



THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER ISSUES

FINAL REPORT

Natasa Gospic, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI), chaired the meeting.

1. Opening Remarks

1.1 Pierre Gagné, Deputy Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) opened the meeting by recognizing that the digital divide threatens to increase the gap between high-, middle-, and low-income countries. He noted that the international community is beginning to understand the ways in which this gap is intensified by women and men's access, or lack thereof, to those resources which enable them to actively participate in the development of their communities and countries. Gagné stated that the results of this meeting will serve to inform the work of BDT in its development.

1.2 Natasa Gospic welcomed the delegates, introduced Savitri Bisnath as Head of the Youth and Gender Unit and Secretary to the meeting, and recognized the numerous contributions made by Pat Faccin to the members of the Steering Committee and the work of WGGI. Gospic highlighted several challenges facing the group and pointed to the importance of engendering the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society as well as the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

The meeting's agenda was approved.

2. Best Practices

Maria Victoria Balleza, ISIS International moderated this panel discussion.

2.1 Deema Bibi of UNIFEM-Jordan presented and discussed an eVillage initiative in Jordan. This initiative has three components: information and awareness raising; capacity building; and economic empowerment. Bibi contextualised the initiative by highlighting several challenges: many women in the village experience low self esteem and experience little guidance within the community; there is a lack of awareness and appreciation of the importance of ICTs to the material

realities of the women and men in the community; the villagers experience poor access to information which is related to affordability and infrastructure; and there is high unemployment and a lack of training opportunities. However, these challenges also present opportunities: there is strong municipal support for employment creation; the community is receptive to change; women are relatively well positioned in the community to benefit from change; and the village is located close to a tourist site which presents potential economic opportunity.

In order to increase awareness and skill levels of the population, the project provides basic training and technical assistance in schools. The entrepreneurial skills of the women in the community are enhanced through training in marketing and finance. Bibi noted that the involvement of the government, in particular the Ministry of Planning, in this project is a key to its success.

2.2 Divna Vuckovic, ERICSSON D.O.O. described the work of Equal Opportunities, an NGO dedicated to facilitating the equal access to information and communication technologies and increasing awareness of the gendered digital divide. Through its ICT for schools project, Equal Opportunities collects old computers from businesses and donates them to schools in rural areas. After the computers were donated it became apparent that the teachers needed training in the use of computers and Equal Opportunities implemented the Infocommunication (ICT) Training for Empowering Women project in order to address this need. A textbook to promote basic ICT learning was developed in the local language, complete with an outline of a step-by-step approach for using Windows, Word and the Internet. In addition, detailed exercises are outlined to facilitate easier learning and faster adoption of ICT skills. Equal Opportunities works in partnership with both the government and the private sector.

In terms of lessons learnt, Vuckovic stated that the project's success is enhanced by the partnership forged between the government, the private sector and civil society. This enabled Equal Opportunities to raise the necessary funds and access the equipment and training necessary to achieve its goals. The results are both quantitative, in terms of the amount of women who have been trained, as well as qualitative, in terms of the effects it has had on women's self-esteem and sense of confidence.

2.3 Patience F. Eboumbou, Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications Cameroon spoke about African women organising for ICTs. The Panafrican Association of Women in Telecommunications and Information (PAWOTI) aims to address the issues related to the gendered digital divide. It promotes women's access to decision making positions in the political sphere, at the economic level it is concerned with issues related to employment, and at the social level it aims to improve women's position in society. PAWOTI to plans have open regional branches, covering: North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa.

2.4 Jeferson Nacif, Telecom Italia began his talk by noting that the information society must be people centered and development orientated. He stated that efforts to bridge the digital divide must be co-ordinated and framed by the public policies of member states as well as informed by their development goals. Nacif argued that the aim to facilitate access to technology by marginalized groups serves to both overcome technological barriers as well as advance the social inclusion process. These goals require the provision of computers, connections to the Internet, and the development of relevant content in local and accessible languages. This approach positions technology as more than an end in itself.

Nacif suggested that an objective of the WGGI could be to illustrate to the private sector the ways in which engendering ICTs will bring benefits in terms of increased competitiveness and productivity. Telecom Italia has attempted to do this in Brazil through cooperation with Anatel, the Brazilian Telecom Regulatory Agency. Anatel recently organized a "National Seminar on Social

Responsibility, Gender, Development and Technology in which Telecom Italia, Telefonica, Embratel and other national operators contributed with their experiences.” An outcome of this meeting was the decision to “build a national project bearing in mind operational objectives.” The operators, along with civil society and several ministries, in conjunction with Anatel, also “established a working group that shall direct actions about Social Responsibility, Digital Inclusion, Gender and Technology.” Actions are dedicated to increasing the well-being of women and men through employment creation opportunities.

