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| **Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy issues (CWG-Internet) Geneva, 6-7 February 2017** |  |
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United States of America

topic for consultation

The United States proposes the topic for the next CWG-Internet address Sustainable Development Goal #5: Gender Equality. Goal 5.b states “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.”

Although the world has made great progress toward gender equality and women’s empowerment and inclusion, there is still significant work to be done. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, and employment opportunities and increasing their participation and representation in political and economic decision-making processes fuels sustainable economies and benefits societies. The Internet has been recognized as an important tool to making progress in this regard, most recently by the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society. UNGA Resolution 70/125 specifically highlights the digital divide that exists between men and women and calls for “immediate measures” to achieve gender equality for Internet users by 2020. The importance of this issue to ITU membership and the Union is clear from Resolution 70 on *Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies* (Busan 2014). In response, the ITU has implemented substantial work in the field (C16/6-E) and a consultation would allow for an in-depth exploration of good practices and lessons learned.

We propose that the CWG-Internet invite all stakeholders to submit contributions on **achieving gender equality for Internet users**:

* What possible approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase Internet access for and the digital literacy of women and girls?
* What possible approaches and examples of good practices are available to increase women’s participation in decision-making processes related to the Internet?
* What are the gaps in addressing these challenges and how can these gaps be filled?
* What is the role of governments in addressing gender equality for Internet users and increasing Internet access for and digital literacy of women and girls?