
Youth, Governance, Peacebuilding and the Role of Social Media

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Michelle Zilio – Rapporteur
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Conference Report

Executive Summary

The University of Victoria's [Centre for Global Studies \(CFGS\)](#)

recent development of e-

This report will present the general discussions that took place about the youth-led paradigm shift, the pressures on government from youth, the risks and protections associated with ICT and social media, and a synopsis of real-world solutions for all parties to grasp as today's youth rise up and demand more.

understand who to talk to ... how to make their voices heard in a direct manner," said Schacht.

In response to the pressures stemming from the global youth movement, Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the UN announced in January that he would make it one of his priorities in his second term in office. To ensure this, a Special Representative

the same way Drummond did - by physically going to the communities. This was agreed to be more constructive than making them come to an unfamiliar and often frightening urban and academic setting to learn.

Government

As governments attempt to catch up with the overwhelming pace of the youth-led social movement, Schacht said young people must ensure youth are represented in government. As more young people join activist movements, however, Schacht said there is a decreasing interest in government work. For this reason, there must be a newfound focus on post-secondary public affairs

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Law

The desire for free and open Internet needs to be balanced with the concern for potential abuse on the Internet, especially against children. "How do we balance protection of youth online and the need for privacy laws online? ... But also balance that with the right and the need to self-express?" asks Sinclair.

As an example, Internet privacy laws were compared to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At one time, the freedom of the seas was generally respected but never set in stone by an international treaty. Now, there is a law for control of international waters. Internet laws are at the same point the Law of the Sea was years ago – the boundaries are generally understood but not enforced so as to prevent major issues from arising. Governments must work

Participants concluded that the new paradigm has not been defined and probably never will be. This is the key to the youth-

Greg Cran,

