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Chapeau

- Access to information and freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, and a driver of all other rights. It is the cornerstone of social cohesion and democracy, and a determinant of all Sustainable Development Goals. Information access must be included and elevated in future development agendas.

- Open and transparent information flows between governments and people form the foundation of transparency, accountability and trust. Equal access to information is necessary to bridge political and social divides, reduce prejudice and foster tolerance, and solutions should be sought through the Pact for the Future.

- As technology advancements accelerate, including the rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI), they are changing the way information is created, consumed and shared. Advancements create an opportunity to further civic engagement and accountability, yet present new challenges and threats to information integrity, data security and power distribution. Solution-oriented collaboration and other partnerships will need to reflect this.

- Misinformation, disinformation and hate speech is intensified by engagement driven algorithms, bots and influencers, threatening freedom of expression, eroding trust in democratic and multilateral institutions, and fueling conflict and polarisation. To meet challenges of information integrity in the Pact for the Future, communities and other local actors involved in solutions.

- Independent media must be protected and included as key stakeholders in the Pact for the Future. They are critical in holding duty-bearers to account, ensuring transparency and integrity in the process, and building awareness.

- International cooperation with diverse actors is critical to ensure responsible information practices and fairness in digital spaces. Global south voices, particularly crisis affected, need to facilitated to influence the debates through intentional, dedicated and inclusive outreach.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

- The divide between those that are connected and unconnected is increasingly leaving people behind, exacerbated by the rapid advances in information technologies and the power dynamics they reinforce.

- In order to protect development gains, understanding increasingly challenging information landscapes is critical. This involves diversifying engagement with a broader range of actors and broadening consideration of actions that increase understanding and responses to evolving information landscapes.
- Women, children, people in remote and rural areas, older people, people with disabilities, illiterate people and speakers of marginalised languages are most risk of inequitable access to information and digital technologies. Solutions must be sought that intentionally include marginalised people.

Chapter II. International peace and security

- The global rise in misinformation, disinformation and hate speech (MDH) threatens international security through the incitement of violence, discrimination, and fear. Rapid advances in digital technologies and the active production of disinformation campaigns and propaganda have enabled the proliferation of MDH at unprecedented speed and scale. The risks presented by mis/disinformation is exacerbated in fragile contexts without trustworthy information sources or where trust in 'official' sources is low.

- Change and disruption to 'normal' communication and engagement patterns during crises exacerbate existing bias and power imbalances within and between communities. The result is often an erosion of trust and rampant rumours, misinformation and propaganda. Understanding the systems, relationships and networks associated with communication and engagement is an ongoing challenge in development and humanitarian programming, and should be a foundational consideration.

- Strong independent media contribute to resilient information ecosystems – crucial for resisting shrinking civic spaces, authoritarian tendencies, and assaults on human rights. Press freedom and independent media are vital to rebuilding social cohesion and sustainable, equitable and inclusive peace processes. Resilient information ecosystems safeguard civic space and human rights.

- Information integrity is essential to maintaining fair elections and peaceful transitions of power. All stakeholders must collaborate to counter online expression threats, internet controls, mass surveillance, and disinformation campaigns.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

- Collaboration between the public and private sectors can be a driver of innovation and sector evolution. Ethical and legal frameworks for engaging with private sector entities that share humanitarian principles ensures alignment with development objectives, fostering contextually relevant innovation.
- Roll out of AI-enabled decision-making is outstripping public and political awareness, regulatory and legal response. Crisis-affected communities, exactly because of their vulnerability, have been testing grounds for new technologies. However, data inputs are often absent or unstructured exacerbating existing risks of discrimination and bias. To ensure that all people capitalise on the benefits of AI-enabled tools, ethicists and lawyers must work with local actors, other humanitarians and those skilled in working in low-technology and fragile environments to shape adequate, safe and trustworthy technologies.
- Robust and integrated digital communication systems are the backbone of modern humanitarian and development efforts. A collaborative approach that encompasses the skills, resources and

expertise of a diverse cross-section of contributors, including communities and the private sector, will ensure that digital communication systems remain resilient, efficient and supportive of international development goals.

- To bridge the digital divide and promote inclusivity, innovation must account for the diverse ways people access and use digital technology. Innovation techniques and technology tools developed for use in commercial and private sector environments are often poorly suited to these low-resource and crisis settings.
- Individuals and groups need to have an integral role in shaping how technology will actually be used. People-driven innovations, characterised by transparency and context-appropriateness, should be encouraged. This approach ensures that technology evolves in a manner that benefits all segments of society, reducing exclusion and fostering equitable development.

- Digital literacy that builds community resilience to online mis/disinformation is critical to navigate the digital landscape as it evolves at pace. Investing in digital literacy for journalists is critical to upholding democracy, by ensuring people have access to informed reporting that holds tech companies to account and demystifies emerging issues such as AI.
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Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

- Young people are active stakeholders in the future they want to see and a formidable force in societal change. Many are mobilising in digital spaces, particularly on social media platforms. Young people are also key connectors in information environments, particularly in crises and can be quickest to adapt to shifting communication landscapes. Young people are key to improved multi-way dialogue in crisis and should be included more consistently in decision making.
- Yet the proliferation of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech online presents a real risk to their safety and hampers their meaningful participation in multilateral processes. Disinformation and propaganda circulating online also contributes to young people's disillusionment and an erosion of trust in public and multilateral institutions. Information must be designed to target the needs and preferences of young people.
- Young people urgently need the skills in digital and information literacy and the ability to engage with media responsibly to make their voices heard. Societal inclusion is increasingly digital and this needs to recognised in engagement and skills training.
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Chapter V. Transforming global governance

- Overcoming the challenges emerging in the information environment requires cooperation between governments and legal regulation, media, private sector and technology companies, civil society, researchers, and others. Global South voices, particularly crisis-affected, need to be facilitated to influence these debates through dedicated and inclusive outreach (possibly enabled by technology).
- Technological advances are outpacing the ability for legislative reform to counter weaponization of information from disinformation campaigns, surveillance and interception. The lack of consensus around the ethical use of new technologies hampers multilateral cooperation. This has led to numerous state actors using information pollution as a powerful weapon in their arsenal to further political agendas.