The presentations were followed by a period of engaged questions and answers from the delegates and panelists.

3. Gender mainstreaming in ITU/BDT activities

Eva Rathgeber University, Ottawa/Carleton University moderated this panel discussion.

3.1 Savitri Bisnath, Youth and Gender Unit, ITU/BDT acknowledged the skepticism clouding issues related to improving the well-being of women and men through ICTs and noted that this skepticism presents opportunities and challenges at the conceptual, policy and practical levels. She defined the key ideas of gender mainstreaming, noting that it is a process that priorities and analysis of the realities of both women and men so that the policies, programmes and projects can better promote their well-being. Bisnath cautioned against conflating the categories "women" and "gender". She also noted that gender mainstreaming does not preclude the development and implementation of projects that are targeted to women.

The mainstreaming of ICTs as a tool to facilitate democratic processes and well-being, improve economic development, and achieve development goals is a stated objective of many countries. Achievements of these goals require the active participation of both men and women. It is within this context that the tool of gender mainstreaming can play an important role. Necessary elements of this process include the collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data and the development of gender sensitive indicators, substantive participation from the stakeholders as well as political support. Bisnath concluded by noting that the ITU is well placed, given its credibility, experience and expertise, to bridge the gendered digital divide through the promotion of gender sensitive projects in targeted areas, such as data collection and human capacity building, and through certain activities, such as partnerships with other multilateral organizations, member states, the private sector, and members of civil society.

3.2 Honoré Vignon, Universal Access and Rural Communications Unit, ITU/BDT noted that this project aims to develop national strategies to facilitate access to ICTs for rural and remote areas. He stated that there is a gap between urban and rural infrastructure and access to ICTs. In rural areas the primary areas of concern as those related to regulation, universal access, technologies and applications. The principle elements of the project are: understanding the context, design of context specific projects, and implementation. Key aspects of the project include: the design of a survey to collect relevant socio-economic data, collection and analysis of data, and formulation and implementation of a strategy that is informed by the analysis. Examples of data include: number of villages, population, sources of revenue, as well as access to public services such as water.

The project aims to achieve synergies with other programmes in order to avoid duplication and multiply the potential benefits. This project is also envisioned as one that will enable countries to share expertise and experiences.

3.3 Barbara Wilson, Human Resources Development Unit, ITU/BDT spoke about the development of gender sensitive training modules for telecom regulations. These modules were requested by the WGGI at the end of their 2002 meeting. This project required the collaboration of three units within BDT: the Gender, Human Resources Development and the Regulatory Reform Units. Each module is designed to either stand alone or be integrated into other policy and regulatory modules.

There are eight modules covering the following topics: introduction to regulation, introduction to access, introduction to licensing, interconnection, tariffs, competition policy, strategic change management, and human resources. A facilitator and a participant's manuals have been developed. The latter contains case studies.

3.4 Vera Zanetti, Americas Regional Office, ITU/BDT, began her presentation by putting into historical context the challenges and opportunities faced by women in the Americas region. She acknowledged the progress to date as well as reflected on the possibilities for the future. She argued that the countries in the "Americas region still need to improve the quality of education (through policies to reduce drop-out and repetition rates), eliminate occupational and professional segmentation and increase access to higher education, new technologies, science and research." Further, "the unequal distribution of power" and obstacles faced by women which prevent their "active participation in decision-making processes at the household, community and social levels" limit their "ability to exercise their rights and citizenship and is directly related to women's lack of social protection and security."

Over the last years governments have adopted rules and regulations and instituted machineries to better address the needs of women as well as improve the well-being of both women and men. In June 2004 ITU participated in the Ninth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean organised by ECLAC. During this meeting ITU organised a side event on gender and technologies. This meeting recognised the importance of engendering ICTs. Zanetti posited that the main challenge to gender mainstreaming in policy-making in the region is that policy makers "have to understand the potential of the ICTs as part of State reforms and of the administrative reforms taking place all over the region."

The presentations were followed by a period of engaged questions and answers from the delegates and panelists.

4. World Summit on the Information Society: Results and the Road to Tunis

Alexander Ntoko, eStrategies, ITU/BDT moderated this panel discussion.

