

THE CONTRIBUTION OF BRAZIL TO THE GLOBAL DIGITAL PACT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Technological transformations are a constant reality in society. Speaking of changes in this regard is to reflect on various nuances that are intertwined and reverberate globally.

In this sense, discussing digital advancement necessarily involves talking about the internet and communication. It also means discussing tools, artifacts, among other items, but especially addressing a vast communication network is essential.

We are currently experiencing what Castells³ refers to as the Information Society. In his Prologue, he explains the relationship between society and technology throughout various periods of history. In other words, he recounts the intertwining of the two.

The current moment is characterized by a flow of information. Technology generates debates on how to manage behaviors, how to govern the use of technological tools, all with the aim of protecting fundamental rights.

The issue of a secure, inclusive internet, among other characteristics, becomes a global dilemma, given that deterritorialization is an element that eliminates the distance between nations.

Once information is shared, data are all connected in a cyberspace⁴, this virtual space that is immeasurable and at the same time accessible to those who have some technological artifact and access to the internet.

This concern, at the global level, led the United Nations to promote, among the various proposals focusing on human dignity and respecting fundamental rights, the creation of the Global Digital Pact.

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³ CASTELLS, Manuel. Sociedade em rede. Tradução Roneide Venancio Majer. 22^a ed. São Paulo: Paz e Terra. 2020.

⁴ PIERRE LEVY. **Cibercultura**. Editora 34, 2010.

This proposal focuses on sustainable development to make the internet a safe, inclusive, open, and free space. Thus, consultations were opened for all social entities to provide suggestions on topics related to internet usage.

The present research aims to identify the contribution of Brazil, as part of the Global South, to the elaboration of the aforementioned Pact. Initiatives from significant sectors have been highlighted in this work, demonstrating not only the interest in participating in the debate and the construction of global governance but also showing the same concern to make internet usage safer and more democratic.

ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION REGARDING BRAZIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELABORATION OF THE GLOBAL DIGITAL PACT

In the face of social transformations, in the wake of the phenomenon of hyperconnectivity constantly fueled by a flow of information and data, and with the unregulated use in some nations, it has become necessary and urgent to consider the global development of a safer virtual environment. The deterritorialization caused by the use of the internet allows for intense and incalculable data traffic worldwide, generating concerns about transforming the connected virtual space into an environment of open, safe, and human-centered digital communication, taking into account the fundamental rights of all individuals⁵.

In this sense, the United Nations has a fundamental role to play in building a safe and inclusive digital landscape internationally. This is because it is understood that only national regulations would be incomplete or ineffective, as communication transcends physical borders worldwide. Therefore, the participation of all continents is necessary, as this allows for the understanding of specificities and the reduction of differences.

In the fight against misinformation, the Secretary-General of the UN highlighted the need for leadership in digital transformation and technology protection. In this regard, it is important to mention the points made by the Secretary:

O secretário-geral da ONU concluiu destacando a necessidade de liderança na transformação digital e de proteção na tecnologia.

Ele adicionou que empresas de tecnologia estão ignorando os direitos humanos e a privacidade pessoal, fornecendo plataformas para “desinformação mortal”, em busca de lucro.

Guterres propõe um Pacto Digital Global para uma internet aberta, gratuita, segura e inclusiva.

O Pacto exige conectividade universal por meio de um “espaço digital centrado no ser humano”, onde a liberdade de expressão e a privacidade são protegidas e que promove o uso seguro e responsável dos dados. O chefe da ONU também

⁵ PIGATTO, Jaqueline Trevisan. ARANTES, Jacqueline Gobbi. MALTA, Heloisa Cristina. ODR Convida: Regionalismo, ODS e Agenda 2030: O papel da governança global sobre o Pacto Global Digital

pediu um código de conduta global que promova a integridade nas comunicações públicas e a alfabetização informacional⁶.

The Global Digital Pact is one of the main initiatives of the United Nations focusing on the need for secure digital integration. It is a proposal grounded in sustainable development. This pact is a synthesis of all previous movements aimed at achieving the goals set by the UN⁷, but this time with the aim of reviewing and directing them towards the priorities of the global digital agenda. The objective is to bring together governments, the private sector, and civil society to reach an agreement on the type of digital future we desire.

It is important to mention that considering the global Agenda for Peace and Challenges, the goal is the Sustainable Development Goals, and an action plan has been outlined to achieve them by meeting the Agenda by 2030. This is the Global Compact, which has initiatives addressing various global needs. Among them is the need for inclusive and secure internet access⁸.

