



My name is Anne-Marie Buzatu, and I am the Executive Director of ICT4Peace Foundation, a “think and do tank” that works at the intersection of digital technologies, human rights and peace based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Thank you for inviting us, as members of civil society, to contribute to the discussions on the Global Digital Compact, we also welcome the governments of Sweden and Rwanda as co-facilitators of this initiative.

For nearly 20 years, ICT4Peace has worked to promote peaceful uses of new technologies, as well as to promote a safe, open and accessible cyberspace. We have worked closely with governments to provide policy advice as well as to build capacity, however we also recognize the need for and importance of non-state actors. As such, we welcome Secretary General Guterres’ call to build a **multi-stakeholder digital technology track**. This idea would include both the private sector as well as civil society organizations such as our own, to work together towards an open, free and secure cyberspace.

Secretary General Guterres also outlines a number of issues that are essential to creating that vision, including **connecting the unconnected; avoiding fragmentation** of the Internet; providing people with **options as to how their data is used**; application of **human rights online**; and promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing **accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content**, and so promote **regulation of artificial intelligence** to ensure that this is aligned with shared global values.

These are all very important objectives, ones we wholeheartedly support, and ones that will require input from non-state actors: the technology experts, academics, ICT companies and civil society because

Most of the internet and digital technologies are owned by the private sector, spanning multiple jurisdictions simultaneously, and posing practical problems to our traditional state-centric governance frameworks, and so we need them at the table. Civil society can provide information to both governments and companies as to how these technologies are impacting users—or in identifying how to bring those who are unconnected online.

So, it’s clear that the private sector and civil society need to be part of a multi-stakeholder governance approach, and to that end I would submit two recommendations:

- 1) That the international community includes private sector actors in governance meetings in meaningful ways so that they are able to effectively participate in problem solving
- 2) That a fund is created for civil society actors that provides sufficient financial resources to be able to perform their role effectively and represent the interests particularly of disenfranchised and unconnected communities. So much of civil

society's efforts and energy are spent to raise money, and this could be better used serving their communities.

We are committed to working towards that important space of technology, inclusion and protection of human rights, and we look forward to working in a multistakeholder team with all of you towards those goals.

Thank you