

ITU Generation Connect

Amplifying Youth Voices in
Global Digital Development

September 2023

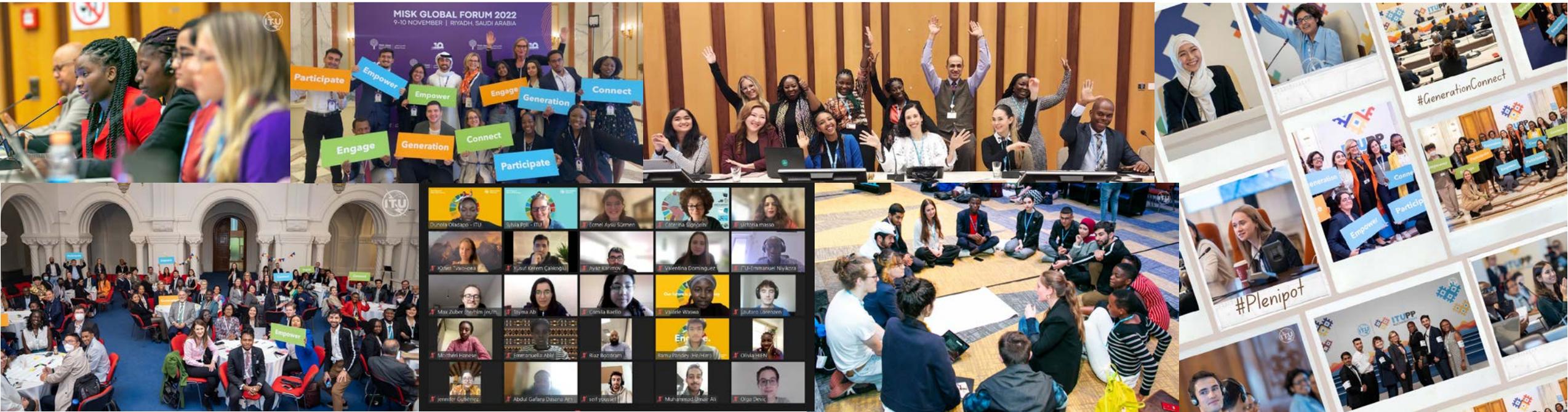


Engage, Empower, Participate!

Generation Connect is the flagship initiative of the ITU Youth Strategy.

Generation Connect aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.

ITU Member States have mandated the digital engagement and empowerment of young people through Generation Connect - updated resolutions 76 (WTDC Kigali, 2022) and 198 (PP Bucharest, 2022).



Global Initiatives

- ITU Youth Task force
- Generation Connect Digital Learning Certificate
- Generation Connect Podcast
- Ongoing partnership with the Kofi Annan Changemakers programme
- Virtual Participation/Side Events: ECOSOC Youth Forum, World Food Forum, YOUNGA
- Physical Participation/Side Events: IGF, MISK Global Forum, LDC5
- Participating in ITU Events: PP-22, TDAG, ITU-D Study Groups, RDFs, AI For Good
- Partnership with AI for Good on the ongoing Global Survey on Youth and AI
- Continued YOUTH 2030 collaboration with the UN Youth Envoys' Office, UNESCO, and other UN Organisations on youth digital engagement initiatives and reports.

Regional Engagement

180 Generation Connect Youth Envoys in 120 Countries

Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, June 2022

Preceding WTDC, 5000 youth participated physically, virtually & via 70+ hubs



Virtual Community

3300+ youth

Global Engagement

Generation Connect Visionaries Board

Generation Connect Visionaries Board

 Bany O Single, Designer & UNWCR Ambassador	 Sabitia Adia Digital Technology Expert & Founder	 Vigneesha Bala Engineer & Founder	 Raman Gajjeyv Youth Worker & Facilitator	 Ledy Mariana Jarama Founder & CEO of Jarama/COE	 Munabir Munsam Entrepreneur	 Othman Almosamer Researcher & Policy Practitioner
 Juliana Neves Internet Governance Expert	 Luke Cavanaugh Student & Founder	 Sinaad Bevall Model and Tech Entrepreneur	 Shahin Ajmal Researcher, Writer & Policy Strategist	 Clara Arendt Disruptive Technology Officer at the ITC	 Ted Chen Co-Founder & CEO of EverComm Singapore	 Jayshona Wickramanayaka UN Youth Envoy
 Diogo Ido Program Manager at Mozilla	 MH Princess Eamiea York Vice President at IYD	 Daran Bagdan-Martin IoT Director	 Sylvia Pell Head, Digital Society Division	 Dunela Okidaga Generation Connect Team	Engagement Managers	

