Youth IGF-UA and IGF-UA comments on WSIS+20 Review Zero Draft Resolution

Subject: Youth IGF-UA and IGF-UA comments on WSIS+20 Review Zero Dra t Resolution

Dear all,

Please take into account joint statement of Youth IGF-UA Initiative Group and IGF-UA Steering Committee

Youth IGF-UA and IGF-UA Comment on the WSIS+20 Zero Draft Resolution

We welcome the WSIS+20 Zero Draft Resolution and, in particular, support Paragraph 115 on granting a permanent mandate to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

At the same time, we note with concern that the current draft lacks explicit reference to the role of youth in Internet governance. Youth are briefly mentioned in the preamble, but not in the key sections on multistakeholder participation (Paragraphs 103–118). This omission does not reflect the reality of youth engagement worldwide.

The experience of Youth IGF-UA demonstrates that youth initiatives are effective platforms for meaningful engagement, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. Our model of preparing young people ahead of IGF-UA mirrors the successful European YOUthDIG approach prior to EuroDIG and has been recognized internationally as good practice.

Therefore, we call for:

1. Explicit recognition of youth as a distinct stakeholder group within the IGF ecosystem, alongside other stakeholder groups.
2. Integration of Youth IGF processes into the overall IGF framework, including reflection of Youth IGF conclusions in the outcomes of IGF meetings.
3. Support for holding Youth IGFs ahead of national, regional, and global IGFs, to ensure structured youth participation and to create leadership pathways for young people in Internet governance.

We believe that ensuring meaningful youth involvement will strengthen the multistakeholder model and contribute to building a more inclusive, sustainable, and future-oriented digital ecosystem.

Youth IGF-UA and IGF-UA

On behalf of IGF-UA Steering Committee

Oksana Prykhodko

On behalf of Youth IGF-UA Initiative Group

Valeriia Dubytska