4.1 Pierre Gagné, former Executive Director, WSIS noted that during the first phase of WSIS there were more than 11,000 participants representing Governments, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society. The Declaration of Principles stresses the importance of several points, including cooperation and partnership among stakeholders, the importance of infrastructure, access to information and knowledge, capacity building, and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. He noted that there are considerable synergies between the WSIS Digital Solidarity Agenda and ITU programmes.

4.2 Eva Rathgeber University of Ottawa/Carleton University read Gillian Marcelle's talk on "Women and ICT Agenda: the role of partnerships". The WSIS Gender Caucus provides financial and technical resources to support national and regional efforts to raise awareness about WSIS and to improve the effective participation in national and regional preparations of gender advocates.

She noted that a success of the WSIS Gender Caucus were the lobbying briefs which served to influence the Declaration and Action Plan. For example, there were calls for the removal of barriers to women's access to ICT education and training, as well as the development of gender specific indicators on ICT use and needs, and identification of measurable performance indicators to assess the impact of funded ICT projects on the lives of women and girls, and the engendering of appropriate national and regional policies and programming.

The presentations were followed by a period of engaged questions and answers from the delegates and panelists.

5. Programme Committees Reports on Activities since the Second WGGI

Chairpersons, Rapporteurs and Members of each Programme Committee shared brief details about their activities, accomplishments and challenges faced.

6. World Telecommunications Development Conference 2006: Relevance for WGGI

Pape-Gorgui Touré, Policies, Strategies and Financing Department, ITU/BDT underlined the importance of this upcoming conference for the work of the Group and pointed to several entry points for action. He noted that the conclusions of WTDC-06 will provide the tools to ensure that BDT develops and implements its four year plan. Touré noted that the WTDC will be gender-sensitive to the extent that the operational plan are informed by concrete objectives that prioritise the realities of women and men. This requires the active participation of women during and before the conference. In this context the regional preparatory meetings are of critical importance.

He noted that to date much work has been done on gender issues at the ITU level. There is also a high awareness of the issue from top management. However, there is still significant work to be done. Touré stressed that early inclusion of gender issues in the preparation of the conference is mandatory. He recommended a hybrid approach, that prioritises universal service obligations, to substantively inform the process.

7. Reports from Programme Committee

Chairpersons of each Programme Committee reported on their recommendations to the BDT (see Annex).

8. Strategic Planning Session

The delegates discussed the membership of the Steering Committee and decided on the following structure: 1 Chair, 5 Vice Chairs, 6 Programme Committee Chairs, 6 Rapporteurs, and 1 Secretary.

A question was raised by a delegate on the status of the "gender plan" which is referred to in Resolution 70 (Rev. Marrakesh 2002) on Gender Mainstreaming in ITU. The meeting recommended that the Office of the Secretary General address Resolution 70. Further, strategic actions should be planned for inclusion of the gender perspective in the preparations for WTDC and

active participation during the course of the Conference. Finally, it was recommended that a separate session focusing on gender issues should be held during the regional meetings.

9. Closing Remarks

Hamadoun I. Touré, Director, ITU/BDT closed the meeting by congratulating the delegates on the success of the meeting. He noted that their emphasis on learning from examples of best practices, the conclusions of the Programme Committee meetings, and their “commitment to take forward the goal of gender equality will continue to stimulate change that goes beyond the ICT sector”. He reiterated their conclusion that there is still a lot to be done, and encouraged the delegates to maintain a high level of advocacy at all levels in order that “policies are translated into the design and implementation of gender-sensitive projects.”

Touré noted that together with Member-States, the private sector and other stakeholders, the ITU is working to identify the needs and priorities of, and the challenges faced by, different communities world-wide. He recognized the work of the WGGI in participating in this process. Finally he expressed his commitment, as a high level official, to work with the Group to bridge the gendered digital divide.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Agenda
- Annex 2: Programme
- Annex 3: List of Documents
- Annex 4: Report of Programme Committee 1
- Annex 5: Report of Programme Committee 2
- Annex 6: Report of Programme Committee 3
- Annex 7: Report of Programme Committee 4
- Annex 8: Report of Programme Committee 5
- Annex 9: Report of Programme Committee 6
- Annex 10: List of Participants



Agenda item: 2

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Exploring Best Practices
4. Gender Mainstreaming and BDT Activities
5. Global Meetings on Telecommunications and Development: Relevance of WSIS and WTDC for WGGI
6. Programme Committee Meetings
7. Strategic Planning Session
8. Closing



