



Major Group for
Children and Youth
A space for children and youth in the United Nations

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Thematic session 4: Global digital public goods, digitalization, artificial intelligence, and connecting the world by 2030
Oral Intervention
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Thank you Ms. Moderator,

My name is Ona Ambrozaite, speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth. I draw on practical experience as MGCY Technology Focal Point and Science Diplomacy Chair of the Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to add some reflections on this topic:

First, access to Internet connectivity must be prioritized. For example, while digital technologies have allowed students to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic, many areas in the global south still need further investments into reliable internet infrastructure. Everyone has a right to equal access to affordable Internet connectivity and the benefits of Digital Public Goods.

Second, greater emphasis should be placed on intergenerational stakeholder engagement, particularly for women, indigenous populations, people with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons. Multi-stakeholder involvement at all stages is key to inclusive solutions for addressing digital inequality, including the creation, adoption, and governance of DPGs.

Third, youth capacity-building in the forms of funding and training programs is essential to equip young people with the necessary skills to effectively engage and advocate for digital equality.

Fourth, to promote a global digital commons, it is imperative to make further efforts to ensure strong and inclusive policies and governance of such resources. Governance must be multilateral and multi-sectoral to ensure that a variety of perspectives are represented.

Lastly, strategies should be formulated to ensure DPGs are well maintained in the long term, including providing incentives for efficiency and accountability. For example, multilateral institutions should create financial incentives that promote the long-term funding and maintenance of DPGs.

We would like to finish with a question:

What mechanisms are needed to further involve young stakeholders in the creation of global digital public goods and how should they be implemented at a governance level?

Thank you.