YCIG Annual Report 2022

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This document constitutes the mandatory annual report of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG), as required by the DC Coordination, following its guidelines.

The year 2022 began with a call for elections in accordance with our internal code of constituency. The election was held in January, overseen by an Election Steering Committee made up of volunteers with no close ties to the candidates. After a two-week voting period, the results were announced and at the end of January 2022, a new Steering Committee was formed, with one member from each UN region, including:

- Jenna Fung, representing the Asia and Pacific region;

- Nicolas Fiumarelli, representing Latin America and the Caribbean region;

- Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda, representing the African region;

- Emilia Zalewska, representing the Eastern European region;

- Daphne Stevens, representing the Western European and Others region.

Since assuming their roles, the Steering Committee has held multiple internal meetings using Google Meet and maintained communication through WhatsApp. They actively engage with the members of YCIG through various channels, primarily the YCIG mailing list, Telegram groups, and the social media accounts of the Steering Committee members.

An overview of the work of YCIG in 2022
Before beginning any activities and deciding on next steps as the new Steering Committee, an evaluation was conducted of the processes and activities that previous Committees had been engaged in. Additionally, the new ideas and expertise brought by the new members were considered to determine which activities should be continued in 2022 and why others were not. As a result, the following objectives were agreed upon:

- Attending every DC Coordination meeting
- Sending out a bi-weekly newsletter with opportunities and events for young people in the field of Internet Governance
- Community engagement and capacity development activities
- Expanding cooperation with youth organisations, Dynamic Coalitions, and National and Regional Initiatives, particularly with the Internet Society Youth Standing Group (Youth SG)
- Involvement in preparations for the IGF and associated Youth Track

- Continuation of the activities and good practices established by previous Steering Committees
- This document provides a summarised overview of all activities undertaken during the year, highlighting the collaboration with various organisations as a crucial aspect of our efforts to engage with and increase our membership.

List of intersessional activities organised and/or attended by YCIG:

- **YouthDIG**: YCIG Steering Committee member Daphne Stevens was part of the organising committee for the Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance, held from June 17-20, 2022.
- **EuroDIG**: On Day 0 of EuroDIG (June 20, 2022), YCIG was allotted a session titled 'A Celebration of Youth Voices in Internet Governance'. Members of the YCIG Steering Committee participated as speakers and moderators, alongside Veronica Picocolo of YouthSG, Daniel Kalemi of ITU Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group, and Lily Edinam Botsyoe of the Ghana Youth IGF.
- **APrIGF and Asia Pacific Youth IGF**: YCIG Steering Committee member Jenna Fung served as the program coordinator for the Asia Pacific Youth IGF (Asia Pacific yIGF) and was part of the secretarial team for the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF). She organised the Asia Pacific yIGF and attended the APrIGF. On Day 0 of APrIGF, she moderated the IGF 2022 Youth Track's third capacity development workshop and discussed the topic of "Transforming the Future for Youth: Opportunities and Challenges" with the community in the Asia Pacific region.
- **LACIGF / YouthLACIGF**: On Day 0 of LACIGF (October 28, 2022), Nicolas Fiumarelli was part of the organising committee for the Youth LACIGF that took place on the Day 0 of the LACIGF, with three sessions: "Youth Workshop IV," "Keynote: Meaningful Access," and "Youth Initiatives Roundtable."
- **IGF Uruguay**: In November, YCIG Steering Committee member Nicolas Fiumarelli participated in organising the Uruguay Youth IGF on Day 0 of the Uruguay IGF.
- **IGF Poland**: In October, YCIG Steering Committee member Emilia Zalewska participated in organising the Youth Summit at the annual, regional IGF event in Poland.
- **Youth African IGF**: YCIG Steering Committee member Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda assisted in developing the IGF Youth Track's "Road to Addis Awareness Workshop" session at the Youth African IGF. The focus was on the conditions youth have in various parts of the world to meaningfully benefit from digital transformation."

