISCLAIMER:** This bulletin aims to provide recent updates and is not a complete summary or official record of the SOTF proceedings. It has been prepared independently and does not necessarily represent the viewpoints of any collaborating organizations. For further details, please reach out to Fergus Watt at [ferguswatt6@gmail.com](mailto:ferguswatt6@gmail.com). The content is freely distributed as it is not copyrighted.

## HEADLINES:

- **International Cooperation Emphasized:** Rev-2 stresses international cooperation as essential for maximizing STI benefits, shifting focus from immediate action to collaborative efforts.
- **Broadened Scope on Disparities:** The update includes "within and between developed and developing countries," highlighting the need to address both inter-country and intra-country disparities.
- **Enhanced Access Language:** Rev-2 specifies "meaningful access" to critical life-changing technologies, replacing the broader term used in Rev-1.
- **Expanded Stakeholder Engagement:** Rev-2 expands the list of stakeholders to include technical, academic communities, and civil society, indicating a more inclusive approach.
- **Digital and Emerging Technologies:** Rev-2 emphasizes the role of digital and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in enabling sustainable development.
- **Emphasis on Present and Future Benefits:** Rev-2 shifts from focusing solely on future progress to addressing benefits for both today and the future, including a commitment to a "sustainable digital future."
- **Introductory Language Change:** The introductory phrase shifts from "We agree to" to "We decide to," indicating a stronger commitment.
- **Expanded Scope in Collaboration:** Rev-2 replaces "multidisciplinary" with "multi- and transdisciplinary" collaboration, broadening the approach to include various fields.
- **Enhanced Talent Mobility Strategy:** Adds "including through educational programs" and revises language to support both educational and working conditions for talent retention.
- **Specific Reference to Hunger and Inequalities:** Rev-2 explicitly includes addressing "hunger" and "reducing inequalities" as key targets. It changes "food and nutrition" to "food security and nutrition," providing a more specific focus on food security. Additionally, it expands the range of sectors addressed by adding "education" and "social protection" as new areas of focus.
- **Expanded Financing Scope:** Rev-2 specifies financing from all sources for scientific research and infrastructure, with a focus on increasing research cooperation, especially in developing countries.
- **Strengthened Intellectual Property Rights:** Shifts focus from "applying flexibilities" to upholding intellectual property rights to support sustainable development in developing countries.
- **Stronger Human Rights Commitment** Rev-2 introduces stronger language on human rights, replacing "threaten human rights" with "adversely impact human rights," and emphasizing a commitment to fully respect them. The revised version broadens the approach from merely "upholding human rights" to actively "promoting, protecting, and fulfilling all human rights," including the "right to development." This reflects a more comprehensive and proactive stance on human rights issues.
- **Enhanced Gender Focus:** Highlights the impact of STI on gender equality, addresses the "gender digital divide," and expresses concern about gender inequalities, expanding beyond previous focus on risks to women and girls.
- **Scope Expansion:** Rev-2 emphasizes "full" access to employment and research opportunities, adding "mathematics and engineering" alongside science and technology, and introduces new risks such as trafficking in persons and all forms of gender-based violence.
- **Broader Protection:** Rev-2 includes terms like 'protect,' 'indigenous,' and 'local communities and traditional afro-descendant populations,' expanding the scope of protection but omitting the term 'knowledge.'
- **Enhanced Focus:** The scope is broadened with terms like "systems" and "practices," and the clause on identifying and mitigating risks from Rev-1 is removed.
- **Revised UN Role:** Rev-2 uses "important role" instead of "critical role" for the UN's involvement in STI, reflecting a slightly less emphasized stance. It also uses more neutral language, replacing "welcomes" with "takes note of" the establishment of the UN's Scientific Advisory Board.

- **Support for Governments:** Rev-2 shifts focus to directly supporting national governments rather than just strengthening UN Country Teams' capacities.

### METHODOLOGY:

This bulletin will focus on Chapter 3, comparing Rev-1 and Rev-2 in light of the compilation text. It will identify key terminology and language changes that were removed, modified, maintained, or added in Rev-2. The table will have four columns: the first column will display the original Zero Draft content, the second will show Rev-1 content, the third will present Rev-2 content, and the fourth will contain the author's observations on content changes between Rev-1 and Rev-2. Additionally, in the 'Author's Observations' column, it explains the content's journey from Rev-1 to Rev-2, detailing whether content was maintained, modified, removed, or added. New or revised content in Rev-2 is highlighted in **Yellow**, while content removed is marked in **Red** for reference.

### RESOURCES:

1. [Rev-2 of the Pact of the Future](#)
2. [Rev-1 of the Pact of the Future](#)
3. [Compilation text \(as of 3 April 2024\)](#)
4. [Zero draft of the Pact for the Future](#)