Agenda Item: 2

Programme

Conference Room C, 2nd Basement

WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2004		
TIME	ACTIVITY	DOCUMENT
8:30	Registration	
9:30	Opening Statement Pierre Gagné Deputy Director BDT Introductory Remarks <i>Natasa Gospic</i> <i>Chairperson</i> WGGI <i>Approval of Agenda</i>	3/1
10:00	Best Practices <u>e-Village Initiative</u> Deema Bibi ICT Programme Manager UNIFEM, Jordan <u>African Women Organising for ICTs</u> Patience Félicité Eboumbou Attaché Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications Cameroon	3/4 3/5-3/19
10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45	Best Practices <u>Gender & ICT Projects for Equal Opportunities in Serbia and Montenegro – Lessons Learnt</u>	3/6

	<p>Divna Vuckovic Director, Ericsson D.O.O. Serbia and Montenegro</p> <p><u>Brazilian Gender Mainstreaming Strategies</u> Sergio Mindlin President, Fundacao Telefonica Brazil</p>	3/7
12:30	LUNCH	
14:30	<p><i>Gender Mainstreaming in BDT Activities</i></p> <p><u>Towards a more equitable information society: how and why of gender mainstreaming</u> Savitri Bisnath Head, Youth and Gender Unit BDT</p> <p><u>Developing National Strategies for Provision of Access to Rural and Remote Areas</u> Honoré Vignon Head, Universal Access and Rural Communications Unit BDT</p> <p><u>Gender Sensitive Training Modules for Telecom Regulations</u> Barbara Wilson Human Resources Development Officer BDT</p> <p><u>Challenges and Opportunities for Gender and ICTs in the Americas Region</u> Vera Zanetti Project Administrator ITU Americas Regional Office Brazil</p>	<p>3/8-3/9-3/10</p> <p>3/11</p> <p>3/12</p> <p>3/13</p> <p>3/14</p>

16:15	COFFEE BREAK	
16:30	<p><i>World Summit on the Information Society: Results and the Road to Tunis</i></p> <p>Moderator: Alexander Ntoko Head, E-Strategies Unit</p> <p>Pierre Gagné Executive Director of the First Phase of the Summit</p> <p>Eva Rathgeber WSIS Gender Caucus</p>	3/30

THURSDAY, 1 JULY 2004

TIME	ACTIVITY	DOCUMENT
9:30	<i>Programme Committees Reports</i>	
11:00	COFFEE BREAK	
11:15	<i>World Telecommunications Development Conference 2006: Relevance for WGGI</i> Pape-Gorgui Touré Chief, Policies, Strategies and Financing Department BDT	3/15-3/16-3/17- 3/18-3/29
12:30	LUNCH	
14:30	<i>Meetings of Individual Programme Committees</i>	
	Programme Committee 1: <u>Regulatory Reform</u> Room T 103 (Tower, 1 st Floor)	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28
	Programme Committee 2: <u>Technologies and Telecommunication/ICT Network Development</u> Room T.101 (Tower, 1 st Floor)*	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28
	Programme Committee 3: <u>E-Strategies and E-Services/Applications</u> <i>Conference Room C</i>	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28
	Programme Committee 4: <u>Economics and Finance, including Cost and Tariffs</u> Room T101 (Tower, 1 st Floor)*	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28
	Programme Committee 5: <u>Human Capacity Building</u> Room F (Varembé, 4 th Floor)	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28

FRIDAY, 2 JULY 2004

TIME	ACTIVITY	DOCUMENT
9:30	Programme Committee 6: <u>Partnerships, Information Dissemination and Communications</u> Conference Room C	3/20-3/21-3/22- 3/23-3/24-3/27- 3/28

* Programme Committees 2 and 4 will meet together.

10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45	Drafting of reports	
12:30	LUNCH	
14:30	<i>Programme Committees Reports</i>	
15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
15:45	<p><i>WGGI Strategic Planning Session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGGI Membership • Steering Committee Membership • Strategic Plan for 2004-2005 • Resource Mobilisation 	3/20-3/21
17:00	<p><i>Closing Statement</i></p> <p>Hamadoun I. Touré Director BDT</p>	



