CODES and the Global Digital Compact

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CODES Community Meeting „Reaching Out, Reaching Up“

01. March 2023

#SustainableDigitalPlanet

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COALITION FOR DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

UN environment programme

Umwelt Bundesamt

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

SDA SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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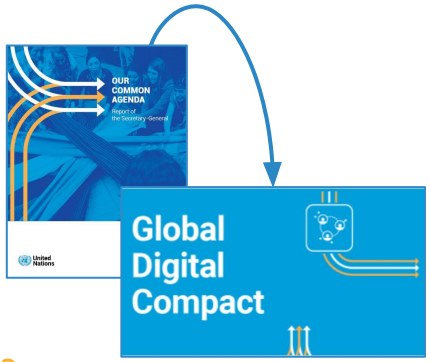
“Global Digital Compact” – Context



Our Common Agenda: ‘reinvigorate multilateralism to more effectively address challenges, turbocharge SDG implementation‘

“Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow”

- 22/23.09.2024, in New York, preparatory ministerial meeting 18.09.2023
- will adopt a concise, action-oriented outcome document entitled **“A Pact for the Future”**, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations
- SoF co-chaired by **Germany** (Ms. Antje Leendertse) and **Namibia** (Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze)

Global Digital Compact

- GDC co-chaired by **Sweden** and **Rwanda**; official penholder for the brief is the **Tech Envoy**
- Accepting submissions until end of March: **“Core Principles”** and **“Key Commitments/Action”**

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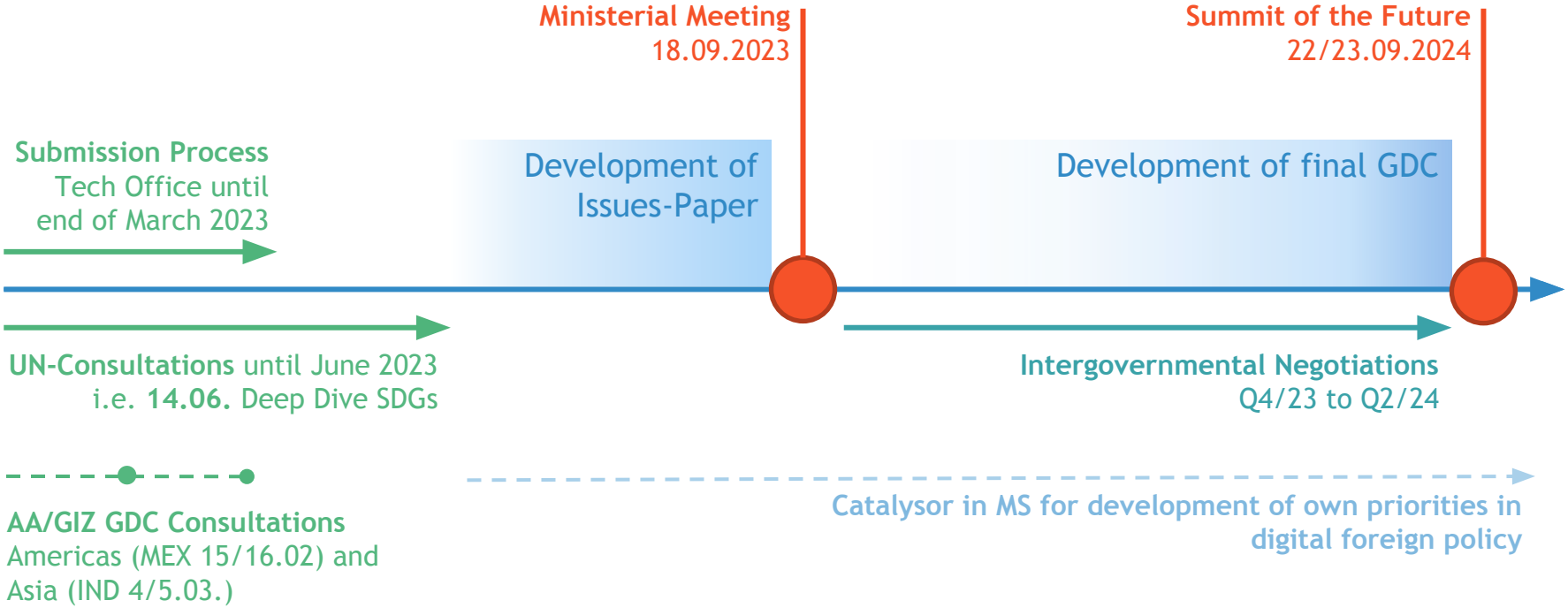
“Global Digital Compact” – Timeline for Engagement



