

Telecommunication Development Sector



Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Americas Region (RPM-AMS) for WTDC-14

Montevideo, Uruguay, 20-22 August 2013

Document RPM-AMS13/52-E
12 August 2013
Original: Spanish

SOURCE: Argentina
TITLE: Mainstreaming a gender perspective for an inclusive and egalitarian information society
Priority area: Strategic/priority areas

Brief description

This draft is intended to support the institutionalization of this thematic area of gender mainstreaming within the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

The proposal has been drawn up in accordance with relevant provisions adopted by the UN system and on the basis of relevant work accomplished by ITU.

Contributing to the establishment of an "inclusive" information society should be understood in terms of a category that is universally applicable, irrespective of the condition of the individuals concerned (woman or man). As regards being "egalitarian", it must be considered in terms of turning policies, projects, situations, circumstances, and so on, into "opportunities".

This draft resolution highlights access as a starting point, rather than as an end goal, contributing to the joint work of the various ITU bodies concerned with BDT activities, on the understanding that the use and appropriation of ICTs and broadband offers opportunities for personal development of both women and men, without discrimination and on a basis of equality.

RESOLUTION 55 (~~Doha, 2006~~Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014)**Promoting gender equality**Mainstreaming a gender perspective¹ towards**for an all-inclusive and egalitarian information societies**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (~~Doha, 2006~~Sharm, el-Sheikh, 2014),

noting

a) ~~the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda~~the initiative taken by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in adopting Resolution 7 (Valetta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that a task force on gender issues be established;

b) Resolution 70 (Rev. ~~Marrakesh, 2002~~Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ~~the inclusion of gender perspective in the work of the Union~~gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies (ICTs), which resolves to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to promote gender equality in ICTs by recommending measures at the international, regional and national levels on policies and programmes that improve socio-economic conditions for women, particularly in developing countries;

c) ~~Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, which calls for mainstreaming gender in programmes of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);~~

~~d)~~ Resolution 55 (~~Florianópolis, 2004~~Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) activities, which ~~encourages~~sensures gender mainstreaming in ITU-T activities;

e) ~~the Memorandum of Understanding between ITU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), signed in July 2000, which promotes cooperation to enable women to participate in, and benefit from, the current communications revolution;~~

noting further

a) ~~United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 21 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which will be known as "UN Women", with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;~~

¹ "Gender perspective": Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25-27 February 1998).

b) ECOSOC Resolution E/2012/L.8, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP);

c) that the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), in April 2013, advocated the "Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system", under which ITU will participate in the dissemination, coordination, communication and networking activities forming part of the strategy,

noting also

a) Millennium Development Goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women", which promotes a cross-cutting subject area that has implications for the other goals;

b) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;

c) Resolution 1187, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2001 session, on a gender perspective in ITU human resources management, policy and practice;

d) Resolution 1327, adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls;

e) Resolution 1356, adopted by the Council at its 2013 session, on the four-year rolling Operational Plan for the ITU-D for 2014-2017;

f) the report of the Secretary-General presented to the Council at its 2013 session, establishing the adoption of a strategy for gender equality and gender mainstreaming at ITU, with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality, and to leverage the power of ICTs to empower both women and men,

recognizing

a) that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are tools through which gender equality can be advanced, and are integral to the creation of societies in which both women and men can substantively contribute and participate, can help to create a world in which societies are free of gender discrimination, women and men enjoy the same opportunities, and the economic and social potential of women and girls is guaranteed in order to improve their conditions as individuals;

b) that the effect of ICTs as a catalyst will serve the actions and objectives agreed in Rio+20 to ensure that the world takes a more sustainable path to development, incorporating the social, economic and environmental dimensions, favouring social inclusion, equality of women and men, and strengthening protection of the environment on which all forms of life depend,

considering

a) the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in the development and implementation of projects that target women and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing the awareness of the links between gender issues and ICTs within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members in promoting the use of ICTs for the purpose of economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

b) that the results achieved by the Working Group on Gender Issues in promoting gender equality, have fostered the digital inclusion of persons with special needs and have given priority above all to the empowerment of women and girls through ICTs;

c) that the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development has set a new gender target of getting more women connected to ICTs as a "critical" objective of the post-2015 development agenda;

