

# Global Digital Economy Commission Meeting

## SUMMARY

**9 May 2023, 10:00 – 17:00 CEST (Paris Time)**

**INTERNAL DOCUMENT – PLEASE DO NOT CIRCULATE**

### 1. Opening Session

The meeting was opened by **Timea Suto, ICC Global Policy Lead**, welcoming participants. Seventy-six participants participated in the meeting, with fourteen of them attending in person.

ICC **Global Digital Economy Commission Chair, Rene Summer** kicked off the meeting sharing his thoughts on present **challenges to the digital economy**. He highlighted how through new technologies like generative AI and research activities in 6G, the digital industry continues to push for new boundaries. At the same time, challenges with a growing digital divide, questions about the responsibility of the private sector, and regulatory responses that could restrict innovation and competition also continue to be in the center of the global policy debate. In the face of these developments, he emphasized the growing importance of the Global Digital Economy Commission's work in advocating for an open, trusted, and interoperable digital economy.

Building on these remarks, **Andrew Wilson, ICC Global Policy Director**, discussed the ICC Global Policy Department policy updates and objectives for 2023. He highlighted ICC's neutrality and commitment to global economic interconnectedness as keystone principles for global engagement. He underlined the importance of two current projects for the Global Digital Economy Commission: the campaign on shared goals for cyber action, and the work on data governance, particularly calling on members to contribute to the draft policy primer on non-personal data flows.

Andrew then gave an overview of the work of the other Global Policy Commissions (see slide 9), noting the importance of **cross-commission work** and several opportunities for members to contribute to the work of other Commissions:

- The ICC [Digital Standards Initiative](#) aims to accelerate progress towards digital trade globally by promoting policy coherence and harmonizing and driving adoption of digital trade standards. The group has released resources for policymakers and held several events for policymakers to help them unlock the benefits of trade digitisation.
  - **FOR ACTION:** To learn more about the Digital Standards Initiative, reach out to [Pamela Mar](#), Managing Director of the Digital Standards Initiative.
- The ICC [Global Trade and Investment Commission](#) in tandem with National Committees (NCs) is running an extensive advocacy campaign to call for the extension of the [WTO moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission](#).
  - **FOR ACTION:** NCs and members are encouraged to support this campaign, particularly in countries not in favour of the extension. To learn more, please reach out to [Valerie Picard](#), Head of Trade at ICC.
- The ICC Global Taxation Commission is following [OECD Tax Reform](#). ICC is advocating to repeal unilateral digital services taxes (Pillar I of the reform) and to ensure uniform implementation of the global minimum tax of 15% (Pillar II). Following a UN General Assembly resolution at the end of 2022 to “begin intergovernmental discussions... on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation”, ICC is also advocating in [formal UN sessions](#) for effective coordination among international institutions while warning of the downside risks of further tax policy fragmentation from a trade and investment perspective.
  - **FOR ACTION:** To learn more about this work, reach out to [Luisa Scarcella](#), Global Policy Lead, Taxation at ICC.

## 1.1 Ongoing work items for review

Please note for your awareness and engagement the overview of the current work items for 2023 (slide 11), in particular the four key work items that require input, shared with Commission members in advance of the meeting:

- The Working Group on Cybersecurity is running a global advocacy campaign to align the international community behind **Shared Goals for Cyber Action**, aiming to mobilize all stakeholders to act together to combat the ever-rising tide of cyber threats. The Working Group prepared the attached outreach document to present the project to country delegations participating in the United Nations [Open Ended-Working Group on the security of and the use of information and communications technologies](#) (OEWG) with the aim of proposing language for inclusion in the Group’s Annual Progress Report, 2023.
  - **FOR ACTION:** Members are encouraged to contribute to the campaign’s outreach and assist with the drafting of talking points for the campaign. To join the working group, please email [Rose Payne](#) by **Friday, 19 May**.
- The Working Group on Cybersecurity also intends to create an input document on **ransomware** for the next meeting of the OEWG, highlighting its impact as well as business efforts and good practices to detect, prevent and combat this threat. This input will build on existing ICC positions using relevant case studies from businesses in ICC’s network.

