

Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union

RESOLUTION 70 (Rev. Marrakesh 2002)

Gender Mainstreaming in ITU

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Marrakesh, 2002),

recalling

- a) the initiative taken by the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in adopting Resolution 7 (Valletta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that a 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 perspective in the implementation of all programmes and plans of ITU;
- c) Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-02) converting the task force on gender issues into a permanent Working Group on Gender Issues;
- d) Resolution 1187 adopted by the 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 E/2001/L.29 (July 2001) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) entitled "Social and human rights questions: advancement of women", 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).

recognizing

- a) that society as a whole, particularly in the context of the information and knowledge society now evolving, 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 making better use of human resources, including the skills of women, is essential in order to build the foundation for the new information society and ensure that humanity as a whole benefits from the fruits thereof;
- c) that women constitute a substantial, as yet largely unexplored, consumer market for information and communication technologies;
- d) that the recent start of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process is only a beginning in the expansion of reflections on the concept of the information society and that continued efforts must be undertaken in this context to bridge the gender digital divide,

recognizing further

- a) the impetus and interest in gender issues in the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector generated over the past four years since the appointment of a focal point on gender issues and the establishment of the task force on gender issues;
- b) the progress achieved in raising awareness, both within ITU and among Member States, of the importance of integrating a gender perspective in all ITU work programmes and of increasing the number of women professionals in ITU, especially at senior management level, while at the same time working towards the equal access of men and women to posts in the General Service category;
- c) considerable recognition given to the work of ITU in gender and ICT within the UN family of organizations,

noting

- a) that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understand the impact of telecommunication technologies on women and men;
- b) that ITU should take the lead in establishing gender-relevant indicators for the telecommunication sector;
- c) that more work needs to be done to ensure that the gender perspective is included in all ITU policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, workshops and conferences,

welcomes

the initiative taken by Norway to provide a Senior Gender Adviser to the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in an effort to assist ITU in carrying out its mandate for gender mainstreaming in ITU-D,

encourages Member States and Sector Members

- 1 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;
- 2 to facilitate the employment of women and men equally in the telecommunication field including at senior levels of responsibility in the telecommunication administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector;

3 to review their policies related to the information society to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all activities, especially WSIS,

resolves

1 to endorse WTDC-02 Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) on mainstreaming gender in ITU-D programmes;

2 to continue the work being done in BDT to mainstream and advance the gender perspective through ICT programmes that improve the socio-economic conditions for women, particularly in developing countries;

3 to accord high priority to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU and to consider the establishment of a gender unit;

4 to incorporate the gender perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan and financial plan for 2004-2007 as well as in the operational plans of the Bureaux and the General Secretariat,

instructs the Council

1 to continue and expand on the initiatives carried out over the past four years and to accelerate the gender mainstreaming process in ITU as a whole so as to ensure capacity building, continuity and sustainability;

2 to consider creating, within the available financial resources, a gender unit in the ITU General Secretariat,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to take immediate steps to implement a gender plan and report to the Council on progress made;

2 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;

3 to take immediate steps to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in all ITU contributions to WSIS;

4 to give particular attention to gender balance for posts at the professional and particularly the higher levels in ITU and, when choosing between candidates 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, to give appropriate priority to gender balance;

5 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;

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

7 to encourage administrations to give equal opportunities to male and female candidatures for elected official posts and for membership of the Radio Regulations Board,

invites Member States

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