

Outcome report

Generation Connect: developing technology to connect and to deliver quality education for youth

Session Date and Time: Session 2, Tuesday, 6 July 2021 (1000 – 1100 Geneva time)

Moderators:

Dunola Oladapo - Generation Connect Team Rep

Tariq Mohammed - GC-AMS

Speakers:

Connie Man Hei Siu - GC-ASP

Bayni Mohamed - GC-ARB

Sophiyat Sadiq - GC-AFR

Camila Baello – GC-AMS

Bongani Dlamini – GC- AFR

Mariia Plotkina - Geek Teachers

Hani Eskandar - ITU

Session summary:

Generation Connect is the overarching initiative of the ITU Youth Strategy. Generation Connect aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.

These challenging times have called for young people to adapt to new ways of learning. Learning virtually or at least in a hybrid format [virtual x physical] is now mainstream. As new educational technologies emerge, how can we ensure that they are fit for purpose for diverse youth across the world? How can we ensure that no young person is left behind? What role can governments, the private sector and international organisations play in fostering quality education and opportunities for youth online?

This Generation Connect x ET Week session was co-designed with Generation Connect Regional Youth Envoys. The session focused primarily on two inter-related themes: **the evolving role of emerging Technology in delivering quality education for youth, and the importance of emerging technology in the digital inclusion of marginalised youth across the world.**

The session also featured a special violin musical performance by one of the Generation Connect Youth envoys - Wassila Chtioui, a TIC student.

Main outcomes

Issues/challenges discussed with the youth panellists:

- Questions about experiences learning/working online over the past year.
- Have you or young people in your region faced any challenges in adapting the increasing use of technology over this past year?
- What could be changed or improved about online learning?
- If you could say one thing to the service providers/developers of online learning platforms what would it be?

Issues/challenges discussed with the experts:

- The key challenges in digital education delivery.
- The evolution of teaching methods over this past year?
- How can e-learning platforms/programs be designed with/for youth?
- How can educational digital solutions help bridge the connectivity gap especially for marginalized youth?

Takeaways

Access to the internet and technological devices for youth is key to the future of quality education delivery. E-learning platforms should also be designed with and for diverse youth to ensure that they are turlu fit for purpose for all young people.

The main takeaways from of the event is best summarised by the below quoted closing remarks:

"Today we prioritize the young students that were most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and those who have not yet been able to connect. If we want an inclusive and equitable future, we cannot leave any of them behind. Let's put our efforts in achieving a technological development that ensures equitable access to quality education for youth." – **Camilla Baello - Generation Connect - Americas**