Community engagement activities by YCIG

- Bi-weekly newsletter: The Steering Committee sends out a bi-weekly newsletter to inform YCIG members of various opportunities and events in the field of Internet Governance that may be of interest to them.

- Partnership with Internet Society's ISOC Youth Ambassadors Program: YCIG Steering Committee members Mauricia, Nicolas and Emilia coordinated the mentorship program.

- Youth LACIGF Newcomers Course on Internet Governance: The course consisted of 3 modules, held on Saturdays in October (8th, 15th, 22nd) at 1:00 PM UTC

  - Module 1: Introduction to Internet Governance - [recording](#)

  - Module 2: Digital human rights, data protection, and privacy - [recording](#)

  - Module 3: Advance Technologies and Digital Transformation - [recording](#)

  After each session per module, the materials used in each of these were made available to the participants.

- <u>Webinars Series in Preparation for the IGF 2022</u>:

  Continuing from last year's efforts, YCIG organised a series of webinars that focused on capacity building exercises for the thematic tracks of the IGF. These webinars allowed young professionals to discuss hot-topic issues for the IGF and were utilised as a strategic tool to encourage members to attend youth-led and youth-organised sessions at the annual IGF Meeting.

  - <u>Webinar 1: Youth on Data Security, Safety and Privacy:</u> The Road to Addis Ababa;

    Nicolas Fiumarelli (YCIG Board of Directors) and Joao Moreno Falcao (YouthSG Board of Directors) talked about some cybersecurity concepts and policy issues related to quantum supremacy, privacy, security, quantum computing, and more. They encouraged all young professionals to participate in the preparatory global discussions on the road to IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, and to attend some of the sessions resulting from the internal call for proposals for IGF 2022 that YCIG has been conducting with YouthSG related to two of the corresponding thematic tracks of IGF2022.

- ○ <u>Webinar 2: Youth on AI, IoT, Blockchain, and Metaverse:</u> The Road To Addis Ababa; - [recording](#)

  In the second webinar, Umut Pajaro Velazquez led a group of young professionals in a capacity-building exercise that focused on the opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies such as Blockchain, NFTs and Metaverse, IoT, and AI Governance. The exercise also addressed the issues of digital divide, discrimination, and labour substitution. By the end of the sessions, the participants recommended various youth-led IGF 2022 sessions to further delve into these topics.

- ○ <u>Webinar 3: Youth Inclusion - Barriers in IG Participation:</u> The Road to Addis Ababa. - [recording](#)

  In the third webinar , Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda, Bipana Dahkal with Nicolas Fumarelli and Umut Pajaro Velazquez addressed the issues of youth inclusion and specifically focused on the barriers to inclusion in IGF meetings. Sub-topics covered in the session were for example the lack of participation of certain gender groups. The discussion covered the gaps to meaningful inclusion and how to also increase the inclusion of youth in the IGF. Participants were invited to the IGF 2022 and to some of the Youth-led Engagement / Meaningful access/connectivity sessions planned.

Participation in the IGF 2022

In May 2022, the YCIG Steering Committee, in partnership with the Youth SG, established 5 working groups focused on various thematic areas of the IGF 2022. These groups engaged young people globally to prepare and submit session proposals for the event. A total of 13 proposals were submitted, with 11 being accepted for the IGF 2022. The approved proposals are listed as follows:

1. YCIG DC Session: Road to future IGFs - [the recording](#);

2. WS #491 The future of Interplanetary networks - A talk with Vint Cerf - [the recording](#);

3. WS #341 Global youth engagement in IG: successes and opportunities - [the recording](#);

4. WS #475 Balancing Digital Sovereignty and the Splinternet - [the recording](#);

5. WS #420 Skills of tomorrow: youth on the cybersecurity job market - [the recording](#);

6. WS #523 Youthful approach at data protection in messaging apps - the recording;

7. WS #269 Data-privacy gap: the Global South youth perspective - the recording;

8. WS #292 Connectivity at the critical time: during and after crises - the recording;

9. WS #240 Pathways to equitable and safe AI development - the recording ;

10. WS #352 Youth lenses on Meaningful Access and Universal Connectivity - the recording.

11. WS #269 Data privacy gap: the Global South youth perspective - the recording

The YCIG SC members organised and/or participated as moderators or speakers in the following sessions at the IGF 2022:

