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| **Logo, company name  Description automatically generated** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated**World Telecommunication DevelopmentConference (WTDC-22)****Kigali, Rwanda, 6-16 June 2022** |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document WTDC-22/32-E** |
|  | **16 May 2022** |
|  | **Original: English** |
| Lithuania (Republic of) |
| Proposal on Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector |
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| **Priority area:** - Other proposals**Summary:**At its meeting in March 2022, the Advisory Board of Network of Women in ITU-D agreed to prepare the Declaration and present it to the World Telecommunication Development Conference. The purpose of this proposal is to acknowledge the efforts of ITU, BDT and ITU-D Membership to ensure gender balance in ITU-D Sector, as well as to note the need for further commitment from everyone to achieve the gender-related goals. **Expected results:**The delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference to endorse the Declaration and work on the Action Plan for Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.**References:**n/a |

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GENERAL MATTERS

# Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

We, the representatives of ITU Member States, delegates and participants of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 6 to 16 June 2022 under the theme “Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development”, endorse the present **Declaration** **on Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector.**

We declare:

- The theme of the World Telecommunication Development Conference “Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development” embraces the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5: “Achieve gender equity and empower all women and girls”. Sustainable development may not be achieved without giving equal opportunities for women and girls; as well as gender equality may not be achieved without involvement of men and boys in promotion of this principle.

- Participation of women in ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) positively increased during last years due to the active steps taken by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and ITU-D Members. The Network of Women (NoW) initially established for WTDC (NoW4WTDC) helped to build the community of women delegates to all the ITU-D Sector activities in all six ITU regions. NoW in ITU-D is the strong support in terms of achieving gender balance.

- More actions are needed to achieve equal opportunities for career at the professional and higher level staffing categories, particularly at professional and higher level positions within the organization.

- The significant progress is made by ITU and ITU-D sector in raising awareness on gender issues, specifically over the last decade, in increasing women’s participation in and contribution to international forums, in studies, projects and training, as well as the successful establishment by ITU of an international “Girls in ICT” day to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April. ITU has adopted a Gender Equality and Mainstreaming (GEM) Policy, with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality.

- Both ITU-D Members and BDT are ready to put necessary efforts in ensuring the gender balance in the Sector. To achieve this, targeted actions need to be agreed and implemented with specific outcomes, indicative timelines and monitored measures to improve gender situation within ITU organization and to be encouraging example to other international, regional and national bodies.

- The EQUALS Global Partnership, of which ITU is a founding member and which is made up of other United Nations agencies, governments, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, is a model of wide partnership which aims to reduce the gender digital divide in the world. We encourage more engagement with different stakeholders to achieve the gender-related goals.

We commit:

1. To increase representation of women in the delegations, activities and staffing in the ITU-D sector, especially in the leading positions with a view to achieving the gender balance by the next World Telecommunication Development Conference and to monitor progress towards implementation with a specific monitoring system.

2. To support continued activities of Network of Women in ITU-D even after the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali with specific tasks/agenda agreed by the Membership.

3. To work and agree on a specific Action Plan for Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU-D Sector with measurable results for 2022-2025 period till the next Conference to be evaluated and enhanced.

4. To encourage BDT to cooperate with other UN agencies, international and regional organizations, Member States, Academia and Sector Members to form wide coalitions for achieving gender-related goals and to support the inclusion of women in all aspects of ITU-D activities, including both national and international processes.

5. To join efforts in building awareness about the need of gender balance within and beyond the ITU, including men and boys in promotion of the gender balance concept everywhere; also to support all information activities of BDT, NoW in ITU-D and other initiatives providing more visibility to women experts and leaders, support all gender-related initiatives at the ITU-D.

6. To ensure that all ITU-D policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses, conferences and other events reflect the commitment to gender equality and promote gender balance.

We, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali, 2022, declare our commitment to the implementation of this Declaration. We also call upon all ITU Members and other stakeholders/partners to contribute to implementation of the **Action Plan** **for Promoting Gender Equality in the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector** and take common action to ensure gender equality, parity and equity.

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