

Oral Statement for Intervention at WSIS+20 Informal Consultations on November 14, 2025

By Socheata Sokhachan

1. Thank you, secretary, and co-facilitators for this opportunity. My name is Socheata, and today, I speak on behalf of the APAC youth leaders who signed a Joint Letter for our written submission to the Zero Draft.

As youth, we envision technology and connectivity that translate into capability, opportunity, and dignity. True inclusion requires not just access, but the skills, networks, and fair structures that empower us to shape the digital world:

2. We appreciate that paragraph 20 acknowledges the urban-rural digital divide. However, we urge that this paragraph be strengthened to specifically name Pacific Island nations and conflict zones, where connectivity challenges are particularly acute, ensuring that the language captures both progress and the most vulnerable geographies.
3. We welcome paragraph 27's recognition of Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance as past progress. However, we urge that paragraph 27 explicitly include linguistic accessibility through Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance as ongoing priorities essential to linguistic diversity, inclusivity, and cultural participation online.

As we work to close digital divides, we must also ensure that the technologies being built serve all people and the planet equitably. As youth already shaping digital systems, we call for technology governance rooted in equity, accountability, and human rights, governance that responds to diverse realities and remains accountable from design through environmental impact:

4. We welcome paragraphs 82-84's commitment to bridging AI divides and establishing AI research programs focused on developing countries. However, we urge that these paragraphs be strengthened to explicitly address the concentration of AI development in a few countries, include language diversity—both widely spoken non-English languages and minority languages—and Indigenous knowledge systems in AI development, and establish clear provisions for youth inclusion in AI research and governance initiatives.
5. We appreciate paragraphs 41's recognition of digital technologies for environmental sustainability. However, we urge that this section explicitly include youth-focused capacity building and expand opportunities for youth to engage in monitoring, research, and advocacy on sustainable digital practices.

6. While paragraph 45 addresses environmental impacts, we urge recognizing independent environmental impact assessment frameworks, such as the EcoInternet Index, and committing to optimize Internet and digital infrastructure for energy efficiency.
7. Thank you.