**Session Outcome Document**

(*2 pages max*)

**[Knowledge Café: Youth building the digital future - WSIS+20 Review and Beyond 2025]**

**[WSIS]**

**[12:15-13:45, 7 July]**

**[https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/139]**

**Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025** (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

During the session, four on-site groups and two online breakout rooms discussed the following key points:

* **Need for Long-Term and Structural Youth Inclusion**: Participants emphasized sustained and structured youth engagement, including permanent representation at WSIS plenaries and decision-making bodies.
* **Broadening WSIS Scope Beyond Technical Focus**: There was a strong call to incorporate social, cultural, economic, and human rights dimensions into WSIS discussions.
* **Connectivity as a Human Right**: Youth advocated recognizing internet access as a fundamental right for equitable participation in education, the digital economy, and governance.
* **Digital Literacy, Safety, and Equity**: Challenges around misinformation, algorithmic bias, online safety, and the need for accessible digital identity systems were highlighted.
* **Digital Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship**: Participants encouraged WSIS to promote digital skill-building and support youth-led innovation and entrepreneurship.
* **Inclusive Definitions and Representation**: The current age range defining “youth” (18–30) was seen as too narrow; participants advocated for the inclusion of those under 18.
* **Grassroots Participation and Local Access**: Youth noted low awareness of WSIS and called for more localized outreach, simplified language, and funding mechanisms to engage communities.

**Tangible Outcomes of the session**

* **Key Achievements**:
  + Cross-group consensus on the need for WSIS to structurally integrate youth into all aspects of its processes.
  + Introduction of ideas such as Youth Co-Chairs, Youth Rapporteurs, and Youth Satellites.
* **Proposed Initiatives**:
  + A “WSIS Youth Grassroots Fund” to support youth-led activities at the local level.
  + A “WSIS Youth Track” program for continuous youth engagement and leadership development.
* **Commitments**:
  + Participants expressed commitment to raise awareness of WSIS in their own regions and support initiatives that enable more inclusive participation.

**Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond** (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

* **Formalize Youth Roles**: Establish institutional youth positions in WSIS working groups and plenaries with decision-making authority.
* **Launch a WSIS Youth Grassroots Fund**: Provide financial and mentorship support to youth organizations for local engagement, storytelling, and digital inclusion projects.
* **Develop a WSIS Youth Track**: Create a multi-year program to train, mentor, and involve youth in shaping digital policy and innovation.
* **Recognize Connectivity and Digital Equity as Human Rights**: Embed rights-based approaches in WSIS action lines, including data privacy, online safety, and access.
* **Foster Intergenerational Collaboration**: Create platforms that encourage co-creation of digital policies between youth and senior stakeholders.