

**Global Digital Compact - Deep Dive Human Rights
Colombia Statement
May 8th, 10:00 am, Conference Room 1**

Time limit: 3 minutes.

Thank you Mr. Co-facilitator

Colombia is convinced that in order to establish a global set of principles on the use of digital technologies, the Global Digital Compact should have a strong focus on the protection of human rights online, with special attention given to persons in vulnerable situations.

Governments should commit to providing women and girls, in all of their diversity, young people and children, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants communities, older persons, and persons with disabilities the relevant tools, knowledge and capacities to know and to advocate for their rights online, while mitigating the risks associated with the use of digital technologies. The promotion of digital literacy, with a differential and intersectional approach, is therefore essential to ensure the safe, secure, and inclusive use of these technologies.

It is particularly important that online users understand how to exercise their right to privacy and ensure the protection of their data. This is a critical element to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, child-abuse, sexual harassment, cyberbullying and cyberstalking, as well as all forms of discrimination taking place in the digital sphere, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

The GDC should also highlight the significance of mobilizing the digital revolution to offer quality education as a public good and to revolutionize teaching and learning by guaranteeing accessible, high-quality digital materials for schools and students at all levels.

While users are provided with the necessary knowledge to navigate confidently online, this intersectional approach should be adopted additionally in the development and use of digital platforms, as well as in the design of digital technologies such as online algorithms and Artificial Intelligence.

We must prevent digital technologies from reproducing and perpetrating stereotypes rooted in discriminatory, racist, sexist and patriarchal logics and structures. The GDC

should enable the configuration of a feminist digital environment that is respectful of diversity and traditional knowledges. In this vein, we call on member states to consider the inter-governmentally agreed conclusions of the 67th session of the CSW as part of this negotiation process, as well as for the effective, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls, indigenous peoples, and afrodescendent communities in the consultations.

The GDC should also strengthen the transparency and accountability of digital platforms. It might consider the design of oversight strategies with a human rights lens and request that digital platforms provide more detailed information about their practices, algorithms, and data use, including measures taken to help users to easily understand how their data is being used and how decisions are being made. It could also encourage the use of relevant monitoring tools by digital platforms, such as gender impact assessments.

Finally, the operation of digital platforms should be supported by the harmonization of legal frameworks with zero tolerance policies. Platforms and companies must be held responsible for their involvement or promotion of activities that violate human rights in the digital environment according to international human rights law, providing special attention to women, girls and children.

While Colombia acknowledges that the GDC should address issues such as Internet Governance, data flows, misinformation and Artificial Intelligence, it is critical to ensure that measures aimed at tackling the challenges related to these fields abide by International Law and do not come at the expense of jeopardizing the enjoyment of human rights, including freedom of speech, the right to privacy, and access to information, among others.

Thank you.