



## International Relations Students' Association of McGill (IRSAM)

Honourable Chair and distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to represent IRSAM's McGill Youth Advisory Delegation – a youth-run NGO dedicated to amplifying the voices of young people in global decision-making. Our recommendations are rooted in the diverse experiences of our global delegates.

Addressing the priority theme of fostering social development and social justice, it is paramount to recognize the backdrop of the digital age. Youth, comprising over 15% of the global population, require an intersectional response that prioritises socially excluded communities. Aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, we must ensure that digital access translates to opportunities for all. Bridging the digital divide is fundamental for social justice.

Through this lens, we provide three recommendations:

First, we urge member states to collaborate with civil society in addressing inequalities in digital access and skills. Against stark divides in access to technology, there is increasing demand for specific skills. Thus, digital education is key for today's labour market. We call for policy implementing comprehensive digital education and vocational training along with the distribution of technology at all levels of education, particularly for socially excluded groups.

Second, we call upon member states to address the danger of digital misinformation, which erodes trust in institutions, threatening collective understanding and cooperation. Youth, who often rely on technology for information dissemination, require media literacy education for critical thinking within the digital age.

Finally, we urge member states to address the disproportionate barriers faced by youth, particularly those in the global south, unrecognised territories, and conflict zones. Delegates from these regions possess less "passport power," hindering their representation in solving urgent crises when their perspective may be the most important. The ability for youth to engage in high-level diplomacy should not be hindered by geopolitical or socio-economic constraints. As conferences increasingly migrate to the digital sphere, emphasis on inclusive accessibility is crucial. We must create an environment where every young person, regardless of location or resources, can contribute meaningfully to global conversations.

The opportunities of the digital age extend beyond technological advancement, and must uplift and actively involve marginalised youth to foster a more inclusive and just global future.