

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

By Jenna Fung

1. Good afternoon, Chair, colleagues, and fellow stakeholders. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in this consultation today.
2. My name is Jenna Fung, the Program Director of NetMission Academy (NetMission.Asia), a digital literacy program for youth in Asia Pacific.
3. I've worked in the field of Internet governance and youth engagement for over seven years, including with the Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF.Asia) and several multistakeholder initiatives across the Asia-Pacific. My focus has always been on ensuring that youth voices—especially from underrepresented communities—are not only heard but meaningfully integrated into digital policy processes.
4. Today, I'd like to offer comments on Paragraphs 82 to 84 under the “Monitoring and measurement” section, drawing from our latest youth-led report conducted by NetMission's Asia Pacific Policy Observatory on digital governance and artificial intelligence in Asia-Pacific published this June, as well as our regional consultations with youth leaders in the region.

Data and Digitalization (Paragraph 82)

5. We welcome the recognition of exponential data growth, but stress that **quantity alone is insufficient**—especially in the AI era where youth data is used in opaque ways. Recent APPO analysis reveals **weak informed consent systems** and **poor transparency** in how youth data is harvested for training AI models, deepening trust deficits among younger users
6. **We call for rights-based, community-centered data governance**, with ethical protocols, disaggregated breakdowns (including age, gender, disability, rural/urban), and youth involvement at every stage of data lifecycle.

Connectivity Targets & Beyond (Paragraph 83)

7. While several agencies have set post-2015 targets, we stress: **connectivity alone is not digital inclusion**. Youth in our study reported having internet access but lacking:
 - a. Digital literacy,
 - b. Safe online spaces, and
 - c. Support to meaningfully participate in digital economies or policy discourse.

8. Our youth-led findings spotlight that **connectivity must be meaningfully defined**. Broadband access is not enough—true digital inclusion depends on literacy, affordability, digital safety, and agency.
9. In the June report, AI's impact on youth mental health and online safety—through deepfakes, cyberbullying, and algorithmic harassment—demands a broader suite of metrics that go beyond connectivity rates
10. **We advocate for new indicators**: access to digital skills and safe online spaces, youth representation in policy venues, and measures of empowerment through digital tools.

Monitoring, Measurement & Participation (Paragraph 84)

11. It is critical for the zero draft to not only outline proposals on monitoring and measurement—but to **embed youth and marginalized groups as co-creators** - because young people are capable, credible contributors to policy evidence—if we're given the space and tools.
12. We propose an inclusive framework that combines **quantitative metrics** (e.g. % youth with safe access, digital literacy rates) with **qualitative tools** such as participatory surveys, lived-experience storytelling, and community checkpoints.
13. To ensure meaningful progress toward the SDGs in the digital age, the WSIS+20 process must center youth-led data practices, inclusive connectivity metrics, and participatory monitoring mechanisms in its zero draft. Let's not just gather data—let's make data count for all.