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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14)Busan, 20 October – 7 November 2014** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document 169-E** |
| **12 November 2014** |
| **Original: English** |
| MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING |
| Tuesday, 28 October 2014, at 0935 hours |
| **Chairman:** Mr W. MIN (Republic of Korea) |

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| 1 | GEM-TECH Awards  | – |
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# 1 GEM-TECH Awards

1.1 The **Chairman** explained thatITU’sinitiative in favour of gender equality and mainstreaming in ICT (GEM-TECH) was being celebrated for the first time by presenting awards to outstanding contributors in that area. He invited Ms Jie-Ae Sohn, former CEO of Arirang TV, to act as the master of ceremonies.

1.2 The **Secretary-General,** in an address available here <http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/statements/file/Pages/gem-tech-awards-toure.aspx>, said that 360 individuals or organizations from more than 70 countries spanning all regions had been nominated for the awards, and it had been very difficult to choose the winners. He transmitted a message from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, ITU’s partner in the GEM-TECH Awards, who congratulated all award winners and runners up on their achievements. He thanked the Gold partners (Oman, Rwanda, Switzerland, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) and Silver partners (Cisco and Facebook) for their support.

1.3 **A 5–minute video entitled “Breaking News – The GEM-TECH Awards 2014 – The Winners” was screened.**

1.4 **Ms Sohn** announced the winners of the GEM-TECH Awards in the following categories:

- Category 1: ICT applications, content, production capacities and skills for women’s social, political empowerment and women’s empowerment linkages with sustainable development. Winner: UNESCO – UNESCO project: Women in African History: An E-Learning Tool (Africa).

- Category 2: ICT applications, content, production capacities and skills for women’s economic empowerment and poverty reduction. Winner: iMerit Technology Services (India).

- Category 3: Promoting women in ICT sector – initiatives aimed at attracting, retaining and promoting women within the ICT sector and into decision-making positions (private and public sector). Winner: BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT (United Kingdom).

- Category 4: Enabling girls to become ICT creators – initiatives aimed towards providing girls with an opportunity to become not just active users but also creators of ICTs and content. Winner: Research Center for Feminist Action (CIPAF) (Dominican Republic).

- Category 5: Closing the ICT gender gap – ensuring ICT accessibility for women, such as digital literacy training, and initiatives aimed at measuring the ICT gender gap including research on women’s engagement with ICTs. Winner: Telecentre.org Foundation – Telecentre Women initiative (Philippines).

- Category 6: Efforts to reduce threats online and building women’s confidence and security in the use of ICTs. Winner: Association for Progressive Communications (APC) – Take Back the Tech! campaign (South Africa).

- Category 7: ICT and broadband strategies policies, frameworks that promote women’s digital empowerment. Winner: Federal Ministry of Communication Technology (Nigeria).

1.5 **The Deputy Secretary-General presented GEM-TECH Awards to representatives of the winners in each category**.

1.6 **Mr Getachew Engida**, Deputy Director-General, UNESCO, accepting the award for category 1, said that UNESCO, along with UN Women and ITU, ascribed importance to empowering girls and women through information and communication technologies. UNESCO’s e-learning tool used the potential of new technology to tell the story of women in African history, recording their resistance to tyranny, and struggle for human rights and dignity, for the empowerment of girls and women. He thanked the government of Bulgaria for supporting the e-learning tool.

1.7 **Ms Radha Ramaswami Basu**, Chief Executive Officer, iMerit Technology Services, accepting the award for category 2, said that she did so on behalf of 30,000 marginalized and minority young women and men who had been skilled in ICT and mainstreamed into Internet and IT jobs, earning three to seven times their earlier family income. Women at iMerit believed in market-based solutions, preferring to earn revenues by providing high quality Internet and IT project services, rather than being long-term beneficiaries of the United Nations or others. Her dream was of women shareholders in a company that participated in the global Internet economy; that would be her idea of mainstreaming.

1.8 **Ms Gillian Arnold**, Chair, BCSWomen, accepting the award for category 3, said that none of the work being done by BCSWomen in the United Kingdom to attract women into IT would have happened without the support of a large group of volunteers. Indeed, there were volunteer organizations all over the world helping women to make careers in IT. She stressed the seriousness of that task, given the additional revenue and innovation that came from maximizing the potential of women in the technology industries and professions.

