

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)  
Geneva, 10-12 June 2020**

Statement submitted by

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Representative of Children Youth International  
on behalf of the UN Major Group on Children and Youth  
and the Journal of Science Policy & Governance

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**UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)  
Twenty-third session (10-12 June 2020)**

Thank you Mr/Ms Moderator,

I would like to express our appreciation to the CSTD Secretariat for organizing this virtual meeting under difficult circumstances.

My name is Shalin Jyotishi, CEO of the Journal of Science Policy and Governance and speaking on behalf of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth which is the formal, self-organized mechanism for young people to engage in UN processes relating to sustainable development and the SDGs.

My remarks will focus on information and digital technologies as it relates to the WSIS in addition to how best to harness rapid technological change for equitable, sustainable development.

These remarks build our recently launched peer-reviewed issue of the *Journal of Science Policy and Governance* focused on the [Impacts of Emerging Technologies on Inequality and Sustainability](#) and on consultations with young people worldwide.

As you know, gaps in access to internet connectivity and concentration of personal data in the hands of a few private actors continues to raise concerns. As we commemorate UN75 and enter the 'Decade of Action', we need to stop, realign our values, and enact structural reform.

- First, we welcome the soon-to-be-launched program of UNCTAD that will support developing countries in conducting technology assessment, as mentioned by the Secretariat at yesterday's session. Such a program would help countries effectively evaluate the pros and cons of frontier technologies.
- Second, we need policies that protect against discriminatory design of digital and emerging technologies (for example, gender and racial bias in artificial intelligence systems) and to ensure civil liberties are safeguarded, especially given the growing use of surveillance systems.
- Third, we believe open science and open access should be prioritized as an integral component of inclusive innovation and a driver of community-based, citizen-driven solutions. This can also help elevate the role of diverse sources of knowledge to inform decisions.

We seek to maximize the value of technology for the public good throughout its entire life cycle. In doing so, technology justice is the guiding principle to ensure people and the planet are the primary benefactors of STI. We stand by ready to work collectively to correct our course and co-create the world we all need.

Thank you.

**Shalin R Jyotishi**

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