“Global Digital Compact” – Time for Engagement

1. **Submission for Global Digital Compact** (until end of March 2023)
   - ✔ Submit “Key Principles” and “Key Actions“, each 2500 characters
   - ✔ Align your submission to CODES and its submission
2. **Participation in UN-Consultations** (until mid June 2023)
   - ✔ Seven Deep-Dives: *Digital Inclusion* 27/3, *Internet Governance* 13/4, *Data Protection* 24/4, *Human Rights* 8/5, *Digital Trust* 25/5, *AI* 2/6, *Global Digital Commons* 9/6 and **Accelerating Progress on the SDGs 14/6**
   - ✔ Register https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact/intergovernmental-process
   - ✔ Align your statement to CODES and strengthen sustainability in the GDC
3. **Engagement in national processes towards the Global Digital Compact** (until September 2024)
   - ✔ Many national processes lead to the GDC and the Summit of the Future in 2024
   - ✔ Engage in national roundtables, consultations, policy processes

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CODES Submission for the Global Digital Compact

a. **Process of Preparation**

- ✔ Strong reference to our mandate and global community

b. **Core principles** (2500 characters)

- ✔ Focus on **CODES three shifts**: 1. Align and enable transformations, 2. Mitigate negative impacts, 3. Innovate with purpose

c. **Key Commitments, Pledges, Actions** (2500 characters)

- ✔ Focus on **CODES impact initiatives** as relevant transformative action levers

d. **Comments on the GDC**

- ✔ Highlighting the **overall purpose** of GDC to support 2030 Agenda and its SDGs
- ✔ Highlighting the need for a dedicated **space/chapter on *sustainable* digitalization** (e.g. currently no thematic area in the submission scheme dedicated to sustainability)

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Thank you and reach out

www.sparkblue.org/CODES

www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact

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CODES Community Progress Update

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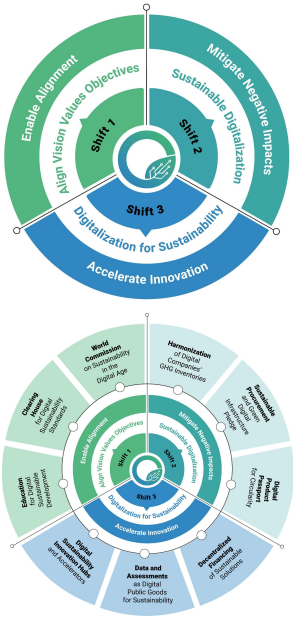
CODES - Collective Action for a Sustainable Planet in the Digital Age



- ✔ **Mandated** by the UN Technology Envoy within the SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
- ✔ **Co-creative** 12-month process with the community
- ✔ **Core narrative:** actively shape 3 systemic shifts
- ✔ **Implementation** through 9+ concrete initiatives
- ✔ **Contribution** to key global political fora
- ✔ **Global coordination and collaboration** framework for collective action

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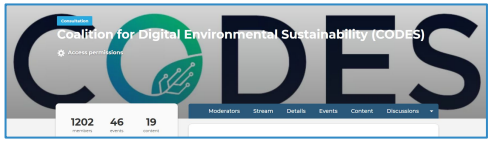
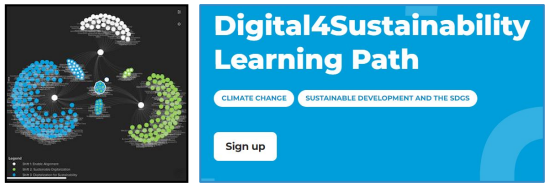
CODES Community Engagement in some numbers





1. **CODES Action Plan:** 200+ contributors, 1,000 consulted from 100 countries
2. **CODES high-level events 2022:** UNEA 5 Nairobi, Stockholm+50, IGF Addis Ababa (+ CODES participation e.g. Digital with Purpose Summit, Web Summit, BMZ Digital Strategy Launch, WSIS Forum)
3. **CODES SparkBlue community**: 1,203 members, representing more than 450 organizations (140+ private, 120+ non-profit,100+ academia, 40+ public, 35+ UN entities) www.sparkblue.org/CODES
4. **CODES monthly newsletter**: 15,000+ subscribers
5. **CODES stakeholder mapping:** 285 organizations
6. **Digital4Sustainability course:** 5,000 registrations
7. **Digital Discovery Sessions**: 24 sessions, engaging 2,300+ people

