
WORKING GROUP OF THE PLENARY

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PROPOSED REVISION TO RESOLUTION 70 (REV. GUADALAJARA, 2010)

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RESOLUTION 70 (REV. ~~BUSAN, 2014~~GUADALAJARA 2010)

Mainstreaming gGender ~~mainstreaming perspective~~ in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Busan, 2014~~Guadalajara, 2010~~),

recalling

a) the initiative taken by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in adopting Resolution 7 (Valletta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that an ITU Gender Task Force on gender issues be established;

b) the endorsement of that resolution by the Plenipotentiary Conference in its Resolution 70 (Minneapolis, 1998), in which the conference resolved, inter alia, to incorporate a gender perspective¹ in the implementation of all programmes and plans of ITU;

c) Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of WTDC, converting the task force on gender issues into a working group on gender issues;

~~d) — Resolution 1187 adopted by the ITU Council at its 2001 session, on gender perspective¹ in ITU human resources management, policy and practice, in which the Council requested the Secretary General to allocate appropriate resources, within existing budgetary limits, to establish a gender perspective full-time dedicated staff;~~

~~e) — Resolution 2001/41 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in which ECOSOC decided to establish, under the regular agenda item "Coordination, programme and other questions", the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;~~

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)*

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

~~*eg)* Resolution 55 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, endorsing a specific action plan for the promotion of gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies; Resolution 55 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) approved by WTDC, resolving that the BDT should keep close ties and collaborate, as appropriate, with the ITU Gender Task Force established in the framework of the ITU General Secretariat by the 2013 Council and with the Working Group on Gender of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development mutually supporting gender mainstreaming in the Union and joining efforts to eliminate inequalities in the access to, and use of, telecommunications/ICTs, for the benefit of a non discriminatory and egalitarian Information Society;~~

~~*h)* 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;~~

fi) Resolution 1327 adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls; and Resolution of the 2013 ITU Council endorsing the Union's Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM) for the purpose of making it into the model organization in gender equality issues and using the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower women and men;

g) ECOSOC Resolution 2012/24, 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 (UNSWAP²);

h) the Preamble to the WSIS+10 Statement on implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which reaffirmed the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women's empowerment, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society, taking into account the mandate of the newly established agency UN-WOMEN, the recommendations of the High-Level Panel in the post-2015 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,

noting

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 would be known as "UN Women" with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

b) The United Nations Chief Executives Board, which in April 2013 advocated the UN System-Wide "Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women," in which the ITU would participate in dissemination, coordination, and communication activities and the establishment of networks that are part of the strategy;

² <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Media/Stories/en/unswap-brochure.pdf>

c) the agreed conclusions in the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations, held in March 2011, regarding the access and participation of women and girls in education, training, and science and technology;

also noting

a) Resolution of the 2013 ITU Council endorsing the Union's Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM) for the purpose of making it into the model organization in gender equality issues and using the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower women and men;

b) that ITU, in its Strategic Plan, includes gender issues for debating and exchanging ideas to concretely define throughout the organization an action plan with deadlines and goals,

recognizing

a) that society as a whole, particularly in the context of the information and knowledge society, will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy-making and decision-making and equal access to communication services for both women and men;

b) that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are tools through which gender equality and women's empowerment can be advanced, and are integral to the creation of societies in which both women and men can substantively contribute and participate;

c) that the outcomes of the ~~WSIS World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)~~, namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, outlined the concept of the information society and that continued efforts must be undertaken in this context to bridge the gender digital divide;

d) the WSIS+10 Statement on implementation of the WSIS outcomes states the need to ensure that the information society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes;

e) that there are a growing number of women in the telecommunications/ICT field with decision-making power, including in relevant ministries, national regulatory authorities and industry, who could promote the work of ITU so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of telecommunications/ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;

f) that there is a growing need to bridge the digital divide in order to empower women with especial attention to women in rural, urban and marginalized areas that are subject to traditional constraints which reinforce discrimination;

recognizing further

a) the progress achieved in raising awareness, both within ITU and among Member States, of the importance of ~~integrating mainstreaming a~~ gender perspective in all ITU work programmes and of increasing the number of women professionals in ITU, especially at the senior management level, while at the same time working towards the equal access of women and men to posts in the General Service category;

b) the success of international "Girls in ICT day" organized by ITU, which is held every year on the fourth Thursday of April;

c) the recent launch of Gender Equality Mainstreaming-Technology (GEM-TECH) Award, as a special award of ITU and UNWOMEN for outstanding performance and role models in gender equality and mainstreaming in the area of ICTs;

