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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C23/67** |
| **26 June 2023** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Contribution from Canada | |
| ONE FIT-FOR-FUTURE ITU / ITU YOUTH STRATEGY  GENERATION CONNECT GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT | |
| **Purpose**  Canada submits this contribution as a basis for further discussion and Council’s guidance on the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy, including to ensure inter-sectoral coordination, and most importantly, that at the next Generation Connect Global Youth Summit the views, voices and needs of young people are expressed and heard freely and brought as an uncensored and unfiltered output document to the attention of Member States at the 2025 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25).  **Action required by the Council**  Council is invited **to consider** the views expressed in this contribution during the PL 2 session.  **References**   * [ITU Youth Strategy](https://s42553.pcdn.co/generationconnect/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ITU_Youth_Strategy.pdf) * [Generation Connect Initiative](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/) * [Generation Connect Global Youth Summit 2022](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/generation-connect-youth-summit-2022/) * [Kigali Action Plan](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) * [RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) “Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment.”](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) * [RESOLUTION 198 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) “Empowerment of youth through telecommunication / information and communication technology](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/conf/S-CONF-ACTF-2022-PDF-E.pdf).” * [United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030.](https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-un/) * [United Nations Our Common Agenda: Listen to and work with youth.](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf) * <https://www.itu.int/md/D18-WTDC21-C-0098/en> | |

Canada strongly supports an effective implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and recognizes and congratulates the ITU for the successful organization of the first Generation Connect Global Youth Summit, held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 02 to 04 June 2022, immediately prior to the WTDC-22.

The Generation Connect Global Youth Summit 2022 brought together thousands of young leaders, entrepreneurs, social change-makers, students, and community advocates, who openly addressed the digital youth divide and related topics, including digital skills, gender, climate change, online safety, the future of work, entrepreneurship, digital trends, and more. The Generation Connect Global Youth Summit 2022 successfully provided an opportunity for meaningful youth engagement, consultation, collaboration, empowerment, and participation.

Although the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit created open and honest discussions where young people exercised their right to be heard, particularly in regards to their Digital Future, the output document "Call to Action: My Digital Future" presented at the Opening Ceremony of WTDC-22 was unfortunately not even brought to the attention of the Conference, or discussed in any way or manner.

Proposal

The first Generation Connect Global Youth Summit acknowledged that digital connectivity and skills for global youth are intrinsically linked to the ITU’s goal to connect the unconnected to reach the UN’s SDGs. Consequently, we propose that the preparatory process for the next ITU’s Generation Connect Global Youth Summit ensures an open participation of youth representatives and Civil Society organizations in the design, theme, and organization of the summit.

We propose that in line with the “One Fit-For-Future ITU” 2030 vision further efforts be taken by the General Secretariat to ensure inter-sector coordination, and assistance to the BDT in its efforts to initiate the resource mobilization and partnership efforts needed to fund the Summit, as well as fund ITU fellowships to ensure the physical participation of youth from all six ITU regions, particularly from developing, LDCs, SIDS and economies in transition.

In planning for the next Youth Summit, we propose for the BDT Director to report back to the next TDAG on the progress of the above items, including a report to Council 2024.

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