



**WSIS
FORUM 2026**

**6-10 July 2026
Geneva, Switzerland**

Session Outcome Document

Scientists as Bridge-Builders: Contributing Research to Global Digital Public Goods

World Youth Scientist Association (WAYS) x Global Youth Development Alliance (GYDA)

Monday, 6 July 2026 | 09:00 - 09:45 CEST/UTC+2 | Room H2, ITU Montbrillant Building, Geneva, Switzerland

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/530>

Key Issues discussed:

- **Redefined DPGs:** The session expands Digital Public Goods beyond infrastructure to include data, talent and localized knowledge, better serving developing economies.
- **Inclusive AI standard-setting:** It calls for equal participation of Global South researchers to eliminate “innovation fragmentation” in global AI governance.
- **IP and knowledge balance:** Participants addressed conflicts between patent protection and public knowledge sharing, proposing open-source principles for global governance.
- **Culturally inclusive AI ethics:** The innovative “Global South Ethics” was raised to build diverse, multi-civilizational AI ethical frameworks.
- **Youth capacity building:** Sustainable talent systems via training, mentorship and cross-border collaboration are highlighted for young researchers.
- **Proactive regulation:** Portuguese regulatory pre-positioning and sandbox models are explored to govern emerging AI technologies in advance.
- **Digital empowerment:** Improving public privacy literacy through scenario-based education benefits digital development in developing regions.
- **Citizen participatory research:** A Citizen Science Credit System is proposed to quantify and reward public scientific contributions.

Key Outcomes of the session

- key insights and findings

Five-point consensus – multilateralism, youth inclusion, DPG redefinition, localized transfer, AI as ethics. Gurry urged open-source; Seck stressed local solutions; Stückelberger proposed Global South Ethics; Maximiano shared pre-positioning; Grey advocated citizen science credit.

- announcements, launches, or new initiatives presented during the session
Released Global Youth Consensus on AI Governance (five principles). WAYS×GYDA launched four initiatives: scholars network, DPG conversion, youth in standard-setting, South-South capacity. Proposed Citizen Science Credit System.
- agreements, collaborations, or commitments made
Unanimous support for Consensus, team expansion; preliminary bilateral frameworks, exchange programmes; plan for AI societal impact report.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Balance open knowledge sharing and IP protection by promoting open-source practices and preventing over-protection of intellectual property.
- Build adaptive, inclusive governance with differentiated transitional rules and proactive sandbox regulation to protect localized innovation.
- Strengthen developing-country youth capacity via training, fellowships and global case libraries for cross-border experience replication.
- Establish permanent youth consultation mechanisms under ITU/WIPO to institutionalize youth participation in global tech standard-setting and bilateral cooperation.
- Develop human-AI control models, respect cross-cultural ethical differences, and deliver public AI literacy and digital rights education.