



## PROGRESSING A DIGITAL GOVERNANCE DEVOTED TO HUMAN WELFARE THROUGH PRACTICALLY DELIVERABLE POLICY SUGGESTIONS FOR PIVOTAL POLICY MAKERS

The Global Initiative for Digital Empowerment ([GIDE](#)) brings new practical policy solutions and diverse international partners to advocate that the rules of the digital economy be more directed to the broad interests of humans, not just businesses and governments. Our human centred model is directed to all people (including non-users) and seeks to improve their well-being not just through material gain but also in optimising their social solidarity, personal agency, and environmental sustainability.

GIDE is an international non-profit organization driven by an expanding group of researchers, policy experts, civil society advocates, Internet technical and security experts and business people who are dedicated to reforming the rules for global digital governance. Coming from 29 countries, we advocate prioritizing the well-being and rights of people, both individuals and as representatives of communities, as the main drivers of the decision-making processes in the digital economy.

Dedicated to a multistakeholder model to problem identification, policy development and advocacy, GIDE works at the intersection of technology and policy, including: data governance, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and encryption, digital geopolitics, privacy, free expression, and civil liberties.

Committed to advocating practical solutions to key policy makers, the GIDE community is addressing three key areas:

**Promoting humane markets to empowering users as real consumers and countering the negative impacts of surveillance capitalism.** The misalignment between digital consumers and those who collect and monetize their data has led to a wide variety of serious problems. Over three years, GIDE members have developed an economic analysis and concrete proposals that aim to shift digital economy policies away from massive surveillance and data aggregation, towards a regime that empowers all users as market participants with the market power and the access to skills to approve who access their data and on what terms. The full report, *'Empowering Digital Citizens'*, can be downloaded [here](#).

The proposals put forward by GIDE have attracted increasing interest from international policy makers. A series of ongoing detailed discussions have been held at EU organs, especially the European Commission and the European Parliament. Other developed and developing country governments have expressed interest and at least one is conducting exercises to consider the implications of introducing such a model. Recently GIDE was asked to present its proposals to member states of UNCTAD and to the Think20 organ of the G20 and similarly with the G7. The World Bank has partnered with GIDE to further the Bank's GovTech initiative.

**Developing a new narrative for Internet Governance.** Over the last decade or more, state capitalist actors have promoted a critique of the original narrative of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance as being one which just serves the interests of Silicon Valley. Members of GIDE are working on a new bottom-up narrative which reinforces how the Internet technical coordination benefits average people in developing economies.

**Exploring the future of citizens' digital rights.** Led by its Latin American members, GIDE is commencing a process to consider how the needs of citizens should be best expressed in countries which have rights based constitutions.