

# Information Session on Gender Issues

1 September 2009, ITU Headquarters, Geneva

## ITU work in the area of gender-disaggregated ICT data

Vanessa Gray

Market Information and Statistics Division (STAT)  
Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

## ITU Statistical Obligation

- As a United Nations agency, the ITU has an obligation to produce statistics covering its sector. This is in line with other specialized UN agencies that publish statistics covering their respective field of operations.
- Inside ITU, Resolution No. 8 (Doha, 2006) calls on the Director of the BDT “...*to survey countries and produce world and regional reports, in particular on...world telecommunication development.*”



Track the digital divide

# ITU data collection

**Administrative  
data**

**ITU Statistics**

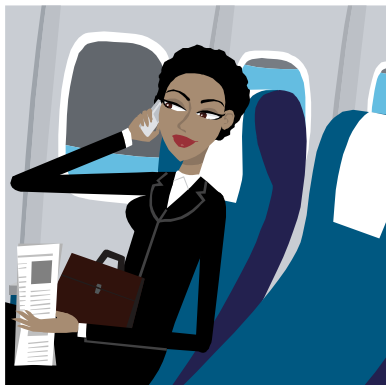
**Survey data**

**Telecom statistics  
(INFRASTRUCTURE)**  
(annual questionnaire)  
**Source: Regulators/  
ministries**

**ICT Household  
Statistics (ACCESS/USE)**  
(annual questionnaire)  
**Source: NSOs**

## Limits to gender-disaggregated data

- Majority of ITU data are based on administrative data that cannot be gender-disaggregated
  - Fixed telephone network
  - Mobile cellular subscriptions
  - Internet/broadband subscriptions
  - Traffic and tariff
  - Revenue/investment
  - Broadcasting

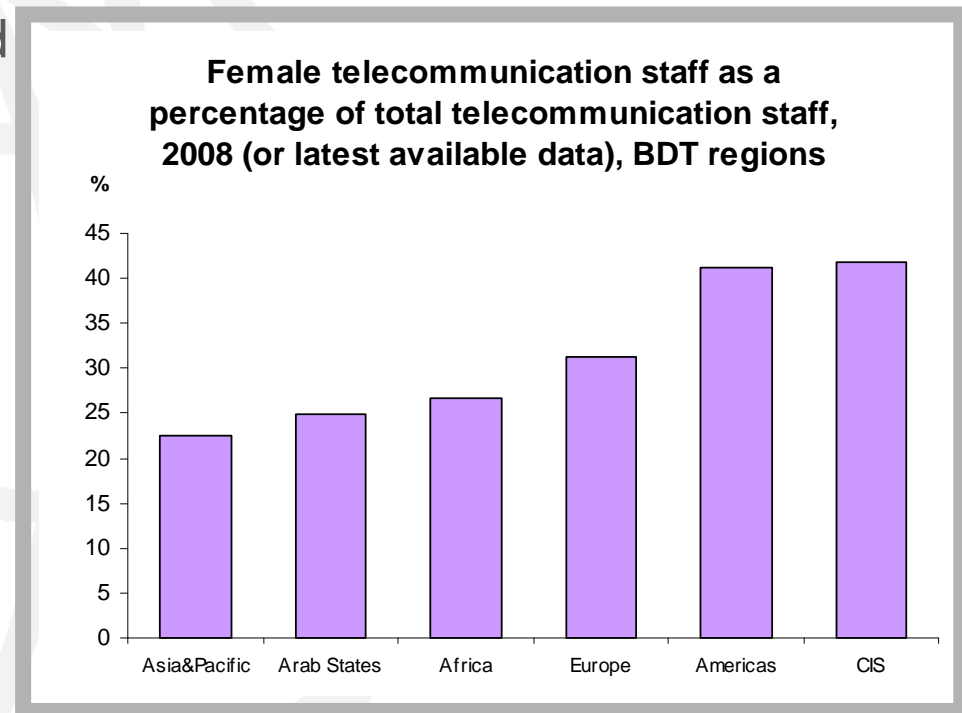


## Where gender 'counts' (and can be counted!)

- Certain administrative data, for example staff data
  - Female telecommunication staff
- ICT (individual) use data, collected through national household surveys
  - Individuals who use a computer
  - Individuals who use the Internet
  - Individuals with use of a mobile cellular telephone