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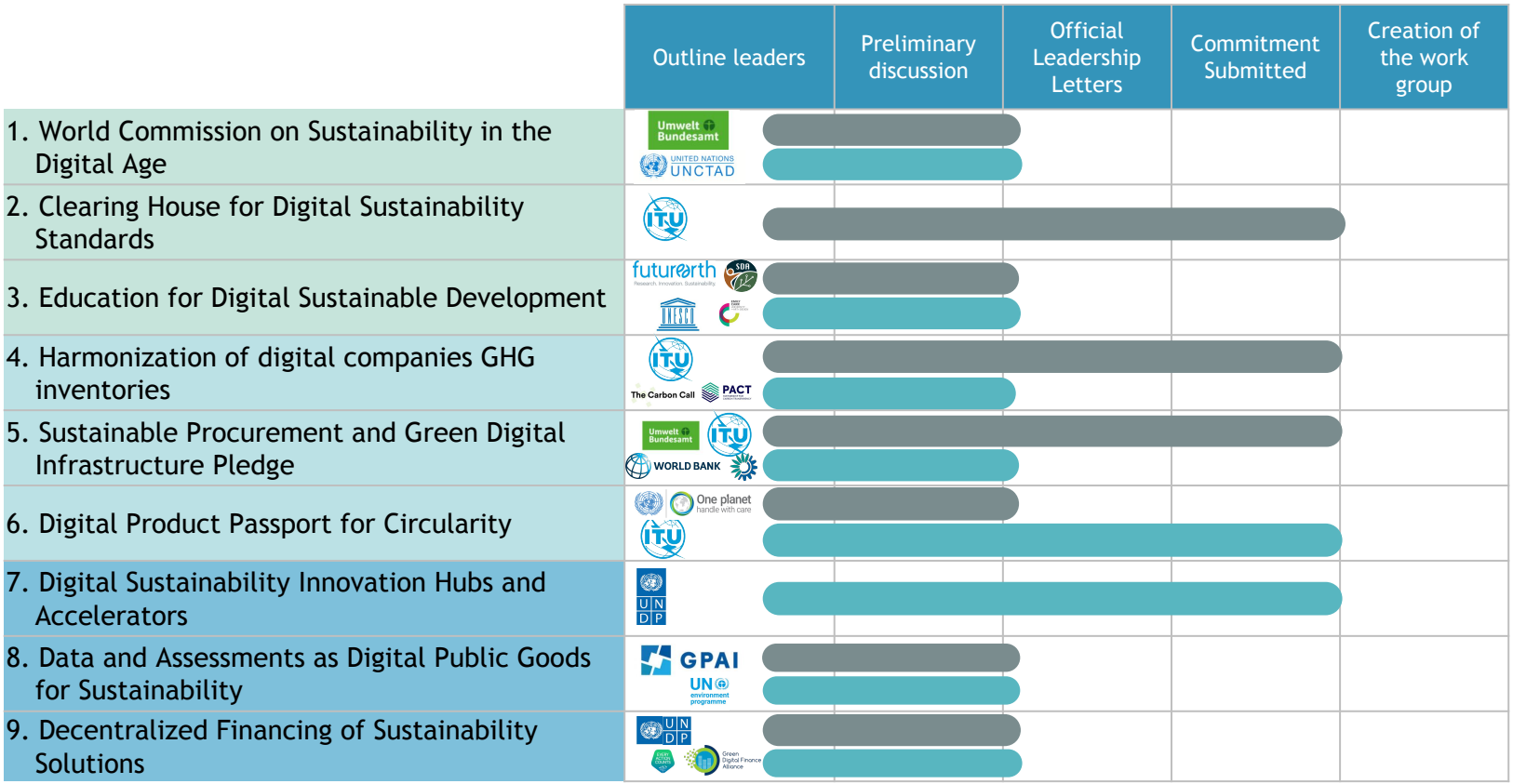
9 Impact Initiatives Progress Update



