_Draft IGF 2023 Messages from the Youth

Messages emerged from the IGF 2023 Global Youth Summit hosted in Kyoto on 8 October 2023

The messages are subject to public consultations until 31 October 2023

Empowering Youth in the Digital World
- Young people deserve secure and inclusive online environments that prioritize their safety and well-being. Empowering youth with digital skills and knowledge is essential for protecting their rights and privacy in the digital era.

Collaboration and Engagement
- Collaboration and engagement with youth in shaping digital policies are crucial steps towards a safer online experience for all. Defining the right framework for online safety is a collective effort involving all stakeholders.
- Engaging young people actively in cybersecurity efforts is essential, as their familiarity with the digital age brings valuable insights and opportunities.

Global Perspective and Multistakeholder Approach
- Different countries have adopted various approaches to ensuring safety online, but there is a need for a global perspective that transcends individual interests of businesses and centres people's safety as a key objective. A multistakeholder approach is essential to establish international standards for online safety, engaging diverse voices and expertise.

Education and Awareness
- Empowering youth with knowledge is key to online safety.
- Educating parents and educators on how to safeguard children online is equally vital.
- Balancing online safety is not just about security but also about preserving privacy and digital freedom.

Cybersecurity Awareness
- Cybersecurity awareness should permeate all levels of society, including education and curriculum. Teaching essential skills like software updates, strong password creation, recognizing phishing attempts, and data backup is crucial.

Stakeholder Participation

- Stakeholder participation is crucial in addressing complex issues related to online safety and privacy. Multistakeholder approaches, including involvement from civil society, industry, and government, are essential.

Balancing Individual Privacy and Cybersecurity

- Balancing individual privacy and ensuring robust cybersecurity measures is a complex challenge that requires a smart and thoughtful approach. Online safety should not be used as an excuse to restrict speech or impose broader agendas.

Youth as Influencers

- Young people have a significant opportunity to influence the development of policies in the digital realm. Their active involvement in discussions and debates can shape the future of the Internet and related technologies.

Overcoming Barriers to Youth Participation

- Barriers to youth participation, especially in the Global South, should be addressed, including visa rejections, limited access to education, and unequal technology access.

Investing in Youth

- Investing in young people is an investment in the future of the Internet governance space and the global community.