- **FOR ACTION:** Members interested in contributing to this input, either by sharing case studies or advising on content, are asked to reach out to [Rose Payne](#) by **Wednesday, 31 May**.
- The ICC campaign on **Digitalisation for People, Planet and Prosperity** will focus on demonstrating business leadership and expertise on continued digitalisation in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The campaign proposal document (attached) details different options for the scale of this campaign depending on the level of support from members, ranging from one or two events to a more extensive campaign encompassing an event at the UN General Assembly High Level week.
  - **FOR ACTION:** Members are encouraged to give feedback on the campaign proposal, indicating interest and willingness to support, by emailing [Meni Anastasiadou](#) by **Wednesday, 24 May**, and submit case studies by **Wednesday, 7 June**.
- The Data Governance Working Group is drafting **a policy primer on non-personal data flows** that aims to raise awareness on the impact of restrictions on data flows and lay out the key issues which policymakers should consider when developing frameworks on the flow of non-personal data. The first draft of this paper was shared with meeting participants prior to the meeting.
  - **FOR ACTION:** Members are asked to provide feedback on the first draft of the policy primer by emailing [Rose Payne](#) by **Wednesday, 24 May**.

Members also had the opportunity to discuss priorities on digital issues and opportunities for future engagement by the Commission. Members also pointed to the Marketing and Advertising Commission's work on revising the [ICC Marketing Code](#), including updates which address new technologies such as generative AI, as being relevant to the Digital Economy Commission.

## 2. Morning Working Sessions

These sessions featured a series of discussions on key campaigns and projects currently underway in the Commission.

### 2.1 Workshop on the Global Digital Compact

*Moderated by **Chris Wilson, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Vice Chair***

The [Global Digital Compact](#) GDC was called for by the UN Secretary General in his report [Our Common Agenda](#) to shape principles for an open, free, and secure digital future, avoiding internet fragmentation, upholding human rights online and data protection, as well as artificial intelligence, trust and safety online, and exploring global digital commons. The GDC has the potential to shape the views – and in turn policy and regulatory approaches – of UN member states, as well as to become the internal blueprint for the UN on digital policy matters.

The drafting process of the GDC has started with a [multistakeholder consultation](#) on the issues to be addressed by the GDC, overseen by the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Technology. Rwanda and Sweden have been appointed as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental drafting process and are currently running [thematic deep-dive sessions](#) on the potential issues to be included in the GDC. Reports on these consultations (expected at the end of the summer), as well as the UN

Secretary General's policy brief (expected on 5 June) will inform the Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on the GDC in September, which will kick off negotiations on the text of the GDC. The GDC will be adopted at the UN Summit for the Future in September 2024. (see background information on the GDC on slide 18)

ICC has been actively involved in the consultation process, working to ensure the GDC reflects good practices and on-the-ground evidence from global businesses. ICC shared [policy input](#) to the GDC drawing on existing positions, and complemented that with [learnings from a global business survey](#) ran in ICC's network this spring. (see highlights of these inputs on slide 20)

During the workshop members assessed the ongoing work and discussed next steps and ICC's priorities and mode of engagement in the process. Participants highlighted the importance of ensuring dialogue across venues and processes dealing with Internet governance and digital policy matters (e.g. IGF, GDC, OECD), build on existing work and avoid duplication. They agreed to focus on advocating for harmonization of rules.

The group also discussed whether there should be a set of principles that delineate what responsible business conduct looks like in the digital age and how to leverage ICC's existing work in other domains (environment, integrity, competition, marketing, and advertising, etc.) to shape such principles.

➤ **FOR ACTION:** Members and NCs interested in finding out more about the GDC and contributing to ICC's work in this area are invited to contact [Timea Suto](#).

## 2.2 Workshop on Digitalisation for People, Planet and Prosperity

Moderated by **Carolyn Nguyen, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Vice Chair**

The momentum created by the mid-point review of the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the increasing awareness of the role of digitalisation in getting the SDGs back on track make 2023 a crucial moment to illustrate how business is delivering societal and environmental goals. As noted above, the ICC campaign on **Digitalisation for People, Planet and Prosperity** will focus on demonstrating business leadership and expertise on continued digitalisation in support of SDGs. During the workshop members reviewed the campaign proposal and timeline, discussed case studies to feature in the campaign, and brainstormed on the delivery of the campaign.

The campaign will be based on case studies gathered from across the ICC network to be disseminated through a paper, social media, and a series of public-facing events. Participants advised that the campaign should include regionally diverse case studies, featuring businesses of different sizes and sectors, having a positive impact on the SDGs while delivering real business value. Members agreed for the campaign to draw on existing policy positions and work from across ICC.

The proposed project timeline (slide 27) includes the compilation of case studies in May, their dissemination throughout the year as well as several potential events such as ICC workshops at the [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#), at the [SDG Summit](#), during the UN General Assembly, and at [IGF 2023](#). The realization of these events will depend upon the level of interest expressed by the Commission members, and their support.

