

GDC Stakeholders Consultations

April 24, 2024

Delivered by Paloma Lara Castro

Thank you. Derechos Digitales, together with other civil society organizations, has actively contributed with recommendations on human rights in the digital sphere. Our focus is on advocating for a human rights-based approach, particularly emphasizing gender equality and inclusion of marginalized groups.

We provided recommendations addressing critical areas such as enforcing human rights online, meaningful connectivity, protecting digital rights of women and LGBTQIA+ individuals, and addressing challenges related to data protection and AI regulation.

Today, we focus on three main issues.

First, we understand that the GDC should advance concrete commitments and measurement indicators to bridge the persistent digital divide that involves ensuring meaningful connectivity from a human rights perspective, also enabling community-based solutions to tackle this huge gap.

Second, GDC should refrain from establishing new global governance mechanisms that duplicate the work of existing institutions. The GDC process should not only build off of, but should also integrate with existing mechanisms in order to adequately ensure coordination and not foster duplication of efforts.

Third, we stress the need to strengthen multistakeholder governance within the GDC for inclusivity, transparency and accountability. Ensuring diverse representation in UN policymaking processes is crucial, with robust participation options for underrepresented groups. Transparency and accountability are paramount throughout the Compact's implementation.

GDC should amplify perspectives from the Global South, enhancing multistakeholder engagement, upholding existing consensus, leveraging the role of the existing mechanisms, such as WSIS and IGF, and preserving core internet values in order to guide the Compact towards a coherent, effective, and inclusive framework, tailored to meet the distinctive requirements of the Global South in the digital age.