

# **DTC Statement to the UN Informal Interactive WSIS stakeholder consultation on the review of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+ 20)**

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 10am EST

My name is Netra Senthil, and I speak on behalf of the Dynamic Teen Coalition (DTC), the first and only Teen Board at the United Nations. I want to begin by thanking you for your time and attention.

We are here to advance the DTC teen civil rights movement — by and for the UN.

We need to move beyond token inclusion and begin building real structural support for teens in global decision-making processes.

At yesterday's session, my colleagues Alia Gupta and Amrith Kumar raised this issue, and we deeply appreciate Mr. Vint Cerf's response. He said that the decisions made today shape the future that teenagers will inherit and lead. That kind of leadership is essential. But we must also move from recognition to reform.

**So today, we deliver three urgent, practical recommendations:**

1. Update UN and IGF age frameworks, using the inclusive, lifelong multistakeholder model that our DTC Co-Chairs Pyrate Ruby Passell and Stacy Gildenston developed over three years. This reflects real-world and evolving digital participation, starting at age 13. If we, teens, are expected to navigate digital spaces, we must also be trusted to help shape them.
2. Remove the existing structural barriers that prevent teens from registering, contributing, or being selected for formal roles in the entirety of the UN and in all digital governance. Eligibility criteria must match capacity, not age-based assumptions.
3. Make way for funded, sustainable pathways to increase teen-led UN engagement, not as occasional guests, but as permanent stakeholders with clear roles, responsibilities, and support.

These are not visionary ideals.

They are basic governance updates, long overdue.

Our proposed model, from child to early career to senior stages, offers a lifelong, realistic, and rights-based approach that balances safety with participation:

- **0–12 years: Child**, with a focus on safety;
- **13–19 years: Teen**, focused on human rights, where all online participation is recognized;
- **18–Early Career**: Bridging each person to adulthood at their own pace;
- **Mid Career**: Focusing on developing a deeper, targeted network of exchange;
- **Senior Career**: A time for giving back through mentorship and legacy-building.

A “people-centered, inclusive Information Society” cannot be built while entire generations are left out by design.

You cannot claim to serve the next generation while that generation remains locked out of almost all UN processes.

We're not asking for permission.

We're already participating.

We're asking the system to reflect reality, because this is what modern multistakeholderism demands.

Because this is the DTC teen civil rights movement, by and for the UN.  
If inclusion is more than a principle on paper, then it must mean all of us.  
And that includes teens.

The DTC age-inclusive multistakeholder framework is the mechanism.  
The time is now.

Thank you.

Netra Senthil  
DTC Board