# Female telecommunication staff

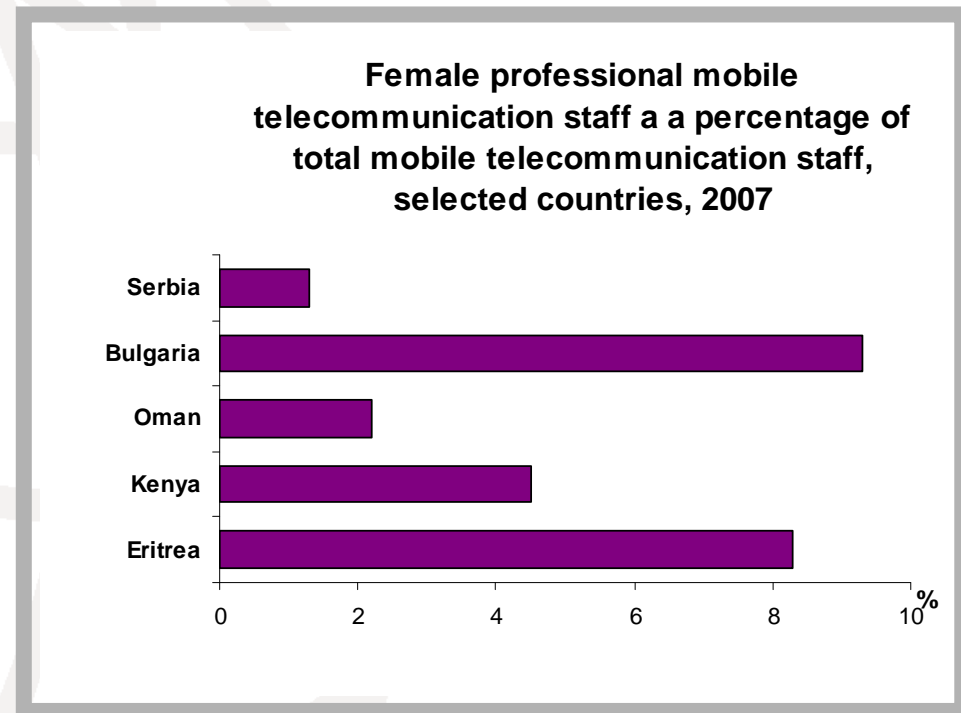
- About 65% of countries collect gender-disaggregated data on telecommunication staff
- Data often refer only to (former) incumbent
- Data suggest that the percentage of female staff varies across regions but data do not distinguish between level of staff (professional, administrative)



Source: ITU WTI database.

# Female professional telecom staff

- In 2005 ITU started collecting data on professional staff (gender disaggregated)
- Only about 10% of ITU Member States report these data (because data are not collected?)
- Existing data suggest that females are largely under-represented in higher level positions across countries



Source: ITU WTI database.

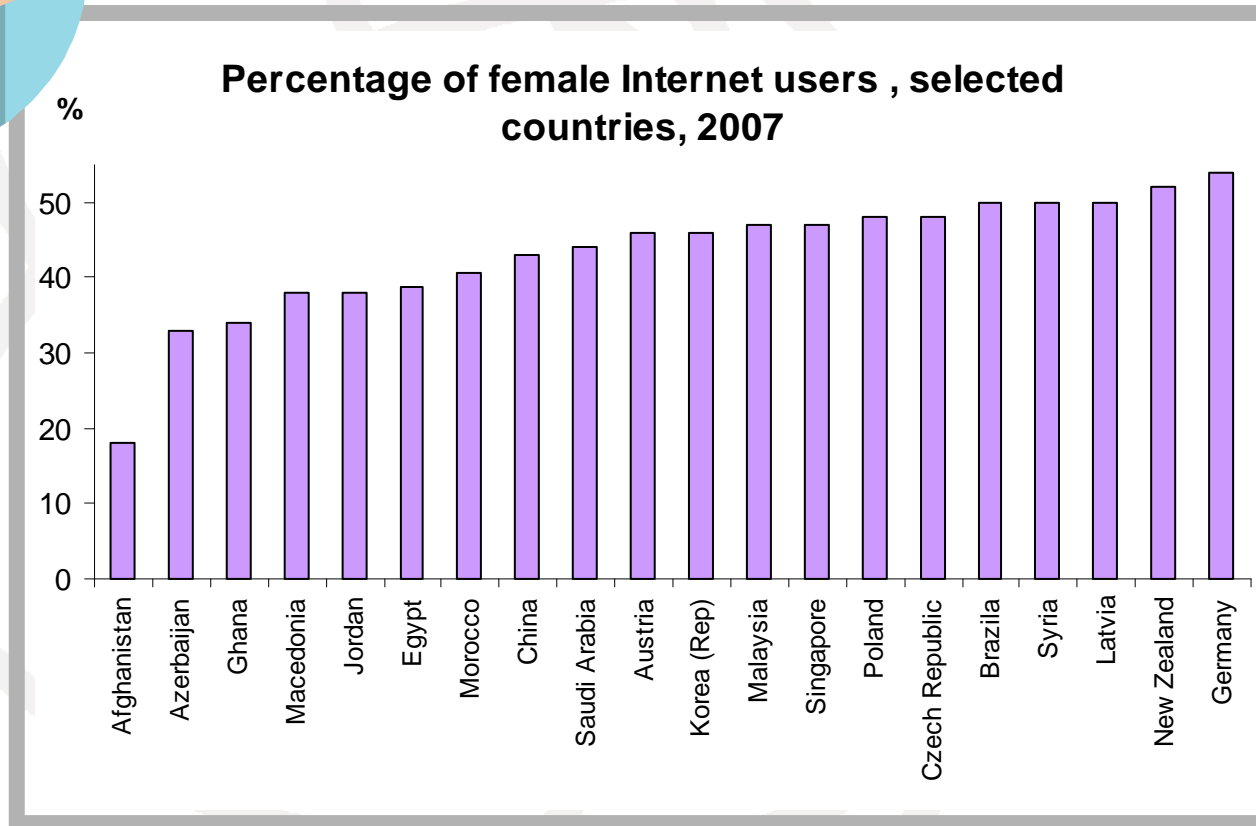
## ICT use data: availability and quality