- #1: Strengthen the long-term sustainability and engagement of the Generation Connect Regional Youth Envoys.
- #2: Increase the active engagement of the Generation Connect Visionaries Board.
- #3: Continue to identify opportunities for young people to learn about the ITU, and to meaningfully engage across ITU events, activities, and initiatives.
- #4: Identify and collaborate with new partners and donors toward the delivery of the ITU youth strategy.
- #5: Continue with the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and 3 pillars, and mainstream youth in ITU's key projects and activities as mandated by Member States.



Our future is just
a click away



Connie Man Hei SIU
GC-ASP Youth Envoy

#GenerationConnect



“My journey with the United Nations, technology, and policy began as a 15-year-old youth representative participating in the 2016 UN Internet Governance Forum, and engaging young people in technology decision-making spaces wasn't prominent despite the global multistakeholder platform. However, with more youth participating over the years, I'm proud to be a part of the force that drove the end of an era where youths weren't included in decision-making agendas, and I'm grateful for the crucial role that ITU takes on in this timeline - engaging and encouraging youth participation alongside today's leaders.

Being present at ITU's highest decision-making body has been a surreal experience, with ceiling-breaking moments ranging from electing the first-ever woman Secretary-General, to holding the first-ever youth-led side events in front of decision-makers across the world. But these occasions are bittersweet: arduous conversations and the failure to see the bigger picture are oftentimes intertwined behind the scenes, and yet they always serve as a great reminder of how change takes time, and that we should celebrate every small step and success.

To top everything off, (re)connecting with fellow youth envoys, delegates, and everyone at PP22 was eye-opening with how unique and phenomenal each person is, and I'm grateful to the entire ITU team, alongside the governments of Canada, Australia and Romania for making this happen.

*My biggest takeaway from PP22 is 'CONNECT': with resolutions to increase connectivity in various regions, alongside how youths, girls, and other groups connected to decision-makers by making themselves seen and heard; this is just the beginning. It never was solely about connecting people to the Internet, but more so about what we can do with this connectivity, and **I'm sure that we as young people will 'connect' to further empower, engage and participate in building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for all.***



Understanding the Role of Digital Policy to Achieve a More Inclusive Digitisation

Key Updates to Resolution 198: Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology

- **Recognises the ITU Youth Strategy**, adopted by ITU Members during TDAG-20, in line with the UN Youth Strategy to promote meaningful youth engagement in digital development.
- **Recognises the ITU Generation Connect Initiative**, which aims to engage and empower global youth encouraging their participation as equal partners to the leaders of today's digital change to advance their vision of a connected future.
- Resolves that the **ITU mainstream youth engagement and participation in the work of ITU** towards the overall goals of the Union; **encourage youth participation in ITU** programs, events and activities and **promote ICT youth-related policies** within ITU Member States.
- Instructs BDT Director to continue to advance **national, regional and international events that promote ICTs for youth**; and **promote the use of ICT for empowerment of youth** through the ITU Youth Strategy and the Generation Connect.
- Instructs BDT Director to continue to **engage with Directors of ITU-T and ITU-R towards the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and Generation Connect** throughout the Union

- ✓ **7 mentions of the ITU Youth Strategy**
- ✓ **5 mentions of Generation Connect**



Despite current global challenges, young people remain the driving force of connectivity globally, 75% of youth aged 15- to 24-year-olds are online, compared with 65% of the rest of the world's population.

It is critical that we meaningfully include youth in all aspects of creating, developing, and delivering on digital policy and their subsequent initiatives.

Join the Generation Connect Community!



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9030449/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178957110645315>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/generationconnect/>

Generation Connect website: <https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/>





Thank you!

