

Afnic Response to the Second Consultation on Possible elements of a Global Digital Compact, 2024



Afnic Response GDC Second
Round Consultations

08 March 2024



Overview and Context

Since the release of the report *Our Common Agenda* and the proposition of a Global Digital Compact (GDC) to be agreed at the summit of the future foreseen in September 2024, AFNIC, Association française pour le nommage Internet en coopération, is engaged in the consultation process. Following a consultation phase in 2023, the co-facilitators of the Global digital compact in a letter dated 15 December 2023 invited stakeholders to contribute to the process and outlined the roadmap for informal consultations on the GDC and subsequent intergovernmental negotiations.

As we draw near the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and only a few months away the summit for the future, it is important to engage in a collaborative effort to harness the opportunities of an inclusive digital society and negotiate essential updates to the WSIS.

Based on the previous discussion and reference to the co-facilitator letter dated 23 February 2024 sharing structural elements for a Global Digital Compact, AFNIC is publishing its response to the consultation.

Consultation

1.1. On key priorities,

Afnic agrees that key priorities for a Global Digital Compact are captured in the structural elements circulated by the co-facilitators in the letter referenced and is looking forward to engaging further discussion on the compact.

1.2. On Section 2 “Principles”

Reference to the WSIS outcome documents could be inserted to clarify the relationships between the GDC and the WSIS framework and **avoid duplication and repetition**. To this effect, we should **recall and reaffirm WSIS outcomes and insist on the need of multi-stakeholder cooperation to work on essential updates**.

Key digital cooperation principles should be clearly differentiated from thematic issues and goals. To that extent, multi-stakeholder cooperation¹ mentioned under point 10 and the need for the diversity of stakeholders to share responsibilities in internet governance could be emphasised.

1.3. On Section 3 “Commitments”

Afnic noted areas of potential commitments and is waiting for the zero draft to further comment.

1.4. On Section 4 “Follow-up”

Context: the co-facilitators mention that the follow up and review, as identified during the informal consultations could:

- Monitor implementation and review progress against commitments.
- Advance knowledge-sharing, best practices and access.
- Promote coherence and coordination among stakeholders.
- Foster partnerships, including south-south, triangular and public-private partnerships.

¹ Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, IGO, as well as the Technical Community and Academia.

- Be inclusive and transparent.
- Build on existing mechanisms and avoid duplication.

For Afnic: building on the WSIS architecture² is essential to ensure **consistency and coherence**, and draw from the strengths of the internet governance ecosystem, as well as reinforce digital cooperation. Identify gaps and weaknesses and **leveraging existing processes** and fora would also strengthen the review and follow-up of the compact.

The Internet Governance Forum, including the network of National and Regional Internet Governance Forums (NRIs), **could play a significant role in implementing the compact** and building toward WSIS+20 and beyond 2030.

As a final note, we thank the co-facilitators for sharing the possible elements of a Global Digital Compact and consulting the multi-stakeholder internet community. **Afnic is looking forward to further engage on these key issues.**

Follow-up and next steps

AFNIC will continue to actively engage on the Global Digital Compact and on the 20-years review of the WSIS, at the national level in France and at the international level.

AFNIC is involved in global internet governance in particular by contributing to the development of future standards and services and by playing a role in coordinating and representing the various French stakeholders within international bodies.

As part of its mandate, AFNIC is convening a concertation committee on 14 march 2024 which includes WSIS+20 and GDC discussion as an item on the agenda.

² Including all stakeholders and the UN community.