ICANN ISPCP welcomes the opportunity of commenting on the Global Digital Compact (GDC) zero draft and building up on ISPCP's inputs to the "Questionnaire for 20-year review of WSIS implementation" from the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) (here), would like to offer the following comments.

ISPs stand by the general principles of digital inclusion, the protection of human rights, child safety and the need to offer safe and secure digital space laid out in this 'zero draft'; These areas may be addressed by our members individually but are not covered by this contribution, which focuses on the limited number of issues that are we consider most relevant to our community as part of the technical community of ICANN. The following is offered for ISPCP members to help with the contribution to this discussions at a regional or national level.

The ISPCP welcomes the recognition in this zero draft of the unique contribution of the technical community, on a par with those of governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations and the academic community. We also commend an approach that endorses the principle of "multi-stakeholderism" and note that each stakeholder's contribution should be considered on its own merits regardless of the stakeholder's "respective mandates, functions and competencies" (GDC principle (i)). We would also like to reinforce the need of adopting a bottom-up approach in the decision-making and consensus-building process.

Regarding Objective 1 "Closing the digital divides and accelerating progress across the UN SDGs", the ISPCP commends the effort to align 2023 connectivity targets with regional and national development strategies. The ISPCP believes current trends in technology can have a significant impact on the progress toward human development, the reduction of digital divide and the achievement of the 17 UN SDGs. Internationalization of the Internet as a driver for economic growth will help progress a number of these goals, and Internet-based technologies will continue to support a globally interoperable network where everyone accessing the network may innovate for the benefit of their local community and beyond. Continued deployment of specific technologies related to the Internet of Things or Artificial Intelligence will play a role in achieving goals such as Climate actions, smart sustainable cities and communities, and affordable and clean energy. The need for a strong model of cooperation such as the multistakeholder model has never been more critical to develop commonly-agreeable technical evolutions and public policies.

Regarding Objective 2. Expanding inclusion in the digital economy, the ISPCP acknowledges the Internet as the largest global platform for innovation and growth. The ISPCP supports innovation and the development of emerging services, including those that are taking place at the edge of the network. We will continue our support of multi-stakeholder groups in identifying those emerging services that have the potential to cause technical internet fragmentation so that we can work together on solutions that ensure the ongoing security and interoperability of the global Internet.

On "*Cluster 2. Internet governance",* we welcome the goal of achieving a stable and unfragmented Internet (24), as well as the reference to the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) (25 and item (57) of the Follow up and review). The IGF has been for the ISPCP a positive result of WSIS as a key multi-stakeholder forum for sharing views and collaboration with other stakeholders, including government, business, the technical community, academia, and civil society on common issues, including sustainability goals. The ISPCP supports the continuation of the IGF as a multi-stakeholder forum for parties to come together to establish best practices, and strongly opposes efforts to transform it into a global decision-making body on internet governance issues.

Under Goal 26, and participation to the IGF, we note the "specific" reference to "governments and the private sector" and hope this by no means diminishes the importance of maintaining participation of those stakeholders that are not specifically mentioned such as civil society, international organizations and the academic community and the technical community.

Finally, regarding the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in reviewing WSIS, we would like to refer again to our Response to Questionnaire for 20-year review of WSIS implementation https://ispcp.memberclicks.net/assets/Questionnaire%20for%2020-year%20review%20of%20WSIS%20implementation%20-%20ISPCP%20response%20v1.0%20-%20Final.pdf

This contribution is offered by the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers (ISPCP) Constituency of ICANN, which represents companies and associations that operate Internet backbone networks and/or provide access to Internet and related services to End Users. More information on the Constituency can be found at https://www.ispcp.info/.