d) the contributions made by the Gender Task Force proposing ways of ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women is underscored in policies and programmes, and fully integrated in ITU's work and strategic plan,

welcomes

~~the financial support by Norway contributing to ITU-D's effort to promote gender issues by establishing a gender unit in ITU, and that this contribution covered two years of gender expertise,~~

resolves

1 ~~that the mission of the BDT Working Group on Gender Issues is shall be to work with ITU-D to promote gender equality in ICTs through recommending measures on policies and programmes at the international, regional and national levels, with continuous improvement of its working methods to this end~~promote the benefits of telecommunications and the information society in order to bring them to everyone, with an emphasis on gender and development, so as to build an information society that is free of gender discrimination and offers equal opportunities;

2 ~~that the established Gender Unit BDT Working Group on Gender Issues should support the work of~~maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the Task Force on Gender Issues set up by the Secretary-General, and the Working Group on Gender Issues and BDT activities in of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, reciprocally supporting ~~gender mainstreaming in the Union's activities, and that these groups should join forces to eliminate inequalities in access to and use of ICTs, in the interests of building a non-discriminatory and egalitarian information society;~~

3 that the BDT Working Group on Gender Issues should collaborate with the Working Group on Gender of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development with a view to promoting synergies for establishing the new goal of "gender equality in broadband access by the year 2020";

4 that the BDT Working Group on Gender Issues should organize a seminar that will contribute to the institutionalization of gender and ICTs in ITU, to be held biannually between world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs);

5 that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of this conference;

6 that high priority be accorded to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU-D;

7 that BDT should contribute to the professional employment of women in decision-making posts, encouraging women's leadership in the sphere of telecommunications and ICTs, collaborating to promote a plural, inclusive and integrating information society;

8 to invite the Telecommunication Development (TDAG), Radiocommunication (RAG) and Telecommunication Standardization (TSAG) advisory groups to assist in the identification of subjects and mechanisms to foster the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, as well as matters of mutual interest in that regard;

9 to participate and inform the ITU regional offices on progress and results achieved in implementing this resolution,

further resolves

to endorse the following action plan:

(1) design, implement and support projects and programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are either specifically targeted to women and girls or gender sensitive, at the international, regional and national levels;

- (2) support the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and the development of gender-sensitive indicators that will enable cross-country comparisons and reveal trends in the sector;
- (3) monitor and evaluate projects and programmes to assess gender implications, in connection with Resolution 17 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2014) of this conference;
- (4) provide gender mainstreaming ~~capacity~~-training and/or capacity building to BDT staff responsible for the design and implementation of development projects and programmes and work with them to develop gender-sensitive projects as appropriate;
- (5) incorporate a gender perspective into study group Questions, where as appropriate;
- (6) mobilize resources for gender-sensitive projects and projects specifically targeted to promoting policies for women and girls as creators of the potential offered by ICTs and as consumers;
- (7) develop partnerships with other United Nations agencies to promote the use of ICTs in projects aimed at women and girls, with the aim of encouraging women and girls to connect to the Internet, increasing training for women, and monitoring the ICT gender gap,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 _____ to ensure that the necessary resources within the budgetary limits are allocated to the action plan above;
- 2 _____ to report to TDAG and the Council on the results and the progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU-D, and on the implementation of this resolution;
- 3 _____ to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls,

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to assist members:

- (1) to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective through appropriate administrative mechanisms and processes within regulatory agencies and ministries and to promote inter-organizational cooperation on this issue within the telecommunication sector;
- (2) to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines for gender-sensitive project development and evaluation in the telecommunication sector;
- (3) to increase awareness of gender issues among members through the collection and dissemination of information related to gender issues and ICTs and through best practices on gender-sensitive programming;
- (4) to establish partnerships with Sector Members in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects that target women and girls in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;
- (5) to encourage Sector Members to promote gender equality in the ICT sector through financial commitments to specific projects involving women and girls;
- (6) to support active involvement of women experts in ITU-D study groups and other ITU-D activities;
- (7) to report to the Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites the Plenipotentiary Conference

to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of a gender perspective in the development activities of ITU-D, and to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for

development policies, programmes and projects that link access to and use and appropriation of ICTs and broadband for women and girls, and to support ~~to~~ the promotion of gender equality, empowerment and the social and economic development of women and girls.