It should be noted that the Global Digital Pact is part of the fulfillment of the 2023 agenda. In this sense, the concern with the virtual space is one of the challenges proposed by the UN⁹. The initiative aims to have the participation of all parts of the world, so that there is a democratized regulation, meeting as much as possible the varied situations of each state, in a multi-sectoral approach¹⁰.

The main question of the research is: Does Brazil, as a member of the Global South, contribute, and in what way, to the objectives established by the United Nations (Digital Pact)?

Analyzing the work carried out by Brazil, considering the data presented in the United Nations¹¹ Report on Brazil's participation and other works proposed by the United

⁶ ONU News. Chefe da ONU destaca papel crucial do G20 na resolução de crises globais. Disponível em: <https://news.un.org/pt/story/2022/11/1805352>, acesso em 08 mar. 2024.

⁷ ONU: pacto Digital Global. Disponível em: <https://blogue.rbe.mec.pt/onu-pacto-digital-global-2703238>, acesso em 08 mar. 2024.

⁸ FERRARI, Maria Aparecida; CABRAL, Raquel; SALHANI, Jorge. Estudo analítico do mapeamento de empresas brasileiras comprometidas com a Agenda 2030 da ONU. **Revista Gestão Organizacional**, v. 15, n. 2, p. 105-120, 2022. Acesso em 07 mar. 2024.

⁹ ODR Convida: Regionalismo, ODS e Agenda 2030: O papel da governança Global sobre o Pacto Global Digital. Disponível em: <http://observatorio.repri.org/2023/07/19/odr-convida-regionalismo-ods-e-agenda-2030-o-papel-da-governanca-global-sobre-o-pacto-global-digital/>, acesso em 09 mar 2024.

¹⁰ PIGATTO, Jaqueline. SERVILHA, Mikael. Vamos ficar de olho no Pacto Global Digital. O que é o Pacto Global Digital e por que é importante ficar atento a ele? Disponível em: <https://www.dataprivacybr.org/vamos-ficar-de-olho-no-pacto-global-digital/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

¹¹ ONU lança Relatório anual 2022. Disponível em: <https://brasil.un.org/pt-br/228315-onu-brasil-lan%C3%A7a-relat%C3%B3rio-anual-2022>, acesso em 09 mar 2024.

Nations, it is clear that the country has achieved good results. It is important to highlight that a text on the subject is underway, in which contributions from all countries forming the Digital Pact text will be gathered, with a multi-sectoral approach. For example, it is stated that 78.4% of companies have already adopted the ESG - Environmental, Social, and Governance agenda, which involves the adoption of policies and practices by companies to reflect sustainability and social responsibility¹². Based on this, a Future Summit will be held in 2024, with global debates that will give civil society the opportunity to participate.

The Future Summit, which will take place in September 2024, brings an opportunity for contributions from various spheres of society. It is titled "Multilateral Solutions for the Future." Among the areas with potential action is the encouragement of technology as a driving force for human progress, but it also highlights the possibility of harm¹³.

In this sense, the participation of all continents is relevant and necessary, as it concerns the virtual and therefore transboundary space, where there are constant exchanges of data and information, as previously mentioned. Additionally, there is a concern with the regulation of Artificial Intelligence, which is part of the set of objectives to be addressed in the Pact¹⁴. It is impossible to separate the topics involving technology in the virtual space or cyberspace, as this space is termed by Levy¹⁵.

Regarding the participation of the Global South, specifically speaking about Brazil, there is an association (Data Privacy Brazil), created by the union of schools and civil society, which encourages participation in the Pact. Its relevance should not be underestimated, as it contributes to the effective globalization of the initiative, in a context where the North traditionally plays a leadership role. It is understood that this participation is extremely important, given that the global North always plays a prominent role¹⁶.

¹² ESG: 78,4% das empresas brasileiras já aderiram à agenda, aponta Pacto Global da ONU. Disponível em: <https://brasil61.com/n/esg-78-4-das-empresas-brasileiras-ja-aderiram-a-agenda-aponta-pacto-global-da-onu-pind233876>, acesso em 08 mar. 2024.

¹³ The Summit of the future in 2024. Disponível em: <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/summit-of-the-future>, acesso em 08 mar. 2024.

¹⁴ SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE: WHAT WOULD IT DELIVER? Disponível em: <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-summit-of-the-future-what-would-it-deliver.pdf>, acesso em 08 mar. 2024.

¹⁵ PIERRE LEVY. *Cibercultura*. Editora 34, 2010.