Members discussed connecting the campaign to the [Business 20 proposal to the G20](#) on connectivity. The Commission encouraged participation from the Indian, Brazilian and Italian NCs, highlighting the importance of these countries in the upcoming G20 and G7 meetings and their ability to gather input from local companies.

Participants stressed the need to address a broad spectrum of issues in this campaign and suggested that drawing on existing projects such as the [ITU Partner2Connect](#) would help with the identification of use cases.

- **FOR ACTION:** Members are asked to give an indication of the level of interest and ability to support the campaign by reaching out to [Meni Anastasiadou](#) by **Wednesday, 24 May**, and to submit case studies using the [dedicated form](#) until **Wednesday, 7 June**.

## 2.3 Workshop on Shared Goals for Cyber Action

*Moderated by **Rene Sumner, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Chair***

This campaign aims to drive shared international commitments to secure cyberspace that translate to concrete and effective actions on the ground. Shared goals set at an international level can help to reinforce expectations of responsible state behaviour on a national level. The workshop discussed how to further develop the campaign, including overall strategy and advocacy efforts.

The campaign builds on previous work, including [ICC Cybersecurity Issue Brief #2](#) and previous ICC engagements in the OEWG. The advocacy approach consists of two parallel tracks: working to secure international commitments which can be used to further cooperation and advance the implementation of the framework of responsible state behaviour, while at the same time working with governments to promote the problem statement and partnering with stakeholders to progress with ideation on the content of the goals.

Over the next few weeks, ICC will be reaching out to government delegations to the OEWG to encourage them to propose language which recognizes the importance of shared goals for inclusion in the Annual Progress Report, to be agreed upon in the July meeting of the OEWG.

Members discussed the need to reframe narratives (slide 34) about how to secure cyberspace, ensuring that we increase understanding that private sector regulation is only one piece of the puzzle; governments also need to fulfil their obligations. There needs to be a whole-of-society approach to cybersecurity which brings together government agencies. Discussions ended with a call out to members and NCs to partner with the Secretariat for outreach on shared goals.

- **FOR ACTION:** Members are encouraged to contribute to the campaign's outreach and assist with the drafting of talking points for the campaign by emailing [rose.payne@iccwbo.org](mailto:rose.payne@iccwbo.org) by **Friday, 19 May**.

**Prinya Hom-anek, ICC Thailand Commission Member** made a brief presentation on ASEAN cybersecurity initiatives. He also shared research on fostering cyber resilience in Thailand including good practices such as cybersecurity training and table-top exercises.

### 3. Afternoon Working Sessions

The afternoon was dedicated to agreeing on a strategic engagement plan for NCs with the Global Digital Economy Commission. It was opened by **Rene Sumner** (slide 37) who gave an overview of ICC's global network, highlighting the unique potential of this network to ask as an impactful partner in policymaking as the trusted neutral voice of business. This potential is further amplified through ICC's [observer status to the UN General Assembly \(GA\)](#), and its ability to draw together international experts from diverse regions. The session then moved on to workshops designed to brainstorm how to better align international and national work.

#### 3.1 National Committee Sharing Session

*Moderated by **François Martins, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Vice Chair***

Members heard updates from seven ICC NCs on current digital projects and recent policy developments in their respective countries.

- **Emmanuel Doni-Kwame, Secretary-General, ICC Ghana** (slide 44) reported on the progress of digitalisation efforts in Ghana. He noted that despite high levels of subscription rates to mobile phone service providers, connectivity is still limited and unreliable across the country. Furthermore, he highlighted how the digitalisation of basic services in Ghana has been dependent on World Bank funding which has stalled in recent years.
- **Miguel Calderon Lelo De Larrea, Chair of ICC Mexico Digital Economy Commission** (slide 49) gave an overview of the work of [ICC Mexico](#). He warned against the upcoming Federal Cybersecurity Law which risks over-regulating the sector. Furthermore, he mentioned digital policy developments relating to cybersecurity and privacy (see slide 51) and artificial intelligence (see slide 52) and how ICC Mexico was responding to these developments.
- **Alfred Ram, Policy Coordinator, ICC Sweden** described the structure and work [of ICC Sweden](#). He highlighted the role that ICC Sweden played in the recent work on the Global Digital Compact by liaising with ICC Global and with the Swedish Government (co-facilitator in the process).
- **Imran Khan, Secretary-General, ICC India** (slide 54) gave an update on India's Digital Economy achievements. He discussed the role India is playing through its digital diplomacy efforts in the G20, focusing on India's [G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Transformation, Financial Inclusion and Development](#) and [G20 Digital Innovation Alliance \(G20-DIA\)](#).
- **Nan Schechter, Digital Policy Assistant, United States Council for International Business (USCIB)** provided an overview of the Council's advocacy work in the field of Digital Economy. She reported that USCIB partnered with the OECD and Business at OECD (BIAC) to host a business roundtable on '[Advancing Implementation of the OECD AI Principles Across Sectors](#)'. She also highlighted the presence of USCIB in representing US companies international fora such as the IGF, the GDC and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
- **Nunki Juniarti, Executive Coordinator, ICC Centre of Entrepreneurship Jakarta Hub** discussed [ICC Indonesia's Centre of Entrepreneurship](#), which was set up to connect local entrepreneurs

