



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Youth and Students Lead: Best Practices in EdTech Advocacy and Youth Mobilisation

Friday 20th September 11am – 12.30pm Armenian Cultural Centre 630 2nd Avenue, Y Room

Organized by: Global Campaign for Education (GCE), Costa Rican Mission to the UN, Education and Academia Stakeholder Group (EASG), World Vision International (WVI), Global Students' Forum (GSF).

Background on the event (one paragraph)

In partnership with the Costa Rican Government, global civil society and education partners, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) hosted a side event session focused on showcasing policy issues in EdTech and youth and students' organisations' advocacy, and best practices towards youth mobilization. Critical issues were addressed including low digital skills, urban-rural and gender digital divides, wealth gaps, as well as the lack of teacher training. Reflections on the need for a regulatory framework for digital learning platforms, data protection and online security of students, open and free educational resources, as well as an encompassing intergenerational critical digital literacy process was also part of the discussions.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- **Nelsy Lizarazo from CLADE set the scene by discussing** Education Technology policy priorities globally noting that low digital skills, urban-rural and gender digital divides, wealth gaps, as well as the lack of teacher training.
- Her intervention was followed by a video message from **Alejandro Solano Ortiz**, Ambassador and Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Costa Rica He highlighted the role of governments in digital education as well as the importance of involving youth and students in policies. You can find the video message [here](#).
- **Hon. Harriet Chiggai**, the women and youth rights Advisor to the President of Kenya spoke on the Kenyan governments 'role in including women and youth in policy and decision-making processes. She noted, "We know that when we educate a girl, we empower a community, and when we mobilize youth, we transform a nation. With the right technological tools and partnerships, we can bridge the gap between education and employment, ensuring our youth are no longer left without the skills or opportunities they need to lead."

- To bring in youth voices, **Diana Ayala** from the GCE Youth Action Group and Foro Dakar Honduras spoke on the importance of youth and student mobilization, digital literacy for youth and students. She also emphasized the digital compact noting that “we can take into consideration as well a very important document such as the Digital Compact which represents a pivotal framework for fostering digital sovereignty while upholding human rights in our increasingly interconnected world. As technology continues to permeate every aspect of our lives, it is crucial to prioritize equitable access and protect individual rights, particularly in education.”
- **Christina Williams** from the Global Students’ Forum made a crucial distinction between youth and students and reminded the audience of the importance of student mobilization and equity in EdTech. Further, she spoke on the importance of financing education as we embark on the complex journey of EdTech.
- **Christian Lamarre** from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) brought in the UN perspective and shared the importance of youth in civic space and governance processes.
- **Daria Meirhut** from World Vision International, Refugee Advocate focused on Adolescent and early childhood education in emergencies noted: “My journey is showing that youth are not just passive recipients of help; they are active agents of change. What we’re seeing around the world is that while the potential for EdTech is enormous, there are still critical gaps in access and equity. These are challenges we must address head-on, ensuring that EdTech doesn’t widen the gap but instead closes it, offering every child, regardless of their circumstances, an opportunity to learn and grow.”

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Engaging with Policymakers: Direct engagement has proven effective in raising awareness and fostering dialogue especially around complex issues of this nature
- Creating Platforms for Student Voices: By hosting forums and workshops, we provide a space for students to share their experiences and perspectives. This not only empowers individuals but also cultivates a collective voice that can influence change.
- Collaborating with Other Organizations: Teaming up with other youth organizations amplifies our impact. By sharing resources, knowledge, and strategies, we can create a unified front that is harder to ignore.
- UN should depend on data and evidence
- The UN must preserve the integrity and independence of civil society in hope to maintain its vital role in holding governments and corporations accountable, promoting human rights, and fostering a more equitable and just world order.

Webpage to find more information:

[https://campaignforeducation.org/en/EdTech Blog GCE - Diana Ayala](https://campaignforeducation.org/en/EdTech%20Blog%20GCE%20-%20Diana%20Ayala)