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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| ITU’S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESOLUTION 70 (REV. BUSAN, 2014) | |

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| Summary  This document summarizes ITU’s activities in the implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) during the period 2016-2017.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *PP* [*Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2014)*; Council documents* [*C13/INF/11*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0011/en)*,* [*C13/39*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0039/en)*,* [*C14/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C15/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0006/en), [*C16/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0006/en), [*C16/INF/1*](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-INF-0001/en)*,* [*C17/INF/7*](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0007/en)*;* [*C17/INF/8*](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0008/en) |

# 1 Introduction

Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) highlights the role of ICTs to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in many ways, notably by encouraging girls to choose a career in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and by fostering the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls. The resolution also instructs the Council to continue initiatives to accelerate the gender mainstreaming process in ITU. This document provides a review of relevant activities and developments over that past year. Further information related to gender and ICTs can be found on [ITU’s dedicated Gender website](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Pages/default.aspx).

# 2 Data Gathering and Tracking

ITU now regularly collects and disseminates ICT indicators related to gender. Data collection includes gender disaggregation for all indicators related to individuals accessing and using ICTs. These indicators can also be gender-disaggregated by age, education, labour force status, and occupation. This information feeds analysis and provides solid evidence of women’s participation in the information society.

ITU monitors and tracks one of the gender-related indicators “*proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex*” that is included in the SDG Indicators Monitoring Framework. The framework was endorsed during the 2016 UN Statistical Commission meeting.

In addition to communicating gender in connectivity and the ICT sector, the secretariat has developed a [Gender dashboard](https://www.itu.int/genderdashboard) which provides a visual overview of gender in ITU meetings and events, including a map with geographical gender distribution for key events during the year. A procedure to systematically gather data on panelists and speakers is under consideration.

In regards to the secretariat, ITU HRM Department continued to monitor gender balance within the recruitment and selection process, the overall staff composition and promotions. Visuals are viewable on the last tab of the Gender dashboard. Some reflections on the data: (1) women in the Professional and higher categories remained stable; (2) the percentage of women at the P-5 to D-2 grades saw a slight 3.5% increase; and (3) promotions in the professional and higher categories were extended 57% to women compared to 43% to men.

# 3 Bridging the Digital Gender Divide

### 3.1 Girls in ICT Day

The International Girls in ICT Day takes place every fourth Thursday of April to encourage more girls and young women to take up ICT careers and studies. From its launch in 2011 through 2016, the campaign had reached 240,000 girls in 160 countries. In 2016 the day saw more than 1,900 events in 138 countries in which more than 67,000 girls and young women took part. Activities included hands-on workshops to teach coding, mobile app development, and other digital skills, such as Tanzania’s Universal Communication Service Access Fund event, which trained girls to develop and pitch their mobile apps to build their entrepreneurial skills. ITU headquarters engaged local schools to organize their own workshops, including training of local senior secondary students to programme robots donated by Lego. Participating schools were invited to ITU to showcase their skills and receive mentoring.

The [Girls in ICT Portal](http://www.itu.int/girlsinict) offers an organizers toolkit and access to the very robust #GirlsinICT Twitter feed.

The ITU Secretary General invites ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia to organize events attracting as many girls and young women as possible. Ministries of ICT, Education, Labour, Youth, National ICT Regulatory Authorities, ICT companies, academic institutions, relevant UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders are all encouraged to join the global effort and celebrate International Girls in ICT Day.

### 3.2 EQUALS: The Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide

In September 2016, ITU and UN Women launched the [EQUALS initiative](http://equals.org/) aiming to bridge the gender digital divide in fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG5). The global framework of action focuses on three complimentary and cross-cutting areas of action:

1. Access – Ensure that women and girls have access to digital devices and services.
2. Skills – Encourage girls to take up studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Equip women and girls with the necessary digital skills to prepare them for the job market in today’s growing digital economy.
3. Leadership – Promote leadership opportunities for women by encouraging companies to take active role to employ women and promote women’s entrepreneurship.

EQUALS takes an evidence-based approach. The United Nations University will lead the Research Group by coordinating a group of universities and research institutions such as the members of the Berkman Klein Center of Harvard University. To date more than 50 organizations/countries have been engaged in [EQUALS](http://equals.org/) discussions.

### 3.3 Advancing the New UN Agenda

The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UNGA in September 2015 refers to the enhanced used of enabling technologies, in particular ICTs to promote women’s empowerment (SDG5).

In 2016, ITU participated in inter-agency coordination meetings and mechanisms, and is a member of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) advocating the use of ICTs as a catalyst for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and harnessing ICTs’ access to women and girls to bridge the gender gap. ITU also participated in UN Women Expert Group Meetings (EGM), working to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into international development frameworks, particularly the [Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)

### 3.4 Recommendations to Reduce the Digital Gender Divide

The Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, led by GSMA and UNESCO delivered a set of [recommendations](http://broadbandcommission.org/workinggroups/Pages/digital-gender-divide.aspx) for action in March 2017, which can be adopted to help reduce the digital gender gap in Internet and broadband access and use and which clarify the complementary roles of different actors, including governments and policy-makers, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academia, and research institutions.