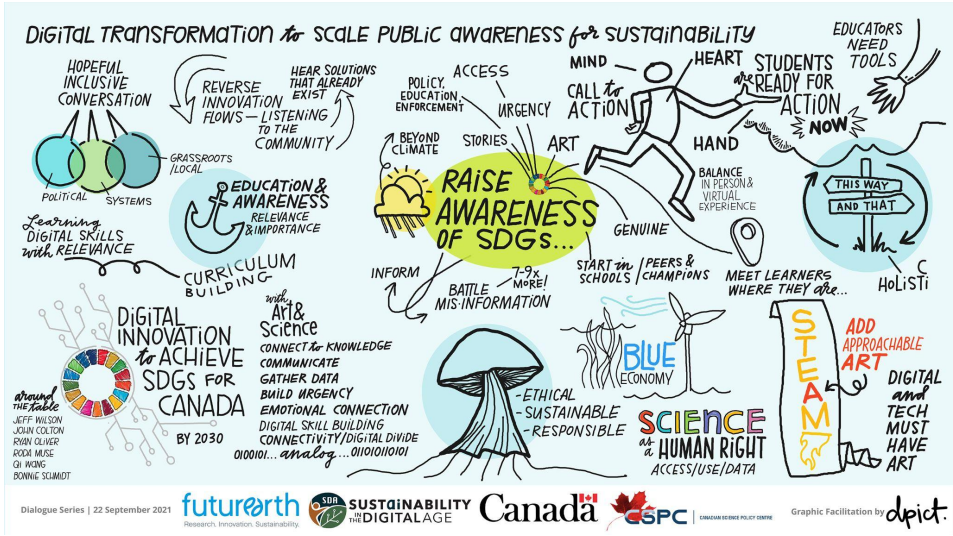
#3. Education for Digital Sustainable Development

Vision:

- Building inclusive and decentralized frameworks to develop literacy and education programmes on digital sustainability that are needs based, localized and contextualized
- Convene networks to implement and experiment these frameworks across different regions across the world

Current situation:

1. Disconnect between stakeholders
2. Insufficient recognition & integration of diverse knowledge systems and perspectives
3. Growing demand for interdisciplinary skills across policy makers, sustainability professionals, tech innovators, etc



Dialogues on digital sustainable development in Canada

"..increasing knowledge on sustainability and digital literacy within the general citizen population can contribute to collective actions and citizen engagement in communities to achieve the SDGs and other local sustainability goals." (Future Earth Canada. Sustainability in the Digital Age. Canadian Science Policy Centre. Canada's Sustainable Future – Creating a Digital Action Plan. 2022.)

#3. Education for Digital Sustainable Development

Important updates:

- ➔ Future Earth & Sustainability in the Digital Age signed on as co-leads

- ➔ In partnership with Emily Carr University and All Purpose, and in collaboration with other stakeholders such as UNEP, developing a stakeholder specific and decentralized approach to digital sustainability education in Canada (proposal stage)

- ➔ Ongoing dialogues with potential partners in Africa to build networks for education and skills development at the intersection of digital and sustainability

- ➔ Upcoming white paper (May, 2023): Framework for an interdisciplinary graduate training program at the intersection of digital and sustainability

    - ◆ *Based on the LEADS Program (Leadership in Environmental And Digital innovation for Sustainability), co-founded by Future Earth and Sustainability in the Digital Age*

#7. Digital Sustainability Innovation Hubs and Accelerators

Vision:

Launch of a global network of connected, and collaborative Innovation Hubs to accelerate the development and scale up of digital tools and just solutions for national climate mitigation and adaptation goals and other environmental commitments

Gaps we see:

- Many strong digital innovation support, but more focus can be given to tackle climate, nature and pollution
- Regional and national innovation actors are not always working together to complement capacity and gaps
- Mismatch between regional innovation ‘supply’; national ‘demand’, including national and peoples’ priorities; and private investment eyes. How to cross the chasm of risk-free funding to commercial investment?
- Green businesses often require a systemic or behavior change, and digitalization may require other policy support. Need for a new way to test and scale working solutions with a regime change in mind.

Process so far:

- Concept note prepared with Rwanda Ministry of ICT and a few network partners to pilot project
- Welcoming potential co-financing to the pilot initiative, investors and regional innovation network providers

#7. Digital Sustainability Innovation Hubs and Accelerators: Current Analysis

1. Align - National priorities, private investment (market eyes), and regional innovation support structures to catalyze investments into digital innovations focused on clean energy, waste management and agro-food systems with digital readiness assessments and dialogs

2. Strategic demonstration to coordinate systemic levers- Provide seed funding to local communities and associations (demand) to collaborate with solution providers (supply) on new business models, learn pain points and levers for a sustainable market for the digital solutions

3. Network - connect the local innovation support with global and regional digital innovation support providers with a focus on capacity building and knowledge management.

Thank you and reach out

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