

Oral Statement for Intervention at IMSB-led WSIS+20 Virtual Stakeholder Consultation on Rev2 on December 08, 2025

Submitted by Phyo THIRI LWIN

Thank you, distinguished co-facilitators, IMSB and other colleagues for this chance to deliver the message. My name is Phyo Thiri Lwin, a coordinator of Myanmar Youth IGF as well as Southeast Asia Youth IGF contributing to WSIS+20 statement and process as APAC youth. I would like to acknowledge the encouraging progress in Revision 2.

From a youth perspective, we strongly welcome the recognition in Paragraph 41 that digital technologies can play a transformative role in supporting environmental sustainability. We affirm that leveraging digital innovation for climate resilience is essential, but we would like to stress that these benefits must be paired with policies that meaningfully minimize the environmental costs of digitalisation.

In line with Paragraph 42, we share the deep concern about the rapidly rising energy demands of digital growth, including AI systems, data centres, IoT infrastructure, and device manufacturing. Young people are increasingly aware that the unseen carbon footprint of digital technologies threatens to undermine climate progress. We therefore call for transparent reporting on energy use, stronger efficiency standards, and accelerated integration of renewable energy across the digital ecosystem. For our generation, digitalisation must not intensify the climate vulnerabilities we already face.

On the concerns raised in Paragraph 43, we strongly echo the alarm over skyrocketing levels of e-waste. Young people across the region are building repair cultures, leading recycling drives, and advocating for circular models—but these efforts cannot succeed without systemic support. We call for improved data collection, regional cooperation on safe recycling technologies, corporate accountability for product lifecycles, and investments in community-level waste management solutions.

In response to Paragraph 44, we fully support the shift toward sustainable consumption and production patterns. Youth demand digital products designed for longevity, repairability, and responsible end-of-life management. Developing international standards for sustainable design, reuse, and recycling is essential and must include youth voices, who are often early adopters and innovators in circular practices.

Finally, echoing Paragraph 45, we strongly support the call for an inclusive and integrated approach to aligning digital and environmental policies. Young people must be meaningfully included in this process not as future leaders, but as present stakeholders whose lives will be shaped most directly by these decisions. Ensuring sustainability across the entire lifecycle of digital technologies requires policies that listen to youth, reflect community realities, and prioritize both environmental justice and digital equity.

Thank you.