

ISOC Collaborative Leadership Exchange

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-day-0-event-95-internet-society%E2%80%99s-collaborative-leadership-exchange-clx>

1) Session Content

The Collaborative Leadership Exchange session was designed to foster relationships between Internet Society Youth Ambassadors and the wide IGF audience and to encourage collaboration on critical Internet Governance issues.

Welcome remarks and Introduction:

Nicolas Fiumarelli - former Youth Ambassador 2019 cohort, welcomed participants, shared the objectives of the session and highlighted the importance of youth involvement in shaping the digital ecosystem.

Pranav Tiwari - Empowerment Advisor at the Internet Society Foundation, introduced himself and explained the format of the event, which included presentations by Youth Ambassadors followed by interactive breakout sessions.

Tori Irvine - Program Manager for the Youth Ambassador Program at the Internet Society Foundation, introduced the Youth Ambassadors and their project topics, starting with the online participants and then the ones in-person.

Project Presentations by Youth Ambassadors:

Caroline Tarus (Kenya) presented her initiative on empowering youth with knowledge and skills on Cybersecurity and Data Privacy to navigate the online world safely. She aims to bridge the gap between complex legal concepts and practical digital experiences.

Ida Na-Tei (Ghana) discussed her project on online safety and ethical use for young people and kids. She plans to use workshops, webinars, and educational materials to equip the young generation with essential skills for responsible online interactions.

Nana Ama Addo (Ghana) presented her initiative entitled "Empower Her," which aims to bridge the digital divide for women by addressing the gender gap in digital literacy and empowering women in rural areas in Ghana.

Yug Desai (India) presented his initiative entitled "Making Standards Relevant to End Users". He highlighted the importance of raising awareness about standardization processes and their impact on the everyday Internet experiences of end-users. He emphasized the need to bridge the gap between technical experts and regular users.

Daniele Turra (Italy) talked about the Fediverse as an approach to the use of open-source software in social media. He discussed the potential of open-source software in empowering users and fostering digital sovereignty. He highlighted the Fediverse, a network of interoperable social media servers, as an example of this approach.

Jeremy Htet (Myanmar) presented the Youth IGF Myanmar initiative, which focuses on promoting internet governance awareness and inclusivity among young people in Myanmar.

Paola Corporan (Dominican Republic) presented her project on engaging girls in coding initiatives within the public sector. Her goal is to demonstrate the positive impact of women in coding involvement on public innovation.

Athanase Bahizire (Democratic Republic of the Congo) presented his initiative on Internet Fragmentation. He explored the concerning issue of Internet shutdowns as the frequent type of Internet Fragmentation in the global south and highlighted its economic and social ramifications. He emphasized the need for alternative solutions to address conflicts without resorting to Internet restrictions.

Edgar Brutyan (Georgia) addressed the challenges posed by generative AI, particularly its misuse in spreading disinformation. He is exploring methods to regulate media in Georgia while safeguarding democratic development. He highlighted as a challenge that media regulation may lead to authoritarian censorship and therefore the need for more attention.

Breakout Discussions:

Participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions with the Youth Ambassadors in breakout sessions, both online and in person. These discussions provided valuable feedback and insights for the Ambassadors to refine their project initiatives.

2) Outcomes and Learning

- The ambassadors gained valuable insights and feedback on their projects through discussions with peers and online participants.
- The session fostered collaboration opportunities, with some ambassadors expressing interest in working together on their initiatives.
- Sharing experiences and insights from diverse geographical backgrounds fostered a richer understanding of the issues.
- The discussions highlighted the importance of inclusive Internet governance and the need for active youth participation in shaping the digital future.
- The session emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of the Internet – a future that is open, trustworthy, and beneficial for everyone.

3) Call to Action

Participants are invited to join upcoming sessions held by the Internet Society Youth Ambassadors at IGF 2023.

The audience is encouraged to learn more about the Internet Society Youth Ambassador Program at: <https://www.internetsociety.org/policy-programs/youth-ambassadors/>

Rapporteur: Athanase BAHIZIRE