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Chapeau

The future of multilateralism cannot ignore the pre-eminence of the digital for our collective coexistence. The democratic and distributive integrity of our shared future hinges on the governance of our digital paradigm.

The Pact for the Future and its ideas for operationalizing a new multilateralism must address head on the disastrous consequences of the Big Tech-led model of digitality that perpetuates an unjust world.

The idea of innovation and progress in the epoch of the Homotechnicus requires the recognition of pluralistic knowledges and worldviews for a mutualism that is future-ready.

Recommendations:

1. Underscore the significance of digitalization and its impact on the UN pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights.
2. Recognize the role of democratic multilateralism in addressing the opportunities and challenges of digitalization to ensure digitality enables planetary flourishing.
3. Recommit to the WSIS [Geneva principles](#) and the [Tunis agenda](#) for digital solidarity.

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Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The Pact for the Future should:

1. Reaffirm the WSIS+20 review as an opportunity to forge a new path for democratic global digital cooperation

Governance deficits in the global digital order are hugely inimical for developing countries, debilitating their development potential. The upcoming WSIS+20 review in 2025 presents a vital opportunity to negotiate a new social contract for our digital future.

The UN Secretary-General's [Policy Brief](#) on the Global Digital Compact envisages a “networked multilateral arrangement” that can enable harmonized action on just and sustainable digitalization across various wings of the UN system. The ideal of [networked multilateralism](#) needs a clear separation of roles, responsibilities, and powers of the different actors in distributed decision-

2.2. Mandate ex-ante human rights assessments – with particular [attention](#) to ‘do-no-harm by design’ and ‘data privacy and security principles’ – in global alliances for digital public goods.

2.3. Reform the IP regime to address challenges of data extractivism through (i) strong institutional safeguards to protect social sector data, (ii) conditional access to public domain data, with purpose limitation and clear sunset clauses; and (iii) [reciprocity guarantees](#) in common data pools.

2.4. Reorient digital trade rules to balance cross-border data flows with imperatives of equity, human rights, and sovereignty; local data protection regulation; and security of data.

2.5. Institute taxation of revenues that Big Tech generates from the societal data commons.

3. Invest in global to local institutional frameworks for the development of public digital innovation ecosystems

Platform-based ecosystems are a new [powerful nexus](#) of innovation and entrepreneurship, and have the potential to stimulate economic and social development.

However, the Big Tech-led model has usurped the technological commons, proprietized precious productive resources (including the internet, data, AI), and prevented the emergence of vibrant, digitally-enabled knowledge systems that generate public and socia-