Agenda Item: 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Doc.No.	Title of Document	Language
	Meeting Structure (Agenda Item 2)	
3/1	• Agenda	E/F/S
3/2	• Programme	E/F/S
3/3	• List of Documents	E/F/S
	Exploring Best Practices (Agenda item 3)	
3/4	• <i>E-Village Initiative</i> , by Ms. Deema Bibi, ICT Programme Manager, UN Development Fund for Women, Jordan	E/F/S
3/5	• <i>PAWOTI</i> (Pan-African Association on Women in Telecommunications and Information), by Ms. Patience F. Eboumbou, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cameroon	E/F/S
3/19	• MARKETAFIC, “Commercial Portal for African Women”, by Ms. Patience F. Eboumbou, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Cameroon	E/F/S
3/6	• Gender & ICT Projects for Equal Opportunities in Serbia and Montenegro – Lessons Learnt, by Ms. Divna Vuckovic, Director, Ericsson D.O.O.	E/F/S
3/7	• Telecom Itália – Latin America presentation, by Mr. Nacif Jeferson, Manager	E
	Gender Mainstreaming, Telecommunications, and Development Linkage (Agenda Item 4)	
3/8	• WGGI Report to the Ninth Meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)	E/F/S
3/9	• Forum on ICTs & Gender: Optimising Opportunities 20-23 August 2003, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - <i>”Declaration & Recommendations”</i>	E
3/10	• Regional Symposium on Women & Information and Communication Technology, Cairo, 17-19 December 2003 <i>”Recommendations”</i>	E/F
3/11	• Towards a more equitable information society: how and why of gender mainstreaming, by Ms. Savitri Bisnath, Head of Youth and Gender Unit, BDT	E

Doc.No.	Title of Document	Language
3/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing National Strategies for Provision of Access to ICT in Rural and Remote Areas, by Mr. Honoré Vignon, Head, Universal Access and Rural Communication, BDT 	E/F
3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modules on Gender Perspectives in Telecom Policy, by Ms. Barbara Wilson, Human Resources Development Unit, BDT 	E/F/S
3/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges and Opportunities for gender and ICTs in the Americas Region, by Vera Zanetti, Project Administrator, ITU Americas Regional Office, Brazil 	E/F/S
	Discussion of Global Meetings on Telecommunications and Development (WSIS & WTDC) Agenda item 5	
3/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 70 (Rev. Marrakesh 2002), Gender Mainstreaming in ITU 	E/F/S
3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 44 (WTDC-02) Mainstreaming Gender in ITU-D Programmes 	E/F/S
3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSIS Declaration of Principles 	E/F/S
3/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSIS Action Plan 	E/F/S
3/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTDC-06 and Gender perspective 	E
3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSIS Follow-up – Building the Information Society: A Global Challenge in the new Millennium, by Mr. Pierre Gagné, Executive Director of the First Phase of the Summit 	E
	Inter-Sessional Activities (Agenda Item 6)	
3/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Inter-Sessional-Activities 	E/F
3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duties/Responsibilities of the Steering Committee of the WGGI 	E/F/S
3/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Woman in ICTs: Concrete Actions, by Zidonie Gifutenge, TELECEL, Burundi 	F
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of book “Womanager and ICT Implication, by Narine Abazian, Armentel, and Melissa Saadoun, Institut Inedit, Paris 	E/F/S
3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Création de cybercentres communautaires féminins au Bénin, Ayélé Chantal Affo, OPT, Benin 	F
3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan regarding the Training Programme for ensure equal chances between woman and man, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Romania 	E
3/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the vision of Digital Equality into Reality, Ministry of Gender Equality of Rep. of Korea: 	E
	Other documents	
3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of IANWGE, 23-26 February 2004 	E
3/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 2003 – Summary 	E

REPORTS OF
PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 1

Regulatory Reform

Chairperson: Blanca Gonzalez (Spain)

Rapporteur: Hilde Ognedal (Norway)

Participants: Maja Sukalo (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Hassane Makki (Switzerland), Fortuna Mdachi (Tanzania), Isabel Lopes Fernandes (Guinea-Bissau), Suzan Schorr (ITU/BDT), Jacqueline Ineza (Angola), Amelia Alves (Brazil), Clemilton Saraiva (Brazil).

1. Nomination of Chair and Rapporteur

The Meeting was informed that Mercy Wanju (Kenya) could not attend and chair the meeting due to other commitments. In her absence, Blanca Gonzalez was appointed as the Chair of Programme 1. Hilde Ognedal was appointed to be Rapporteur.

2. Nomination of Programme Committee Representative to Programme Committee 6

The Committee appointed Mr. Hassane Makki (Switzerland) as the Representative to Programme Committee 6.

