

Global Digital Compact

Data Deep Dive

Organized in partnership with the co-facilitators of the Global Digital Compact, H.E. Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström and H.E. Ambassador Chola Milambo

Addis Ababa, 8 May 2024 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Conference Room 3, UNECA Conference Center

Two seismic shifts will shape the twenty-first century: the climate crisis and digital transformation. The United Nations has responded by proposing the development of a Global Digital Compact (GDC), which will outline shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future. The African Union is simultaneously developing a regional response, the African Digital Compact.

These Compacts are an opportunity to reflect on the efficacy of existing approaches to digital governance, explore gaps in digital cooperation, and commit to principles and actions that align with the Sustainable Development Goals, while promoting greater coordination in the digital sphere. They can help fundamentally re-think and re-shape existing approaches to our shared digital future.

The President of the United Nations General Assembly appointed the Ambassadors of the Permanent Missions of Sweden and Zambia to be co-facilitators of the GDC development process, which will culminate in the launch of the Compact in September 2024 at the 79th session of the General Assembly.

The Addis Ababa deep dive will bring the co-facilitators together with leading Africa data experts to reflect on the GDC's data topics.

Data is the bedrock of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, and critical to decision-making, sustainable development, and modern economies. The first draft of the GDC (Zero Draft), published on 1 April 2024, calls for strengthened data governance frameworks which protect privacy and secure data, the development of agreed definitions and standards, and the promotion of responsible cross-border data flows.

We invite you to join us for a structured half-day consultation on these and complementary themes. You will hear from regional experts on the opportunities the GDC can unlock and how it can support the African Digital Compact. Experts will highlight critical topics the GDC must not miss to meet the ambition of transformative change at the 2024 Summit of the Future.

This interactive conversation will be held as a small meeting format under the Chatham House rule with a diverse group of expert participants.

The deep dive will be divided into two sessions. The first session will include reflections on data dimensions within the current draft of the GDC (Zero Draft), with a specific focus on the African context. The second session will invite reflections on the effective implementation of the GDC in Africa, exploring what will be required to turn ideas into action.

The draft GDC builds on past consultations with UN Member States, civil society, the private sector, technical communities, academia, and other stakeholders. Member State negotiations on the GDC Zero Draft are currently underway in New York.

Provisional Agenda

8:30 – 9:00: *Welcome Coffee*

9:00-9:30: *High-Level Opening*

- Welcome remarks **David Passarelli**, UNU-CPR, and **Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen**, UNU-EGOV
- **H.E. Yeshurun Alemayehu**, State Minister of Innovation and Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- GDC Co-Facilitators, **H.E. Chola Milambo** and **H.E. Anna-Karin Eneström**
- **Mactar Seck**, Chief of Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- **Souhila Amazouz**, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission, statement on behalf of **Waleed Hamdi**, Head of Information Society Division, Infrastructure and Energy Department, African Union Commission

9:30 -10:30: **Reflections on Data Dimensions of the GDC Zero Draft**

Moderator: **David Passarelli**, UNU-CPR

Speakers:

- **Teki Akuetteh**, Founder and Executive Director, Africa Digital Rights Hub
- **Diana Sang**, Regional Director for Africa, Digital Impact Alliance
- **Blaise Bayou**, Senior Fellow and Technical Lead, Africa Center for Economic Transformation
- **Varaidzo Faith Magodo-Matimba**, Grants and Program Manager, Pollicy
- **Souhila Amazouz**, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission

Guiding questions:

- What are the unique challenges in Africa in relation to data governance, cross-border data flows, data security and privacy, and data for development?
- Does the GDC draft accurately reflect the full complexity of data opportunities and challenges?
- What key themes, principles, or language are missing from the Zero Draft which could offer more for the African region?
- Are there any principles or commitments in the Zero Draft which would be challenging or unrealistic to implement in the African context? If so, what are the key obstacles?
- How can the GDC support and reinforce priorities in the African Digital Compact?

