

**Oral Intervention on behalf of superrr.lab, ECNL and epicenter.works**  
**Delivered by Sebastian Kneidinger**  
**GDC Stakeholders Session – 24th of April 2024**

Dear Excellencies, Sirs and Madams,

I am speaking on behalf of superrr.lab, the european center for non-profit law and epicenter.works. We jointly drafted a more in depth statement, whose top level comments i would like to briefly bring to your attention:

- Privacy and data protection: as see privacy and data protection as the cornerstone of a trustworthy digital ecosystem that respects human rights. We therefore urge the inclusion of privacy and data protection in the set of principles, as well as a commitment that national legislation enshrines a privacy-centred approach, including the right to encryption and data minimisation.
- Human rights: While we welcome the explicit reference to human rights throughout the text, we believe it is critical to explicitly recognise that there are uses of AI or digital technologies that are incompatible with human rights and therefore should not be developed and deployed. We advocate for human rights to be addressed across the five objectives, with reference to specific legal provisions.
- Multistakeholder approach and the role of the Internet Governance Forum: We welcome the clear commitment to the Internet Governance Forum, but would note that we believe a multi-stakeholder approach should consider all existing governance bodies (IETF, ICAN, IANA, etc.), and would welcome more inclusive language in this regard. We would also recommend that these bodies increase their involvement of human rights experts, including civil society organisations.
- Net Neutrality: Given the real risk of fragmentation of the global internet and the millions of people left without meaningful connectivity, we recommend that net neutrality be defined as a clear commitment in the GDC.
- Surveillance: We recommend that the GDC include more detailed language on surveillance. For example, it must be ensured that all forms of surveillance comply with the standards and principles of international human rights law, in particular the criteria of legality, necessity and proportionality. Targeted surveillance must be accompanied by robust data protection rules so that it cannot be used as a loophole for arbitrary surveillance. We also urge the implementation of a global ban on the sale and use of surveillance technologies that pose a disproportionate threat to human rights and democracy, such as Pegasus and Predator.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): We believe that the requirements for DPI are too lax and therefore call for additional privacy provisions, safeguards to ensure that they don't exclude sections of society such as the elderly, vulnerable groups, the unconnected or the stateless, and the inclusion of a provision that people must always be offered a reasonable analogue alternative to DPI.
- Sustainability: We recommend the inclusion of a right to repair in the GDC to reduce waste, encourage product reuse rather than replacement, and incentivise manufacturers to develop more sustainable products and business models.

Thank you