3. Summary of Discussion

The Committee had two main topics for discussion. One was the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPM) to be held in 2005 and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) to be held in Doha, Qatar, in March 2006. The second topic was the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

3.1 RPM and WTDC

The Committee discussed the draft structure of WTDC and recommended to create an *ad hoc* group on gender issues within Programme Committee 3 with the mandate to include a gender perspective on Programme 1 (Policies and Regulatory Matters) and 6 (Telecommunication Statistics and Indicators, including ICTs) of the WTDC Draft Agenda. It was also agreed to create a gender group within RPMs to deal with gender issues on regional scopes. It was agreed to transfer these proposals to Programme Committee 6.

Regarding input to WTDC and RPMs, the Committee agreed on circulating among the members Document 31 from the Global Symposium for Regulators held in Geneva, Switzerland on 8-9 December 2003, titled: Universal Access Regulatory Best Practice Guidelines. It was proposed that Members to incorporate their comments and a draft document should be ready at the beginning of 2005. A virtual conference should then be scheduled to agree on the draft document which will be sent to the RPMs from the regions Africa, Americas and Europe and CIS. The Fourth WGGI Meeting will examine the comments from RPMs and agree on the final document to be sent to WTDC for discussion in Programmes 2 and 6 of Committee 3.

The Document should focus on the following issues:

- a) Encouraging establishing community access points with women group participation;
- b) Legal framework for universal access;
- c) Incentive regulation for action which are promoting gender equality;

- d) Obtaining statistics on gender participation in the communication sector;
- e) Enhance relationship between women groups and other stakeholders in the sector.

3.2 WSIS, Tunis Phase

In accordance with the Declaration of Principle which was adopted by Member States at WSIS, Geneva 2003, regulators and other stakeholders in the communication sector need to take concrete steps to promote gender equality. Paragraph 10 of the Declaration of Principles provides for the commitment of turning the digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, which means access of communication for both men and women. In order to accomplish this, cooperation among public/private partnership is vital for establishing community access points. It is proposed that the following issues need to be addressed:

- a) To promote community access points whereby women's participation is encouraged;
- b) To introduce specific programmes for groups that are marginalized due to their role in society, eg. housewives;
- c) To award persons and companies for the best gender oriented practices in the communication sector.

4. Action by ITU

4.1 Allocation of budget for gender activities

It has been observed that activities which were identified by WGGI 2003 were not implemented due to non-available funds. In line with commitment made at WSIS, Geneva 2003, there is need for WTDC and ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to allocate sufficient funds to implement gender activities.

4.2 Youth and Gender Unit

The Committee agreed to ask the Youth and Gender Unit to provide relevant information regarding statistics from Member States and gender issues.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 2
Technologies and Telecommunication/ICT
Network Development

Chairperson: Aminata Ake (Cote d'Ivoire)

Rapporteurs: Andrea Grippa (Brazil) and Divna Vuckovic (Serbia&Montenegro)

Participants: Natasa Gospic (Telekom Srpske), Cherifa Khalfaoui (BDT/ITU), Elisabeth Mendy-Johnson (Gambia), Ali Soumaila (Niger)

Summary of Discussion:

- The PC2 elected Aminata Ake as chairperson, Divna Vuckovic as rapporteur and Andrea Grippa as co- rapporteur.
- PC2 discussed roles and responsibilities of WGGI PC2 and the relation to BDT Program 2. The need of active interaction with BDT Focal Point is essential to correlate Program 2 and PC2 activities.
- Focal Point of BDT Program 2 to be present during the PC2 meetings.
- Universal service obligation and technologies for the Universal Service that could promote women's inclusion in Information Society.
- Gender Survey Questionnaire and gender segregated statistics for 4 years to be presented to RPM.
- Use of ICTs for job creation.
- Methods to increase the number of women in telecom and ICT sector.

Inter-sessional activities proposed for 2004/2005

Description of activity, timeframe

- WGGI PC2 and BDT Program 2 (cross-cutting):
 - Enable the active interaction with BDT Focal Point in order to correlate Program 2 and PC2 activities.
 - Focal Point of BDT Program 2 to be present during the PC2 meetings
- Gender Survey (cross-cutting)
 - Prepare the Gender Survey based on the Gender Questionnaire for last 4 years and send it as an input document for the regional preparatory meeting of WDTC.
 - Inform the WGGI members about the contact persons list for the Questionnaire distribution, so that each member could follow up the proper answering on the Questionnaire.
- Achievement of better gender balance in the meetings of ITU sectors.
 - Prepare the input document for World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, Oct 2004, on the activities to increase the women participation and leadership in the process of telecom standardization.

