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United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

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Chapeau

The United States Council for International Business (USCIB) is committed to the 2030 Agenda, and supports an effective, inclusive and accountable United Nations as vital to that effort. USCIB aligns with

III. Science, technology, innovation, digital cooperation

Digital technologies and the online environment present an unprecedented opportunity to grow the global economy, bridge inequalities through access to information and opportunity, raise productivity, foster creativity and innovation, build trust, and expand societal engagement and exchange. USCIB welcomes the UN Secretary General's inclusion of the proposed Global Digital Compact (GDC) as part of the OCA, SOTF, and the Pact.

Realizing the developmental benefits of digital transformation depends on policies supporting enabling environments for technology innovation. Such policies should address interlinked and cross-cutting economic, social/cultural, technical, and governance issues. This *holistic approach* best ensures an open, safe, highly secure, stable, interoperable, seamless, rights-respecting, and sustainable digital ecosystem with the potential to address development gaps and other inequities, and achieve the objectives of the SOTF and the Pact.

Importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

responsibility to adopt best practices to ensure that personal data and information are appropriately secure as technology and services evolve.

- x The Pact should call for a risk-based, voluntary approach to online security, which leverages international standards such as those adopted by the ISO, to ensure a secure, stable, and resilient Internet ecosystem.
- x Global Interoperability - Trust in the online environment is best achieved through privacy and security protections that do not unnecessarily restrict the free flow of data across international boundaries and are globally interoperable.

Online Safety and Well-being - Fostering trust involves ensuring a safe and empowering online experience. USCIB recognizes the shared challenge of embedding safety online and encouraging multistakeholder cooperation to help individuals and families, especially youth and vulnerable groups, make healthy decisions online, stay safe, build resilience, and thrive in the digital world.

Child Protections and Developmental Needs -- This includes committing to privacy and safety-by-design and ensuring digital experiences enable children to grow and develop 21st century skills like creativity, problem solving and critical thinking. For example, the United Nation's Protection through Online Participation initiative (POP) is an evidence-based approach incorporating learnings about youth online participation to help improve the design of digital products and experiences.

- x The Pact should recognize existing recommendations, including the [OECD Recommendation of the Council on Children in the Digital Environment](#), recognized by the 2021 G20 and in the 2021 G7 Internet Safety Principles. The Pact

- x Technical, Legislative, Policy Impediments -- Various technical, legislative, and policy developments - including restrictions on data flows, interference with free expression, techno-protectionist initiatives, and Internet shutdowns - have led to Internet fragmentation and increased digital divides. At technical, network, or application levels, this fragmentation undermines the open, interconnected, and interoperable Internet's associated benefits to social and economic development, and is harming human rights.

- x Harmonization Needed -- We welcome the Secretary-General's proposal to include Internet fragmentation in the Global Digital Compact, and we support its incorporation into the Pact. Relevant language should call for harmonization in global approaches to Internet governance that promote free flows of data, encryption, and rights to freedom of expression and privacy online.

Science and innovation will accelerate the pace and effectiveness of government and business SDG actions. Prioritizing meaningful science-policy-business interfaces aligned with SDG implementation is crucial.

A key actor in the knowledge community, inclusive engagement of business is critical to listen, learn and engage with stakeholders, while providing rigorous scientific, innovation and R&D findings and resources to policymakers. Wider business engagement in scientific assessments like IPBES and IPCC will strengthen the data, tools, and policies that result. Dialogue and collaboration among business, governments, and society will build trust and mutual respect.

V. Transforming global governance

Drawing from the OCA and High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB) report, SOTF should:

- Strengthen transparent frameworks for substantive engagement of business.
- Mobilize business's pivotal capabilities to provide resources, expertise, livelihoods, innovation and scale solutions.
- Foster and mainstream business – UN partnerships, pursuing synergistic approaches to achieve the SDGs.

Meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement should prioritize representative business groups, avoid one-size-fits-all treatment, and ensure inclusiveness across diverse sectors and sizes of business.