



REPORT OF WORKING GROUP 2

Technologies and global information infrastructure development and applications.

1. Gender Survey Questionnaire Report

A. Background

During the Second Meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues (TFGI), this Working Group recognized the limited participation of women in the work of ITU, particularly in technical fields in telecommunications. It recommended to the TFGI to include in its work programme the need to identify barriers and problems in achieving an increase of women's participation as well as proactive strategies and policies on gender equality and equity in the telecommunication and ICT areas. As a response to this recommendation, a gender questionnaire was developed and disseminated with the annual survey to the ITU Member Regulators.

Through the use and analysis of the questionnaire, the TFGI endeavours to:

- bring awareness to Member States of the importance of creating gender equality and equity policies
- provide up-to-date information on planning and preparation of strategies on gender equality and equity within the organizations involved in telecommunications
- promote wide dissemination of the purpose and mandate of the Task Force on Gender Issues
- create a database for the basic indicators related to gender equality
- identify possible areas where expertise of the Task Force and ITU could be shared with other UN agencies.

B. Survey Questionnaire 2001 Results

Seventy organizations responded to the second ITU Gender Questionnaire disseminated in the year 2001. This pool of respondents provides an indicator of the gender policies and practices of ITU Member States as a whole. Responses were well distributed geographically, with sixteen responses from the Africa Region, twelve from the Americas, fifteen from Asia & Pacific, four from Arab States and twenty- three from Europe.

7.1 Response Rate Relative to Each Region

Region	# of Countries	# of Responses	Representative Response Rate per Region
Africa	53	16	30%
Americas	36	12	33%
Arab States	13	4	31%
Asia-Pacific	48	15	31%
Europe	44	23	52%

A total number of 454 survey questionnaires were sent out in 2001 for an increase of 265 organizations contacted from the year 2000. In addition to surveys being sent to the Regulatory Bodies of ITU Member States, BDT Sector Members were sent the questionnaire as well. Though the number of responses received by TFGI in 2001 was comparable to that of the year 2000, the rate of response was actually 22.15% lower. This is generally attributed to the minimal response of the Sector Members. **Based on this lack of response, Working Group 2 would propose that new strategies for fostering the increased interest of the Sector Members in the Survey Questionnaire be discussed and developed.**

7.2 Comparative Indicators

	2000	2001
<i># of Surveys Disseminated</i>	189	454*
# of Responses	71	70
<i>Total % rate of response</i>	37.56%	15.41%*
# of Women in Managerial Posts	2664	3342
% of women in Managerial Posts	24.5%	29%
# of Organizations Requesting Assistance	42	43
% of Countries Requesting Assistance	60%	62%

* Note that in addition to the same 189 Regulatory bodies that were sent surveys in 2000, an additional 265 BDT Sector Members were sent surveys in 2001.

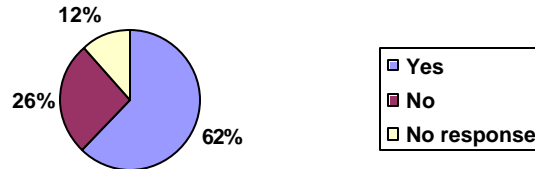
Of the total number of 11,556 managerial posts indicated, 3342 or 29% were held by women, indicating an increase of 4.5% from the year before

Eleven organizations indicated that policies and practices are in place to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of men and women are taken on a fair and equitable basis.

Forty-two of the seventy survey respondents indicated that too few qualified women account for the difficulty in increasing the number of women within the telecommunication sector, while only four answered that the difficulty in increasing the number of women within the sector was due to a lack of commitment of senior management. Nine respondents indicated that limited access to information technologies was the reason for employing few women in their organizations.

62% of all organizations that responded to the Gender Survey Questionnaire indicated an interest in receiving further information. Specifically, of those requesting assistance, 38% indicated an interest in assistance with training, 26% indicated an interest in policy development, 34% indicated an interest in information on the experiences of other organizations, and 2% indicated an interest in other forms of assistance. Additionally, fully 35% of the same organizations who requested assistance in the year 2000 survey repeated their request in the year 2001. **This strong demand for assistance in implementing gender equality strategies clearly calls for prompt and decisive action.**

7.3 Assistance Requested



2. Study Group-D Meetings

During the meeting of Study Group-D in Caracas, Venezuela from 3 to 14 September 2001, Natasa Gospic, TFGI Chairperson, made a presentation on TFGI activities. With the encouragement of the TFGI, a gender perspective was included in some papers presented by the TFGI liaison rapporteurs.

3. Summary of Points for Action/Discussion:

A. Gender Questionnaire Survey

- Include a small feedback-comment sheet/questionnaire with the Gender Questionnaire Survey in 2002 so as to improve the quality and clarity of the questions as well as to maintain pertinence.
- Coordinate with the ITU Private Sector Unit to have the Gender Questionnaire Survey distributed with their annual questionnaire to Sector Members in 2002.
- Propose further strategies for fostering the increased interest of Sector Members.
- Provide assistance and information in implementing gender equality strategies in response to the strong demand from survey respondents.

B. Study Group Meetings

- A concrete policy is needed to ensure that each new Study-Group Question includes a gender perspective.