### 3.5 GEM-TECH Awards

The annual ITU/UN Women [GEM-TECH Awards](http://www.itu.int/en/action/women/gem/Pages/award-2016.aspx), was held on 15 November, at ITU Telecom World 2017, Bangkok, Thailand. The event honored three GEM-TECH Winners. The Awards attracted government and industry partners including Internet Society, Mastercard, Microsoft, OFCOM Switzerland, Facebook, Rura Rwanda, and Verizon, with support from VimpelCom.

# 4 Reinforcing Women’s Participation in ITU’s Main Conferences

### 4.1 ITU Network of Women for WRC (NOW)

During the 2016 World Radiocommunication Seminar ([WRS-16](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/wrs/2016/Pages/default.aspx)), the ITU ‘Network of Women for WRC’ ([#NOW](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/wrs/2016/Pages/NOWforWRC19.aspx)) initiative was launched. NOW encourages gender balance in decision-making bodies, panels, statutory committees and study groups at ITU-R events. The aim of the NOW4WRC19 is to build capacity early in the [WRC-19](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/2019/Pages/default.aspx) process and encourage greater participation of women delegates, including in roles such as chairs and vice-chairs. NOW4WRC19 benefits from 15 years of growing synergies in communities of women radiocommunication delegates, such as with the Annual Women’s Breakfast, the Women’s Leadership Workshop, and the WeLead mentoring programme launched by the FCC at WRC-15.

### 4.2 WTSA Side Event on Gender

In the effort to expand further the voices of women in the ICT sector, the Union launched the [Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE)](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wise/Pages/WTSA-16-WISE-Event.aspx) at the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) conference in February 2016. WISE is dedicated to promoting women in standardization, telecommunication/ICTs, and related fields and to recognizing men and women who have made and continue to make remarkable contribution in promoting women and the work of women in these fields. The first WISE event was held on 30 October 2016 at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, which included workshop on practical skills for successful negotiations, followed by a panel discussion highlighting the experiences of leading women from the ICT and standardization fields. WTSA-16 also reaffirmed ITU-T Resolution 55 on promoting a gender equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities.

### 4.3 Gender Equality in Delegations

ITU collaborated with the Permanent Mission of Australia, UN Women, and Geneva Gender champions on the publication “Shaping the international agenda: Raising women’s voices in intergovernmental forums”. It was preparedby The Impact Group on the Composition of Delegations and Panels co-chaired by ITU and the Permanent Mission of Australia and released 20 March 2017 at a UNOG Library Talk.

# 5 Improving Institutional Awareness of Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

### 5.1 Review of ITU’s Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy

The ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy adopted by the ITU Council at its 2013 session has helped to grow an institutional awareness of the importance of including a gender perspective in ITU’s work to ensure that the benefits of ICTS are made available to all women and men on a fair and equitable basis. As requested by the Council and mandated within the policy itself, the quadrennial review of the Policy is in process. The review is coordinated by the Gender Task Force which reports directly to the broader ITU Intersectoral Coordination Task Force led by the ITU Deputy Secretary-General. Comments and contributions have been received through an online open consultation platform as well as through email, focus groups and individual meetings. The outcome of the review of the policy is available in Document [C17/71](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0071/en).

### 5.2 UN-SWAP Reporting

ITU reports annually to the [United Nations System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and Mainstreaming (UN-SWAP)](https://unswap.unwomen.org/). In its 2016 report, ITU “meets requirements” for five performance indicators, “approaches requirements” for six indicators, and is still missing for three. The three missing performance indicators are (1) gender responsive auditing, (2) financial resource allocation, and (3) capacity assessment.

With aim to comply with one of the missing performance indicators and to inform the quadrennial review of the GEM policy, an audit on gender equality and mainstreaming was conducted by ITU’s internal audit division during January and February 2017.

### 5.3 International Gender Champion of Geneva

The ITU Secretary-General is a founding member of the [Gender Champions of Geneva](http://genderchampions.com/geneva-2/). As such, the Secretary-General committed to the Panel Parity Pledge, and also committed to: (a) adopting positive measures to improve gender balance among ITU staff, and (b) encouraging gender balance among delegates attending ITU conferences and meetings**.** For 2017, he further pledged to: (c) progress towards gender balance in ITU statutory committees, and (d) encourage Members States to nominate women candidates for chair and vice-chair positions of Conferences Committees, Council Working Groups, and Study Groups, as well as track, publish, and mention the numbers in particular during conferences.

### 5.4 Network of BR Women Engineers in the Space Sector

In order to develop visibility in the Aerospace Sector, BR female engineers, members of [Women in Aerospace Europe (WIA-E)](http://wia-europe.org/), continue to engage key stakeholders and delegates. In 2016 expanded activities included: (1) meeting role models (SES Astra); (2) trainings and negotiation development (EUTElleSAT Paris); and (3) WRC role play on Space Issue with both experienced and less experienced players, all with the objective of encouraging and preparing for an equal and active participation at every level in the Sector.

### 5.5 Exploring Technology and Career Options at ITU

In order to strengthen links and interaction between ITU and the local community, ITU HQ staff (SPM, HR, Staff Council, BR Engineers) participated in the [Swiss national day campaign](http://www.futurentousgenres.ch/fr/home/) aimed to expand awareness of career choices for schoolchildren, helping them to discover occupations and broader career options for their future. Held on 10 November 2016, girls and boys aged 9 to 13 were invited to ITU where they discovered ICT jobs through animations in the ICT Discovery museum and participated in workshops on robotics and radiocommunication.

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