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee Break and Group Photo*

10:45 -11:45: **Regional Implementation of the GDC: Opportunities and Next Steps**

Moderator: **Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen**, UNU-EGOV

Speakers:

- **Alison Gillwald**, Executive Director, Research ICT Africa
- **Karuti Kanyinga**, Director, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi
- **Nyasha McBride Mpani**, Project Leader, Data for Governance Alliance Project, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
- **Aretha Mare**, Unit Manager, Data and Security, Infrastructure and Governance, Smart Africa

Guiding questions:

- What actions can African governments take to implement the commitments outlined in the GDC? What are some important interlinkages and dependencies that require additional reflection e.g literacy, financing, infrastructure?
- Which regional platforms or institutions could play a leading role in the implementation of the GDC?
- What are some obstacles to multistakeholder cooperation on data governance at the regional level in Africa and how can different stakeholders (e.g governments, private sector, civil society) cooperate to implement the GDC recommendations?
- Is the Data Free Flow with Trust a viable solution in the African context? If not, how can this recommendation be tailored to better address the unique needs of the region?

11:45 – 12:00: *Closing reflections*

- GDC Co-Facilitators, **H.E. Chola Milambo** and **H.E. Anna-Karin Eneström**

Confirmed Participants List as of (2024-05-03)

Name	Title	Institution
H.E. Anna Karin Eneström	Ambassador and Permanent Representative and Co-facilitator of the Global Digital Compact	Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York
H.E. Chola Milambo	Ambassador and Permanent Representative and Co-facilitator of the Global Digital Compact	Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York
H.E. Yeshurun Alemayehu	State Minister of Innovation and Technology	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
(TBC) H.E. Belete Molla	Minister of Innovation and Technology	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
H.E. Hans Henric Lundquist	Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to AU, IGAD and UNECA	Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Myriam Said	Digital Economic Advisory	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Office of the Prime Minister
Moses Jere	Communications and Cyber/Digital Diplomacy Expert	Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York
Agnes Julin	Counsellor, Political Affairs	Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York
Yilkal Abate	President	ICT-ET
Abere Shiferaw Abegaz	Independent Consultant on ICT	UNDESA
Teki Akuetteh	Founder and Executive Director	Africa Digital Rights Hub
Souhila Amazouz	Senior Policy Officer	African Union Commission
Dereje Ashenafi	Junior Associate	Tadesse Kiros Law Office
Mesenbet Assefa	Attorney at Law and Consultant, and Professor of Law	Ababa University School of Law
Sorene Assefa	Internet Governance and Cyber Security Expert	UNECA
Helinna Ayalew	Head of Innovation Partnerships	Liquid Intelligent Technologies
Blaise Bayou	Senior Fellow and Technical Lead	Africa Center for Economic Transformation
Bahta Bekele	Program Coordinator Technology and Innovation	UNECA
Renata Dwan	Special Adviser	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology United Nations
Yesunew Hailu	Vice President	FARIS Technology Institute

Confirmed Participants List as of (2024-05-03) Continued

Name	Title	Institution
Karuti Kanyinga	Director	Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi
David Karunda	Advisor, Data Policy	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), [Focal point for Africa Digital Compact at African Union Commission]
Mesfin Kifle	Associate Professor	Department of Computer Science, Addis Ababa University
Varaidzo Faith Magodo-Matimba	Grants and Program Manager	Pollicy
Alexander B. Makulilo	Senior Lecturer of Information Law and Communications	Open University of Tanzania
Aretha Mare	Unit Manager, Data and Security, Infrastructure and Governance	Smart Africa
Nyasha McBride Mpani	Project Leader, Data for Governance Alliance Project,	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
Alison Gillwald	Executive Director	Research ICT Africa
Taye Girma	Deputy Director General	Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute
Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen	Project Officer	UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance
David Passarelli	Director	UNU Centre for Policy Research
Dobrina Stoyanova Poirier	Economic Affairs Officer	UNECA
Diana Sang	Regional Director for Africa	Digital Impact Alliance
Mactar Seck	Chief of Section	UNECA
Abiy Shimelis	Projects Communication Lead	UNECA
Muznah Siddiqui	Research Associate	UNU Centre for Policy Research
Nozipho Freya Simelane	Economic Affairs Officer	UNECA
Adeladay Solomon	Staff Assistant	UNECA
Abiyot Bayou Tehone	Senior Advisor to the Minister	Ethiopia Ministry of Innovation and Technology
Tulu Tilahun	Deputy Bureau Head	Addis Ababa City Administration Innovation and Technology Department Bureau (ITDB)
Nebiyu Yirga Wolde	General Manager	Ethiopian Association of Startup Ecosystem (EASE)
Teshome Worku	Country Director	Wingu Africa