d) the considerable recognition given to the work of ITU in gender and telecommunication/ICT within the United Nations family of organizations, including the award for outstanding achievement in gender equality mainstreaming in the area of ICTs (GEM-TECH award), awarded jointly by the United Nations and the Union to role models in the area of gender equality,

considering

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

b) the results achieved by the Working Group on Gender Issues in promoting gender equality;

c) the study conducted by ITU-T on women in telecommunication standardization, exploring perspectives and activities related to mainstreaming gender perspective in ITU-T and determining the degree to which women are active participants in all ITU-T activities,

further noting

a) that there is a need for ITU to investigate study, gather data, analyse and further understand, build statistics, assess effects, evaluate the effects and promote a better understanding of the impact of telecommunication/ICTs technologies on women and men gender equality;

b) that ITU should have a role take the lead in establishing gender-relevant indicators for the telecommunication/ICT sector, that would contribute to reducing disparities in terms of access and appropriation of information and communication technologies and the national, regional and international mainstreaming of a gender perspective;

c) that more work needs to be done to ensure that the gender and equity perspective is included mainstreamed in all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, workshops and conferences;

d) that there is a need to foster participation of women and girls in the telecommunications/ICT domain at an early age and to provide input for further policy developments, on the required areas to ensure that the information and knowledge society contributes to their empowerment;

e) the need for ICT tools and applications to empower women and facilitate their access to the job market in non-traditional fields,

[[taking into account

the amendments to Resolution 48 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Human resources management and development, outlining procedures to facilitate the recruitment of women at the ITU,]]

encourages Member States and Sector Members

1 to undertake further or new actions, promoting the commitment to mainstreaming the gender perspective in government, the public, private and academic sectors, and industry, for the purpose of promoting innovation in learning telecommunications/ICT on an equal footing for men and women to foster the empowerment of women and girls, with special emphasis on rural and remote areas;

24 to review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men alike are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis;

32 to facilitate the capacity building and employment of women and men equally in the telecommunication/ICT field including at senior levels of responsibility in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector;

34 to review their policies and strategies related to the information society to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all activities, and fostering gender balance to have equal opportunities through the use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs;

54 to promote and increase the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in telecommunication/ICT careers, with special focus on rural women and girls, during elementary, secondary and higher education and life-long education;

6 to attract more women and girls to study computer science, and acknowledge the achievements of leading women in relevant areas, particularly in innovation;

7 to encourage more women to take advantage of the opportunities offered by ICTs to develop their business and to foster potential contributions to economic growth.

resolves

~~1~~ to endorse Resolution 55 (Doha, 2006), on promoting gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies;

12 to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs by recommending measures at the international, regional and national level on policies and programmes that improve socio-economic conditions for women, particularly in developing countries;

23 to accord high priority to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU, so that ITU can become a leading organization in the implementation of gender equality, values and principles to take advantage of the possibilities offered by ICTs to empower both men and women;

34 to incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan and financial plan for ~~2012-2015~~ 2016-2019 as well as in the operational plans of the Bureaux and the General Secretariat,

4 to have the ITU compile and process statistical data from the countries and to have it draw up indicators that take into account gender issues and highlight the sector's trends, as well as the

effects and impact of the use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs, broken down by gender,

instructs the Council

1 to accord high priority to monitoring the implementation of the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM) so that ITU can become a model organization in terms of gender and use the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower women and men

24 to continue and expand on the initiatives carried out over the past ~~four~~ eight years and to accelerate the gender and equity mainstreaming process in ITU as a whole, within existing budgetary resources, so as to ensure as well capacity building and the promotion of women to senior-level positions, including ITU elected positions;

32 to consider adopting the theme "Women and girls in ICT" to mark World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in 2012 to examine the possibility of ITU, in close collaboration with relevant regional organizations, taking appropriate measures to establish a regional platform for women, devoted to using ICT in order to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to continue to ensure that the gender perspective is incorporated in the work programmes, management approaches and human resource development activities of ITU, and to submit an annual written report to the Council on progress made on gender mainstreaming in ITU, including statistics on gender by grade of ITU staff and participation of women and men in ITU conferences and meetings; in the implementation of GEM policy reflecting, with statistics broken down by sex, location of women and men categories within the ITU, as well as the participation of women and men in the ITU conferences and meetings;

2 to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all ITU contributions ~~to~~ with respect to the priority areas that must be tackled for the implementation of WSIS ~~action lines~~ beyond 2015;