Prepare gender statistical data regarding the participation on ITU meetings.

- Activities for RPM (cross-cutting)
 - During the regional preparatory process the representative of Gender Unit should ensure that questions related to new technologies addressed the gender perspective
 - During the regional preparatory meetings for WTDC the Gender Session should be organized
- Increase the technical competence of women in telecom and ICT sector
 - Organize within the IsAP, Program 2, regional workshops for women on new technologies and applications.
 - Building sub-regional networking to share technical information.
- Liaison statement of PC2 to BDT SG2:
 - To update WGGI on the gender related activities within the SG2 questions that could be of interest for the work of WGGI PC2.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 3 E-Strategies and E-Services/Applications

The workflow for Program 3 commission followed 3 steps:

Chairperson: Eva Rathgeber (Canada)

Rapporteurs: Affo A Chantal (Benin) and Rim Belhaj (Tunisia)

Participants: Madalina Adam (Romania), Amani Sabri Amin (Egypt), Mavic Cabera Belleza (the Philipinnes), Dagan Daoued (Djibouti), Patience Eboumbou (Cameroun), Ali Soumaila Foureratou (Niger) Guiguemde Germaine (Burkina Faso), Abebou Mammo (Ethiopia), Nketsi Markheva (Lesotho), Jeferson Fred Nacif (Brazil), Amel Ouertatani (Tunisie and Representative in Program 6), Bonkougou Rakiéta (Burkina Faso), Thiombiano Marie Theophile (Burkina Faso), Waklatsi-William (Togo)

Debate

First, the group highlighted the need for pragmatism, efficiency, concrete and clear vision which will assist in conducting ongoing work for regional preparatory meetings in order to be considered into WTDC conference. In that sense, serious preparatory work has to be undertaken by each government and NGOs depend on specific needs. National projects inputs have to be efficiently defined and centralized at each government representation to facilitate their acceptance. Then, the group noted that universal access definition has to include gender issues. Indeed, gender studies pointed that men and women have different needs. Finally, the members identified the needs in different areas across the regions (please refer to the table in the annex). From the exhaustive needs list, we can identify five common priorities across all regions:

- Affordability
- Training
- Content
- Local Language
- Access.

These five elements lead to the following recommendations.

Recommendations

The formulation of following recommendations is taking into consideration that the WGGI has an advisory role rather than an implementing one.

- Elaborate projects that take into consideration the five common priority areas across the regions.
- The BDT support could consist in studies and research that will allow governments to afford equipments at reasonable costs. E.g.: SIMPUTER.
- Government should eliminate taxes in order to make low cost computers available.
- Exchanges between BDT and concerned structure in each government to address issues related to illiteracy in respective countries in order to enhance the programs in local language and theirs contents.
- Provide opportunities for women to develop useful content in theirs local languages. E.g. Nutrition, child health, agriculture.

- Training could be undertaken through informal way (young to elderly people) and in a formal way (through organized structures to the mass e.g. NGOs).
- Provide trainings related to job creation.
- Provide trainings related to enterprise creation and entrepreneurship skill development.
- Integrate new technologies with the already existing ones such as radio, TV and even the traditional ones such as theater and story telling.
- Recognize the cultural constraint that may make it difficult for women to participate and develop appropriate strengthening to overcome these constraints. E.g. telecenter for women only.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 4
Economics and Finance, including Cost and Tariffs

Chairperson: Narine Abazian (Armenia)

Rapporteur: Chilao Mutesa (Zambia)

Participants: Keka Roy (India), Asta-Wabi Saibou (Cameroon), Fatima-Zahra Tahri (Morocco), Chantarinne Tith (Cambodia), Jennifer Young (USA),

Points of Discussion

- Analysis of the Financial activities for the previous 2001-2003 period
- Operational Plan of the ITU-D Sector 2004-2007 Programme 4 actions
- WSIS, Action Plan: National targets
- WTDC-06, Resolution 1228

Inter – sessional activities proposed for 2004/2005

Towards WSIS phase 2, Tunis, 2005

- Creation of tools and financial support with gender component

Synergies between

- the WSIS Action Plan (Point 8 – Development of national e-strategies by all countries by 2005)
- ITU-D Action Plan (Program 4 – Creation of tools and financial support)
- WGGI Action Plan (Program 4 – Creation of tools and financial support with gender component)

Creation of tools, with gender component:

Analysis of tools and models to conduct economic forecasts, simulations in order to acknowledge existing gender divides. To do sensitivity analysis, based on information disaggregated by sex, income, age, location and other relevant factors.

