

Oral Statement for Intervention at WSIS+20 Information Consultations on July 29, 2025

By Jasmine Ko

1. Thank you for the opportunity.
2. I am Jasmine. As Convenor of the Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum, HKYIGF, I hereby share the perspectives of young digital natives on this critical issue.
3. The Elements Paper rightly calls for ways to reduce the digital sector's environmental footprint. This is not merely a technical challenge; it is a moral imperative for our generation.
4. In early July, Youth Convene at WSIS+20 High-Level Event and Form the Youth Caucus. It ensures that youth perspectives are mainstreamed into civil society, private sector, and government inputs throughout the WSIS process, empowering our generation as learners, developers, and decision-makers in the Information Society. Young people here are deeply immersed in the digital world. Their perspectives, born from daily digital interaction, are invaluable for crafting sustainable digital policies.
5. At HKYIGF, our theme this year is "Envisioning SMART: Cultivating a Human-Centric Digital Future," and the 'S' stands for Sustainable. We recognize that the rapid expansion of the digital realm, while bringing immense benefits, also carries a significant ecological cost.
 - a. From the energy consumption of data centers to the growing mountains of e-waste, we must ensure that our digital growth contributes positively to environmental well-being, rather than exacerbating climate change.
 - b. Our discussions within HKYIGF consistently underscore the profound concern young people have for this issue.
 - c. We believe that a truly transformative digital economy can only be achieved if it is built on principles of environmental responsibility and resource management.
6. Locally, organizations like CarbonCare InnoLab in Hong Kong are key partners in this mission. While their broader focus is on catalyzing climate action for a low-carbon city, their work inherently involves the responsible use of technology.
 - a. They advocate for robust waste management, accelerate the transition to green energy, and emphasize resource management, all areas where digital technologies play a transformative role in achieving environmental sustainability.
7. The youth of Hong Kong, and indeed globally, are not just inheriting this planet; we are actively shaping its digital destiny.
8. We urge the Zero Draft to strongly emphasize concrete, actionable commitments towards a truly circular digital economy. This includes fostering innovation in green ICT, promoting digital literacy around sustainable consumption, and ensuring that environmental considerations are embedded in every stage of digital policy-making.



9. Let us seize this opportunity at WSIS+20 to commit to a digital future that is not only connected and prosperous but also profoundly sustainable for generations to come.
Thank you.