¹⁶ Vamos fica de olho no Pacto Digital global. Disponível em: <https://www.dataprivacybr.org/vamos-ficar-de-olho-no-pacto-global-digital/>, acesso em: 08 mar. 2024.

It is also worth mentioning the participation of TECLA¹⁷, a unit that works with digital rights and technology at the Ação Educativa organization. At the Digital Pact Meeting, there was Brazilian participation with the presence of Tarcizio Silva, one of the creators of TECLA. It was a meeting of the Americas that provided significant participation from Southern countries, as reported by Silva. And, in this purpose of contribution, TECLA, through Ação Educativa, commits to sending contributions.

It is important to mention that the idea of formulating contributions to the UN is a democratic way to discuss issues related to the internet, communication, security, inclusion, among other developments. Thus, the consultation was open to continents, meetings were held, and the opportunity for individual contribution was made available¹⁸.

The form was composed of a questionnaire divided into areas: connecting everyone to the internet, including all schools; preventing internet fragmentation; protecting data; applying human rights online; responsibility and discrimination and misleading content; regulating artificial intelligence; digital commons as a global public good; and opens other areas for suggestions to address additional themes that should be considered for the debate¹⁹.

In the formulation made by TECLA, themes such as addressing inequalities on the internet and digital inclusion are included. It expresses and values respect for the diversity of the collective, minority groups, and other vulnerable groups in society, emphasizing that information and communication technology are indispensable for ensuring fundamental rights. It also signals various forms of active participation in society to promote an inclusive and democratic internet, such as raising awareness of the barriers

¹⁷ Projeto TECLA – Tecnologia (em) ação converge a atuação do time de Tecnologia da Informação da Organização em diálogos com outras unidades e atores, na articulação sobre políticas das tecnologias digitais de informação e comunicação. Disponível em: <https://acaoeducativa.org.br/projeto/tecla-tecnologia-em-acao/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

¹⁸ Encontro do Pacto Digital defende a formulação de políticas de tecnologia e direitos digitais como estratégia de afirmação e proteção de direitos humanos. Disponível em: <https://acaoeducativa.org.br/encontro-do-pacto-digital-defende-a-formulacao-de-politicas-de-tecnologia-e-direitos-digitais-como-estrategia-de-afirmacao-e-protecao-de-direitos-humanos/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

¹⁹ Encontro do Pacto Digital defende a formulação de políticas de tecnologia e direitos digitais como estratégia de afirmação e proteção de direitos humanos. Disponível em: <https://acaoeducativa.org.br/encontro-do-pacto-digital-defende-a-formulacao-de-politicas-de-tecnologia-e-direitos-digitais-como-estrategia-de-afirmacao-e-protecao-de-direitos-humanos/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

and difficulties faced by community networks in Brazil, advocating for inclusion in public policies, encouraging dialogue, among other forms of action²⁰.

It is worth noting that there are several other initiatives in Brazil aimed at working on digital education and regulation. Since 2003, when Decree 4.829/2003²¹ was promulgated, establishing the Internet Steering Committee in Brazil, there has been a constant movement towards information and education on internet-related issues. Among the various activities, events are promoted covering various aspects of the problems to be discussed in society regarding the use of the internet.

O Fórum da Internet no Brasil (FIB) e Pré-IGF Brasileiro, promovido anualmente pelo Comitê Gestor da Internet no Brasil (CGI.br) desde 2011, consiste em atividade preparatória para o Fórum de Governança da Internet (IGF), evento global promovido pela Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU). Por meio do FIB, o CGI.br busca incentivar representantes dos setores que o compõem a acompanharem, opinarem e debaterem sobre as questões mais relevantes para a consolidação e expansão de uma Internet no Brasil cada vez mais diversa, universal e inovadora, que expresse os princípios da liberdade, dos direitos humanos e da privacidade, de acordo com o decálogo de Princípios para a Governança e Uso da Internet²².

Important to mention are the responsibilities of the Internet Steering Committee in Brazil:

Entre as diversas atribuições e responsabilidades do CGI.br destacam-se:

- o estabelecimento de diretrizes estratégicas relacionadas ao uso e desenvolvimento da Internet no Brasil;
- o estabelecimento de diretrizes para a administração do registro de Nomes de Domínio usando <.br> e de alocação de endereços Internet (IPs);
- a promoção de estudos e padrões técnicos para a segurança das redes e serviços de Internet;
- a recomendação de procedimentos, normas e padrões técnicos operacionais para a Internet no Brasil;
- a promoção de programas de pesquisa e desenvolvimento relacionados à Internet, incluindo indicadores e estatísticas, estimulando sua disseminação em todo território nacional²³

It is worth mentioning one of the events promoted by the CGI.br, through the Internet Governance Forum/Internet Forum in Brazil, which in 2023 held its 13th edition.

