

Young Societies Role in shaping emerging technologies and progressive digital institutions

[Ongea Na Demokrasia](#), [African Child Projects](#)

Tuesday, 4 April 2023 **13:00–14:00 (UTC+02:00)**

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/200>

Summary of Report

Ongea na Demokrasia Introduction Ongea na Demokrasia is a project run by African Child Project that aims to sensitize enhanced democratic participation to the public and leverage the use of civic technologies to increase civic participation in the democratic processes. The project has developed an open digital platform called Sema Tanzania, which means "Say Tanzania", to facilitate polling, ideation, collaboration and access to digital services among citizens and the purpose of this report is to summarize the main findings and recommendations from the session.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

The key insights and outcomes from the session are as follows:

- Youth are a vital force for democracy and governance in Africa, as they constitute more than 60% of the continent's population and have the potential to shape its future. However, youth face many barriers to participate effectively in democratic processes, such as lack of awareness, education, representation, inclusion, empowerment, resources, opportunities, and platforms.
- Technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing youth participation and empowerment in democracy and governance in Africa, as it can enable access to information, communication, education, expression, collaboration, innovation, mobilization, monitoring, evaluation, feedback, and accountability. However, technology also poses some challenges and risks for democracy and governance in Africa, such as digital divide, misinformation, disinformation, manipulation, surveillance, censorship, cyberattacks, and digital rights violations.
- There are many examples of youth-led initiatives that use technology to address issues of democracy deficit, lack of good governance, and human rights violations in Africa. Some of these initiatives include:
 - Sema Tanzania: A civic technology open platform that empowers democratic participation through polling, ideation, collaboration, and access to digital services among citizens, and government .
 - Ushahidi: A social enterprise that develops open source software for information collection, visualization, and interactive mapping, used by various organizations ,and communities ,to monitor ,report ,and respond ,to issues such as elections ,human rights ,and disasters .



Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Strengthening the capacity and network of youth organizations and activists to advocate for their rights and interests in policy-making and implementation. This can be done by providing training, mentoring, funding, recognition and support to youth-led initiatives that work on democracy and governance issues.
- Supporting the development and scaling-up of innovative solutions that use technology to address issues of democracy deficit, lack of good governance and human rights violations in Africa..
- Enhancing the collaboration and dialogue between youth and other stakeholders, such as governments, civil society, media, academia and private sector, to foster mutual understanding and trust.
- Promoting a culture of democracy and civic education among youth, especially in areas where there is low awareness or participation in democratic processes.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))

- Launching of Sema Tanzania Platform
- Sema Tanzania Application selected as top 4 Semifinalist in tech4democracy Africa competition
- Commitment to strengthening open innovation for democracy through civic technologies
- Agreements to report of feedback and build the session to more audiences and collaborations at the 2023 internet governance forum.

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Progressing the session to the IGF in Japan, presenting key findings and collecting insights.
- Building a network of democracy advocates strengthening and sensitizing the shaping of open, equal and safe digital democratic spaces

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

The role of youth in shaping the future of the information and knowledge societies. This theme could explore how young people can contribute to the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs through their creativity, innovation, participation and leadership in various domains such as education, culture, media, science, technology and governance. It could also highlight the challenges and opportunities that youth face in accessing and using ICTs, as well as their rights and responsibilities in the digital age. This theme could showcase some of the initiatives and projects that empower youth to become agents of change and social transformation in their communities and beyond.