Financial support with gender component:

Development policy for financial support mechanisms for the elimination of the ICT gender divide and ensure that universal service provision is broad enough to bridge the gender divide.

Towards World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-06)

- Preparation of WGGI Gender Strategic plan for 2006-2010 and include it in regional telecommunication development conferences

Participation in activity “Updating of the COSITU Software application to elasticity of demand/price”:

- To determine an appropriate tariff policy to women users, taking into account the contribution that women make in the national economy.

We need to participate in activities of ITU-D Study Group 1, regarding Questions 12/1 and 6/1, with a view to contributing to the gender related components.

With the align of “Mainstream a gender perspective into BDT strategic, operational and budgetary plans”(WTDC-02 RESOLUTION 44), to participate in BDT activity: Preparation, management and evaluation of operational plan implementation.

The programme committee proposed that these activities be reported on a quarterly basis to members of the programme committee 4 and to the steering committee.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 5
Capacity Building

Women, through their active solidarity, willingness to work hard, intelligence and sense of initiative, are capable of breathing new life into information and communication technologies.

Chairperson: Ms Mint Sid Ahmed Ould Lab El Moumna (Mauritania)

Rapporteur: Rabacorahimana, Madagascar

Participants: MADOLA, Larissa (Cameroon), Zidonie GIFUTENGE (Burundi), Fama Isaac MBAYE (Senegal), Olga TCHERNEVA (Bulgaria), KOUADIO Chantal (Cameroon) Rekha CHIFUWE (Zambia), Mpho MOLETSANE (Botswana), Reginald THOMAS (Sierra Leone), Mico Patrick (Rwanda), Barbara Wilson, ITU

The participants were requested to reflect on human capacity building.

Following long discussions, the members of the committee focused on the pressing human capacity building requirements of the developing countries, mainly:

- education (new mindset at all levels)
- training (whether or not leading to a diploma, and operation of information and communication technologies)
- retraining (strengthening of administrative and technical capacities, internships, seminars and colloquiums).

Furthermore, women want a recruitment, training and social and professional promotion policy - in short, a policy for the overall management of human resources - which scrupulously respects the principle of gender equality clearly set forth in the basic texts.

The concerns of working women in the telecommunication sector include loss of employment (due to age, lack of career plan and training, and notwithstanding their efforts to meet challenges; they are targets in redundancy schemes when organizations are privatized. Such is the case in some of the countries represented in the group). Women therefore request awareness-raising at regional conferences in order to support them, with the aim of having their demands taken into account.

The strategies proposed include distance learning, the establishment of cyber cafés, universal access, the creation of development projects, and higher standards with focus on training. Among further demands, women request that gender issues be taken into account when the agendas of ITU conferences are drawn up.

Gender issues require each and every one of us to adopt the responsible citizen's attitude that will be decisive in serving one's own country, by contributing meaningfully to the realization of our populations' potential.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE No. 6
Partnerships, Information Dissemination and Communications

Chairperson: Mavic Cabrera-Balleza (the Philippines)

Rapporteurs: Nketsi Makheva (Lesotho), Amel Ouertatani (Tunisia)

Participants: Narine Abazian (Armenia), Andrea Grippa (Brazil), Makki Hassane (Switzerland), Larissa Madula (Cameroon), EL Moumna (Mouritanie), Chlao Mutesa (Zambia), Jeferson Nacif (Brazil), Susanne Omager (UNESCO), Divna Vuckovic (Serbia&Montenegro)

Discussion and Recommendations:

Develop a strategic plan for WGGI

PC 2, 3, 6 recommend: the establishment of a data-base for women

PC 1, 2, 4 recommend: the conduct of baseline-research on Women in ICT taking into account the differences among developed - developing and least developed countries to be able to assess the nature and extent of the digital divide

PC 3, 5 recommend: the facilitation of access to ICTs Infrastructure, content-language- while ensuring cultural diversity and taking into account affordability/tariffs

PC 4 recommends the mobilisation of Human, Financial & Material resources for implementation of all the recommendations

PC 1, 2 recommend the participation of women and the integration of gender perspective in the regional prep. coms with the aim of influencing decisions in WTDC- 2006.

Establish an ad-hoc Committee for WTDC.

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