²⁰ Encontro do Pacto Digital defende a formulação de políticas de tecnologia e direitos digitais como estratégia de afirmação e proteção de direitos humanos. Disponível em: <https://acaoeducativa.org.br/encontro-do-pacto-digital-defende-a-formulacao-de-politicas-de-tecnologia-e-direitos-digitais-como-estrategia-de-afirmacao-e-protexcao-de-direitos-humanos/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

²¹ BRASIL. Decreto 4.829 de 3 de setembro de 2003. Dispõe sobre a criação do Comitê Gestor da Internet do Brasil – CGI.br, sobre modelo de governança da internet no Brasil, e dá outras providências. Disponível em: https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/decreto/2003/d4829.htm. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

²² Fórum da Internet no Brasil. Disponível em: <https://forumdainternet.cgi.br/fib13/#sobre>, Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

²³ CGI.br. Disponível em: <https://www.cgi.br/atribuicoes/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

In this event, the nuances brought by the Global Digital Compact were discussed, with speeches from experts in the field. Firstly, there was a presentation providing an overview of the Compact, followed by a speech highlighting the contributions of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, addressing concerns about persistent digital inequality, advocacy for the core and fundamental functionalities of the internet, reinforcement of advancing global models of data protection cooperation, among other points. The integrity of the internet and the importance of its decentralization were also discussed. Additionally, there was a question raised about how institutional monitoring of the Pact will be conducted²⁴.

Thus, through the committees of the Committee, academic and scientific participation in discussions about the internet, its possibilities, and challenges should be considered. This allows for the formation of a democratic opinion because it provides participation from various social sectors. The composition of CGI.br itself represents various groups within society²⁵.

Therefore, the participation of the Global South serves to make the commitment truly global. It is worth noting that data protection is mentioned as one of the most relevant points of the future resolution. Data Privacy Brazil, along with the Observer Research Foundation, is leading one of the Think Tanks groups (part of the G20), developing the theme of inclusive digital transformation, one of the tasks of the T20 in promoting sustainable development in the Agenda 2030. The results of the public consultations held in 2023 will be brought to the 2024 Summit of the Future²⁶.

Therefore, it is believed that the multisectoral work of Brazil, as well as that of researchers and academia, bringing opinions and experiences, is significantly contributing to the global scenario, allowing the Global South to play a leading role in the construction of the United Nations' Global Digital Pact.

FINAL REMARKS

²⁴ No FIB13, especialistas apontam expectativas e preocupações em relação ao Pacto Digital Global, da ONU. Disponível em: <https://www.cgi.br/noticia/releases/no-fib-13-especialistas-apontam-expectativas-e-preocupacoes-em-relacao-ao-pacto-digital-global-da-onu/>. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

²⁵ BRASIL. Decreto 4.829 de 3 de setembro de 2003. Dispõe sobre a criação do Comitê Gestor da Internet do Brasil – CGI.br, sobre modelo de governança da internet no Brasil, e dá outras providências. Disponível em: https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/decreto/2003/d4829.htm. Acesso em 09 mar 2024.

²⁶ BIONI, Bruno. PIGATTO, Jaqueline. IRELLI, Mariana. ZANATTA, Rafael. **Transformação Digital inclusiva**. 2024. Disponível em: <https://www.dataprivacybr.org/transformacao-digital-inclusiva-no-t20/>. Acesso em: 08 mar. 2024.

Understanding the technological advances in the current context, one can perceive the development of an informational society. This means that the sharing of data and information is constant, which needs to be analyzed when considering fundamental rights.

In this sense, advancements are linked to the use of the internet. The concern becomes global because there are no longer geographical limits to the sharing of information and the use of the internet.

Building on this concern, which is of interest to all nations, the United Nations proposes the creation of a Global Digital Pact. The aim is to gather contributions from all continents so that there is effective participation with proposals, issues, and efforts to make the internet open, secure, and inclusive.

Therefore, this study analyzed, not exhaustively, Brazil's participation as a country of the Global South, with its contributions to the formulation of the mentioned Pact. The study shows that the country has been working to promote digital education, as well as the pursuit of internet governance, through the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. Thus, it is considered an important initiative by some Brazilian sectors for the formation of the document proposed by the UN, aiming not only to achieve globally managed internet but also to bring the nation's unique challenges to a global discussion.

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