

## RESOLUTION 76 (Dubai, 2014)

### **Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

#### *noting*

- a) Resolution 70 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in information and communication technology (ICT) careers during elementary, secondary and higher education so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;
- b) the Tunis Commitment of the 2005 phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, reaffirming Member States' commitment to empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive information society in order to actively engage youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes;
- c) the Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Initiative signed by BDT and the Telecentre.org Foundation at Connect Americas 2012;
- d) the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 led by ITU, which brought together some 700 participants and over 3 000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;
- e) that the world's youth have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the Global Youth Summit, which have been presented for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;
- f) the fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "youth" as a priority in his Agenda and included youth employment, entrepreneurship and education as overall goals through the System-Wide Action Plan on Youth,

#### *recognizing*

- a) that youth are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and the world force for progress;
- b) that ICTs are tools through which both young women and men can substantively contribute to, participate in and leverage their social and economic development,

#### *considering*

- a) the progress made by BDT in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target youth and young women and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing the awareness of career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;

b) the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), by promoting the International Girls in ICT Day from 2011 to 2013, through which over 70 000 girls and young women in over 120 countries were made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;

c) the fact that ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development and work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;

d) the fact that ITU, through the Global Youth Summit, engaged a worldwide community to gather their opinions and ideas on how technology can contribute to a better world and shape the post-2015 development agenda;

e) the fact that BDT plays a substantive role, through its activities, towards youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

*resolves*

1 that ITU-D, taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at promoting ICT applications among young women and men, in particular in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship and education, and thereby contribute to youth educational, social and economic development and empowerment;

2 that the established ITU-D objective on digital inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men,

*resolves further*

1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with youth development programmes;

2 to add a youth dimension in Questions for study, wherever possible,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to seek appropriate means to integrate youth issues into the activities of BDT;

2 to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these activities;

3 to promote ICTs among young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment;

4 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of youth empowerment at national and international level;

5 to provide guidance on digital citizenship among youth, including e-government services,

*invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

to assist Member States:

1 to promote ICTs for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines, to integrate young women and men in the information society;

3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects that target young women and men in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

4 to include a youth component in the BDT activities aimed at raising awareness of the challenges that youth are facing in the ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solutions;

5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for youth without gender discrimination, and thus encourage young girls and women to be part of the ICT sector,

*encourages the Member States*

1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men;

2 to develop national strategies for using ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;

3 to promote ICTs for youth empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;

4 to support ITU-D activities in field of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men,

*encourages the Member States and Sector Members*

1 to coordinate global and regional youth forums, considering available resources;

2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date training for young people on ICT use;

3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to provide specialized training for young innovators,

*requests the Secretary-General*

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) with a view to releasing appropriate resources, within the budgetary limits, for the corresponding activities and functions;

2 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 ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.