



# YOUTH IGF PROJECT 2010: AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNET FOR ALL

**THE YOUTH IGF PROJECT** was created by **Childnet International** to include the voice of children and young people at the IGF. In August 2010 members of the Youth IGF Project aged between 14 and 18 met to discuss access, diversity, security, openness and privacy in preparation for attending the IGF 2010 in Vilnius. This statement of beliefs affirms the importance of the internet for all, and captures the thoughts and beliefs they will be promoting at the IGF.

## ACCESS FOR ALL AND OPEN TO ALL

- **WE BELIEVE** that the internet is a utility and should be freely available to everyone whether they are rich or poor and regardless of their location, disability, background or culture.
- **WE BELIEVE** that all users are equal and should have access to the wealth of information online.
- **WE BELIEVE** that the more open the internet is, the greater the benefit will be to all users.
- **WE BELIEVE** that openness, access, diversity, security and privacy are interlinked themes. We recognise that openness poses different challenges for different user groups. We believe that a balance must be achieved between openness and security and also privacy and access.
- **WE BELIEVE** that addressing fairer access for all must be a foundational priority for the IGF. This is our central call to action, and our other proposals stem from this.

## EDUCATION FOR ALL

- **WE BELIEVE** that further to the importance of access to the internet, it is also important to equip users to be able to benefit from it.
- **WE BELIEVE** that education is critical to ensuring the future of the internet. As more and more people worldwide start to have increased access to the internet, there is a real need to empower those coming online to make use of the internet and use it to their full advantage. However, it is just as important that these users are aware of their rights and responsibilities, as well as taking the necessary steps to stay safe and secure online.

## CONTROL FOR ALL

- **WE BELIEVE** everyone has a right to privacy online. We believe that everyone has the right to decide how their information gets seen online.

## COLLABORATION BY ALL

- **WE BELIEVE** there should be much more collaboration between large companies and internet users. Users are major stakeholders who often get ignored.
- **WE BELIEVE** that because web based content is further reaching than any other form of communication technology, international collaboration of governments and businesses must take place to examine the different viewpoints on the important issues regarding the internet such as privacy, censorship and security in order to reach a mutual agreement.
- **WE BELIEVE** that multi-stakeholder participation requires representation of all stakeholders. Young people are a critical stakeholder. The integration and involvement of youth in the IGF is a massive step forward, but we are not all the way there yet. We believe that there should be youth inclusion on the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group.

# INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS OF BELIEF BY THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH IGF PROJECT 2010

I believe the internet should remain an open place with user submission at its core – as it was when it was created. I believe there should be more government policy to encourage ISPs to treat users all over the country (and internationally) the same. Those who do not live in the city should not lose out.

**ALEX, 16**



The internet should be available to everyone whether they are rich or poor (it should be free), because the world basically revolves around it.

**ALISSA, 14**



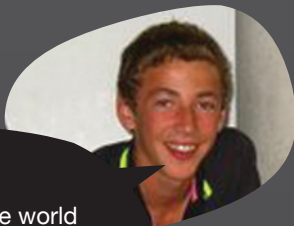
I believe that the internet should be accessible for everyone across the world because it has become a necessity and people rely on it for school, college, work, social life, etc. It should also be safe and easy to use.

**CARLA, 16**



Every single person around the world should have access to the internet, even if they live in a rural area of their country/ island or have a disability. ISPs should be putting more effort in to supplying the connection and 'meg' speeds that they have promised.

**DAN, 14**



I live in a small village outside Devon. The broadband package my mum pays for (a 20mb home max) can also be used in London. The maximum speed available on the broadband package where I live is 2mb. With the same package in London areas the connection speed is always 10mb or above! I think it's up to the ISPs to improve the connection to a similar speed or at least fair in rural areas.

**LIAM, 16**



The role of educational bodies is instrumental in not only teaching young people about Internet safety and appropriate content, but equipping students with the ability to critically examine pieces of web content in the same way they would examine film or literature and to decide whether it is appropriate or not.

A basic goal which must be headed towards is one of full internet access for everybody, worldwide. The internet creates the potential for so much more international collaboration than ever before – this potential must be positively harnessed to create a wider cultural understanding between users. Internet based businesses must be open about their actions as it is we the users who are directly affected by it.

**ALICE, 18**



Privacy should be easily protected online. Privacy settings should be easy to control so that people don't have to reveal aspects of their lives and personal details that they don't want to.

**BECCA, 15**



We all want our privacy protected – but for different users in different countries this means different things. For some, I believe it is less about their privacy as individuals, rather a lot of the information in the world is private in that it is inaccessible to them. I believe we are all equal and should have access to the same information and knowledge that millions of other people are able to view. This lack of knowledge impacts their beliefs and thoughts. If we are only taught one thing, and the information we receive is limited, how are we able to learn and grow? Privacy is very important, but only in the context that your personal information is private and protected, rather than other important information being private.

**SORAYA, 15**