to global markets, and the [Digital Export-Enablement Programme](#) (DEEP) for SMEs in Southeast Asia, a capacity building programme launched in partnership Google and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

- **Paula Costim, Policy Manager, ICC Brazil** shared her thoughts on recent legislative developments in Brazil. She highlighted ICC Brazil's work in opposing [Bill 2630](#) – a proposed legislation nominally designed to combat misinformation, that would shift responsibility for monitoring illegal content from the judiciary to internet platforms.

## 3.2 Advocacy and Communications Workshop

*Moderated by Carolyn Nguyen, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Vice Chair*

This two-way information session aimed at better aligning global and national communications and advocacy efforts. Discussions included how to ensure that ICC's global policy work is valuable to all members, and how to make sure national priorities are reflected in global work and advocacy with national governments.

The Secretariat and participants noted ICC's unique position within the international community and the value of coordinating policy engagement at the global and national level, stressing the importance of effective two-way communication to leverage these assets so unique to ICC. Participants discussed past examples of successful collaboration and future ways of working, including what kind of general resources are needed on ICC's policy offering, what kind of resources are needed to advocate on a specific issue, and how better to facilitate two-way information sharing.

## 3.3 Key Campaigns for Collaboration

*Moderated by Chris Wilson, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Vice Chair*

The last workshop of the day discussed four crucial areas of work where close collaboration between the NCs and Commission will be vital:

- **Trusted government access to personal data held by the private sector (TGA)** (slide 77)  
Following the adoption of the [OECD Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities](#), ICC will continue our advocacy to increase the reach and implementation of these principles, especially beyond OECD member countries. This could include organizing webinars and sessions to bring together regional industry and policymakers and aligning behind a shared message at regional, local, and global levels.

Members discussed how to leverage the TGA work in the context of government access to e-evidence in the context of fighting cybercrime. Participants also discussed the link between the TGA work and efforts to operationalize Data Free Flow with Trust, in particular at the G7.

- **UN Ad-Hoc Committee on Cybercrime** (slide 78)

The ICC Working Group on Cybersecurity has been following and actively engaging with the work currently underway in the [UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes](#) by 2024. This work is now at a crucial point, where member

states will be negotiating a new draft of the proposed convention at the Committee's next meeting at the end of the summer.

The ICC Working Group on Cybersecurity aims to identify issues of top business priority in the proposed draft and engage in a comprehensive in-country advocacy process to ensure business messages are heard and incorporated in national positions, before the next round of negotiations begins. Members highlighted the crucial importance of NCs joining this effort and reaching out to negotiators in their respective countries.

- **Shared Goals for Cyber Action** (slide 31)

Based on the discussions on the campaign, held earlier in the day, the Secretariat reiterated that NCs' support is needed for outreach to governments.

- **UN Global Digital Compact** (slide 80)

Participants reiterated the importance of reinforcing engagement at the global level with direct outreach in national capitals by sharing key messages with national officials who will be negotiating the Compact.

National committees have a crucial role to play not only in reaching out to government representatives, but also in raising awareness with policymakers and business representatives about the GDC and mobilizing members to get involved in consultations.

- **FOR ACTION:** National Committees are strongly encouraged to reach out to the [Commission Secretariat](#) at their earliest convenience to share which campaigns and workstreams they are most interested in and what resources are needed to support their engagement.

#### 4. Closing session and next steps

In his closing remarks, ICC Global Digital Economy Commission Chair Rene Summer highlighted that several projects would require the collaboration of NCs to proceed successfully. The Secretariat will create and circulate a survey to further reflect on how communication between the ICC Secretariat and NCs can be strengthened.

The ICC Secretariat will schedule the next meeting of the Commission for winter 2023, aligning with other events so that members can efficiently plan their travel.