

Joint NGO Statement Global Digital Compact Stakeholders Informal Consultation

22 August 2024

Dear Co-facilitators, Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the 5Rights Foundation, and a group of organisations dedicated to advancing children's rights in the digital environment.

We are once again coming together to reiterate our [previous calls](#) for a strong Global Digital Compact (GDC) that delivers on its promise to promote, protect, and implement children's rights in the digital environment.

The digital world offers children vast opportunities to learn, grow, and connect. But for too many, these opportunities remain out of reach. The widening digital divide is leaving many children behind, especially where national laws fall short in safeguarding their online safety, privacy, and data protection.

The GDC and the Summit of the Future represent an unparalleled opportunity to bridge this divide and ensure that every child can thrive in a digital age that is safe, and rights respecting.

Children have long-established rights and protections under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We welcome the additional reference to the UNCRC in REV2.

However, to fully realise children's rights, we further call for the insertion of references to the CRC General comment No. 25 which clearly outlines the obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil children's rights in the digital environment.

Additionally, General comment No. 25 also clarifies the responsibilities of the business sector to respect, prevent, mitigate, and – where necessary – remedy abuses.

To this end, we reiterate our call on stronger language on corporate responsibility to respect children’s rights in the digital environment, including by providing children with a high level of privacy, safety and security by design and default, in line with international best practices.

By adopting these recommendations, the Global Digital Compact will not only bridge the digital divide, but it will also deliver on its promise to serve the best interests of every child, uphold their rights and enable them to benefit fully from the digital environment.