1.9 **Ms Amparo Arango**, accepting the award for category 4 on behalf of Ms Magaly Pineda, Director, CIPAF, thanked ITU for establishing the award, which she received with pleasure on behalf of the girls and women of the Dominican Republic and Latin America who dreamt of a world without violence – a world with social justice, where gender equality was a reality. The new information and communication technologies could contribute to making that dream a reality if projects such as E-Chicas and Supermaticas transformed the commitment of governments and the private sector into a social and economic force guaranteeing progress towards an inclusive, equitable and equal information society.

1.10 **Mr Miguel Raimilla**, Executive Director, Telecentre.org Foundation, accepting the award for category 5, said that, as part of the global TeleCentre community, hundreds of thousands of organizations around the globe provided access to ICT and the Internet for millions of people who would otherwise have no such access. He thanked ITU for its continuing support for the initiative. Reaching one million women was a significant achievement, but in the larger scheme of things it was just a small step towards women’s equality. He called for more participation by the builders of the information society to enable new opportunities for women to participate in ICT, thereby creating a future for their communities.

1.11 **Ms Jac sm Kee**, Women’s Rights Programme Manager, ACP, accepting the award for category 6, said that she was proud to receive the award on behalf of all the campaigners and partners of Take Back the Tech! in more than 25 countries. No one used to speak about online violence against women, although it was part of women’s experience in using ICTs and the Internet. That issue was now being recognized as a significant barrier to the participation of women and girls online, thanks to campaigners sharing information and engaging with all stakeholders. She hoped that women and girls would use technology in playful, creative and strategic ways to end violence against women online, and to transform the world.

1.12 **Ms Omobola Johnson**, Minister of Communication Technology, Nigeria, accepting the award for category 7, said that the award validated President Jonathan’s policy on gender, inclusion and empowerment, facilitated by ICTs. Women and girls were underrepresented in ICTs in terms of access, use and employment. There were many more men online than women, and the gap was wider in developing economies such as Nigeria. Women accounted for fewer than 20 per cent of IT specialists in developing economies, where an estimated 90 per cent of all employment would require ICT skills by 2015. Given the importance of ICT to national development, closing the gender digital divide was a priority for Nigeria. Three national programmes were helping Nigeria to make progress in empowering women through ICTs: digital girls clubs in secondary schools; training of selected unemployed girls in ICT skills to fill vacant IT jobs; and the Smart Women programme – a platform for disseminating information to Nigerian women via mobile phones. She thanked the Federal Minister of Finance for budgetary support, and three nongovernmental organizations (Women in Technology, Women’s Technology Empowerment Centre, and Women in Management and Business) for their expert help. She also thanked ITU and UN Women, saying that the award was a spur to do even more.

1.13 **Ms Sohn** announced the names of the GEM-TECH Awards 2014 Global Achievers: Monique Morrow, Cisco Systems; Renee Wittemyer, Intel; Jasna Matić, Serbia; Geena Davis, ITU Special Envoy for Women and Girls in ICT; GSMA – Connected Women; and Alcatel-Lucent – StrongHer.

1.14 The **Chairman** congratulated all the award winners and global achievers.

# 2 Statement by the President of Rwanda

2.1 The **Chairman** invited the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, to address the conference.

2.2 The **President of Rwanda** delivered the address available at <http://www.itu.int/en/plenipotentiary/2014/statements/file/Pages/plenary28am-kagame.aspx>,

recognizing the exceptional nature of technological development in the Republic of Korea, thanking the Secretary-General and his team for pushing the frontiers of ICT, reaffirming Rwanda’s commitment to remain fully engaged in the spread of ICT, outlining the Smart Africa initiative, and recalling the advocacy of the Broadband Commission in favour of integrating broadband in the development process.

# 3 Open letter from the Broadband Commission for Digital Development

3.1 The **Secretary-General** described how the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, co-chaired by Paul Kagame and Carlos Slim Helú, had come into being, and read out an open letter from the Commission to PP-14 urging the conference to connect the world with broadband as a top priority for continued economic growth and social digital inclusion. The open letter is available as PP-14 Document INF/5.

**The meeting rose at 1050 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:
H. TOURÉ W. MIN

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