- Global Youth Summit – Emilia Zalewska and Jenna Fung;

- DCs Main Session "Our Digital Future: How IGF Dynamic Coalitions support the Global Digital Compact" - Jenna Fung and Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda;

  YCIG DC Main Session - The Road to Future IGFs - Full steering committee present.
- WS #523 Youthful approach at data protection in messaging apps - Nicolas Fiumarelli
- WS #491 The future of Interplanetary networks - A talk with Vint Cerf - Emilia Zalewska, Nicolas Fiumarelli and Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda
- WS #341 Global youth engagement in IG: successes and opportunities - Full steering committee present.
- WS #475 Balancing Digital Sovereignty and the Splinternet - Emilia Zalewska
- WS #352 Youth lenses on Meaningful Access and Universal Connectivity - Nicolas Fiumarelli

In addition to the working groups, the YCIG and members of the Youth SG created a Telegram group for young people participating in the IGF on-site in Addis Ababa. The group served as a platform for organising common activities, networking, and cooperation, and ultimately attracted 130 members. One example of an activity organised through the group was a visit to the African Union's headquarters.

On the afternoon of Day 0 of the IGF, a gathering of young people was held with an invitation sent through the Telegram group, which was sponsored by ISOC and provided pizza and beverages.

The YCIG Steering Committee members also played a significant role in the preparations for the Youth Track, which featured 4 workshops held in Europe at EuroDIG, in Africa at the African IGF and Africa Youth IGF, in Asia at the APrIGF, and in Latin America at the Youth LACIGF. All members of the Steering Committee actively participated in each of the Youth Track workshops as organisers, coordinators, and moderators. Additionally, they also played an active role as panellists and moderators at the Global Youth Summit on Day 0 of the IGF.

Additionally, at the start of the year, the YCIG collaborated with UN MGCY to continue cooperation on Digital Public Goods. Although a session was submitted, it was not selected for the IGF 2022.

Elections:
The outgoing members of the Steering Committee will oversee the election process. The election period will commence on January 14th, 2023.

Contribution to the Global Digital Compact:
The YCIG plans to submit a contribution to the Global Digital Compact in January 2023, before the election finishes, highlighting concerns and solutions gathered from young experts throughout the year related to the GDC roadmap items.

Final remarks
In conclusion, the youth coalition on internet governance has had a highly successful year. The active participation of regional youth coordinators on the board of directors played a crucial role in this success. Their unique perspectives and insights, drawn from their respective regions, helped to guide the coalition's efforts and effectively achieve its objectives. Additionally, their presence on the board of directors helped to ensure that the coalition's actions were tailored to the specific needs and concerns of young people in different regions. Through their tireless efforts, the coalition has made significant strides in promoting internet governance and engaging young people in the conversation, positioning it for continued success in the future.

Discussing crucial topics such as the future of interplanetary networks, global youth engagement in internet governance, sovereignty and the splinternet, youth perspectives on data protection and privacy, as well as advocating for equitable and safe AI development and skills needed for the cybersecurity job market, we are proud to have highlighted the successes and opportunities for youth involvement in internet governance.

As we look ahead to the next year, the YCIG board of directors is committed to continuing to drive forward the conversation on these important topics. We will be focusing on specific lines of action, such as increasing youth participation in internet governance

decision-making and promoting digital literacy and media literacy education for young people. We will also work closely with stakeholders to ensure that the voices and needs of young people are heard and taken into account in internet governance discussions.

We invite all members of the internet governance community to join us in these efforts and to continue working towards a more inclusive and equitable internet for all. Let's celebrate this achievement and look forward to shaping the future of internet governance together.