- ITU has been collecting gender-disaggregated data on Internet users for many years
- Source and quality of data not always clear in countries that do not carry out surveys
- Data are increasingly reliable since more and more countries carry out national surveys





# Internet user data



Source: ITU WTI database.

## Existing data suggest...

- The digital divide in terms of Internet use between women and men is closing
- In most developed countries, as many women as men already use the Internet

## ITU will produce more and better gender-disaggregated data

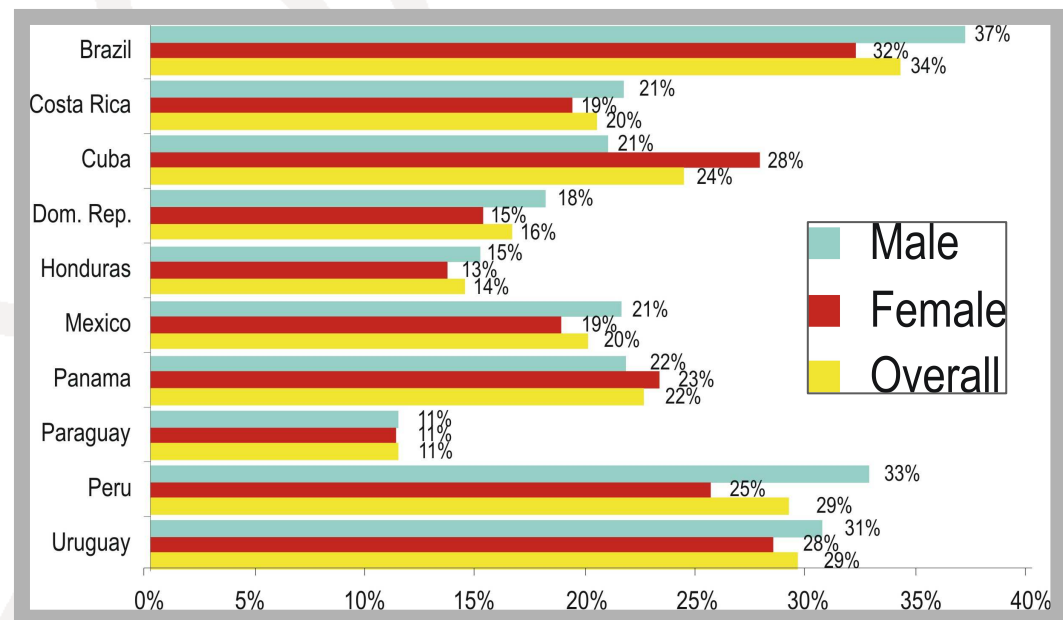
- ITU household questionnaire to collect data on ICT access to and use of ICTs to produce the following gender-disaggregated data:
  - Individuals who use a computer
  - Individuals who use the Internet (by location of use; by activity; by frequency, and by age)
  - Individuals with use of a mobile cellular telephone
- Currently collecting 2006-2008 data. Gender-disaggregated data available for about 30 countries (+ Eurostat countries).
- ITU encourages and helps countries to collect gender-disaggregated data (core list of ICT indicators, household manual, capacity building)

# Analyzing gender-disaggregated data

- ITU uses gender-disaggregated data for its analytical reports, see for example:



Proportion of Internet users by gender, various years, Americas



Source: Information Society Statistical Profiles 2009, Americas (forthcoming September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

# Thank you

- Questions? Comments?
- Contact [indicators\(at\)itu.int](mailto:indicators@itu.int)