3 to give particular attention to gender balance for posts at the professional and particularly the higher levels in ITU and, when choosing between ~~candidates~~ candidacies who have equal qualifications for a post, taking into account geographical distribution (No. 154 of the ITU Constitution) and the balance between ~~female and male staff~~ women and men, to give appropriate priority to gender balance, and to amend ITU hiring procedures to ensure that, if the number of qualified candidacies allows it, at each recruitment level, at least one third of the candidacies who move up to the next higher level be women;

4 to report to the next plenipotentiary conference on the results and progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU, and on the implementation of this resolution;

5 to make sure, unless there are no women among the qualified candidacies, that each pre-selected list submitted to the Secretary General for appointment include a woman;

6 to ensure gender balance in the composition of ITU statutory committees;

7 to establish an annual GEM prize for ITU members to recognize and commend individual contributions and examples of leadership to promote gender equality;

8 to organize training in mainstreaming the gender perspective for all staff;

9 to continue to support the gender mainstreaming in cooperation with other relevant organizations through special initiatives like Gender Equality Mainstreaming-Technology (GEM-TECH) Award, co-organized by ITU and UNWOMEN;

105 to make efforts to mobilize voluntary contributions from Member States, Sector Members and others for this purpose;

116 to encourage administrations to give equal opportunities to ~~male and female~~ women and men candidacies-candidatures for elected official posts and for membership of the Radio Regulations Board;

127 to encourage the launch of the "Global Network of women ICT decision-makers";

138 to announce a year-long call to action, with a focus on the theme "Women and girls in ICT";⁷²

14 to bring the present Resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary General in an effort to promote greater cooperation and coordination in the policies, programs, and projects being implemented by the ITU and interlinking access, use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICT and broadband among women and girls, and to promote gender equality, empowerment and the socioeconomic development of women and girls;

15 to fulfill the obligations of submitting reports as required by UN-SWAP,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue promoting among the other United Nations agencies, ITU Member States and the Sector Members, the International Day of Girls in ICTs, which takes place every fourth Thursday of April since 2010, and during which telecommunication/ICT companies, other enterprises with telecommunication/ICT departments, telecommunication/ICT training institutions, universities, research centers, and all telecommunication/ICT related institutions are invited to organize an open-house ~~activities for girls and traineeships for girls~~ young women, as well as online training and/or workshops, day camps, and summer camps, in order to ~~bring to the attention of other United Nations agencies the need to~~ promote and increase the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in telecommunication/ICT careers during elementary, secondary and higher education, ~~including by establishing an international "Girls in ICT" day, to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April, when ICT companies, other companies with ICT departments, ICT training institutions, universities, research centres and all ICT-related institutions are invited to organize an open day for girls;~~

2 to call upon women's organizations and NGOs and civil society organizations throughout the world so that they can join in the celebration of the International Day of Girls in ICTs, as well as provide online training and/or workshops and day camps, among others;

32 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls, helping them to tackle disparities and facilitate the acquisition of skills for life,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to make voluntary contributions to ITU to facilitate the implementation of this resolution to the fullest extent possible;

2 to ~~establish and~~ observe annually the international "Girls in ICT" day, ~~to be~~ held on the fourth Thursday of April, ~~when and invite~~ ICT companies, other companies with ICT departments,

ICT training institutions, universities, research centres and all ICT-related institutions ~~are invited to~~ organize an open day for girls;

3 to actively support and participate in the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

4 to actively ~~participate in support the launch of and participate in the work of the a~~ "Global Network of women ICT decision-makers" aimed at promoting the work of ITU in using ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls, including by building partnerships and building synergies between existing networks at national, regional and international levels, as well as fostering successful strategies to improve gender balance at senior-level positions in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government, regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations, including ITU, and in the private sector;-

5 to highlight the gender perspective in the Questions under study in the ITU-D study groups and the ~~five~~ programmes of the ~~Hyderabad-Dubai~~ Action Plan-;

6 to further develop internal tools and programming guidelines in the area of promotion of gender equality in the use of ICTs

7 to collaborate with relevant stakeholders that have significant experience in mainstreaming gender equality in projects and programmes, in order to provide specialized training for women on ICT use;

8 to provide support so that women and girls can have access to studies and careers in telecommunications/ICTs, by creating opportunities, favoring their incorporation into teaching and learning processes, and/or encouraging their professional training;

9 to support and/or promote the funding of studies, projects, and proposal that contribute to overcoming gender inequalities, fostering and promoting telecommunications/ICTs to empower women and girls.

10 to nominate on an annual basis deserving organizations and individuals for the Gender Equality Mainstreaming-Technology (GEM-TECH) Award.