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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.9** | **Document C21/6-E** |
| **23 March 2021** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| ITU’S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESOLUTION 70 (REV. Dubai, 2018) | |

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| Summary  This document summarizes ITU’s activities related to the implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) since the last report to Council.  The 2020 version of this report (C20/6) was prepared for submission to 2020 session of the Council but was not reviewed.  **Action required**  The Council is invited **to note** this report as well as document C20/6.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *PP* [*Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-070-E.pdf)*; 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),[*C17/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C18/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C19/6*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C20/6*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C18/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0003/en)*,* [*C19/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0002/en)*,* [*C19/24*](http://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0024/en)*,* [*C20/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0002/en)*,* [*C21/INF/4*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0004/en) |

# 1 Introduction

Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) highlights the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs). This document provides a summary review of relevant activities and developments since the Virtual Consultation of Councillors (VCC-2) in 2020. Further information related to gender and ICTs can be found on [ITU’s gender webpage](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Pages/default.aspx).

# 2 Data Gathering and Tracking

ITU regularly collects and disseminates ICT indicators related to individuals accessing and using ICTs. These indicators can be disaggregated by gender, age, education, labour force status, and occupation. ITU monitors and tracks three gender-related indicators that are included in the SDG Indicators Monitoring Framework: (1) “*proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex*” (which is one of the gender-related indicators monitoring SDG 5), (2) “*proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex*”, and (3) “*proportion of individuals with ICT skills, by sex*”. Latest figures as published in [ITU’s Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2020](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/FactsFigures2020.pdf) show that while Internet use continues to spread, the digital gender gap is also growing. More effective action is urgently needed to address a range of barriers – cultural, financial and skills-related – that are impeding Internet uptake, especially among women.

ITU’s [gender dashboard](https://www.itu.int/genderdashboard) is under review online. It will continue to provide a visual overview of gender in the ICT arena, in ITU meetings, and within ITU, such as staff composition by gender and grade, gender representation in the recruitment and selection processes. Gender representation in statutory committees is also reported. The ITU performance in the UN SWAP 2.0 will also be included. Further gender equality efforts in human resources are available in the [Report to Council on Resolution 48](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0054/en).

# 3 Advancing Agenda 2030 and Bridging the Digital Gender Divide

### 3.1 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

The[WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/documents/HLE.html)invite allWSIS Stakeholders to mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end. As the coordinator of the WSIS Process, the ITU has been working with the UN WSIS Action Line focal points and across ITU to fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies. The WSIS Forum 2020 was celebrated online, with the special track on “ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming” to discuss challenges and solutions to close the gender gap in the digital economy, feeding into the pursuit of SDG 5 on gender equality. This track hosted 10 workshops that were attended virtually by more than 800 participants coming from 63 different countries, and a total of 81 speakers participated. Within the 50/50 Gender Participation Challenge, the distribution for the eleven High-level Policy Sessions was 51% male and 49% female. More information about the WSIS Forum and its preparations for 2021 can be found in [www.wsis.org/forum](file:///\\blue\dfs\sgo\CSD\Gender\Council\Council%202020\www.wsis.org\forum)

**3.2 Girls in ICT Day**

Launched in 2011 and now a [UN observance](http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/index.html), the [International Girls in ICT Day](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Portal.aspx) takes place every fourth Thursday of April to encourage more girls and young women to take up ICT careers and studies. In 2020, considering the unprecedented times of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the global celebration - originally planned to be held in Samoa - was transformed into a fun and inspiring virtual event, in collaboration with the Samoan government. The [2020 celebration](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/GirlsInICTDay/2020/default.aspx) brought together an impressive number of governments, civil society organizations, private sector and public institutions across the globe as a demonstration of the power of technology to change lives.

### The [10th Anniversary of Girls in ICTs](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/GirlsInICTDay/2021/GICT-2021.aspx) will be celebrated on 22 April 2021. With the theme ‘Connecting girls, creating brighter futures’, 10 Moments of Girls in ICT will be a series of virtual events hosted by ITU and its partners. The 10 Moments series has been designed with three goals in mind: ​build momentum and awareness about the importance of encouraging girls in STEM; engage key stakeholders and communities; provide an inclusive platform to discuss the best ways to encourage girls to pursue STEM careers.

**3.3 Girls can Code Initiatives**

Over five hundred girls participated in coding workshops as part of the [African Girls can Code](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/African-Girls-Can-Code.aspx), an initiative by ITU, the African Union and UN Women with financial support of ITU and the Royal Danish Embassy in Ethiopia*.* The [Americas Girls Can Code](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkYUlpgasoo) Initiative have taught over 7000 girls how to code through a series of workshops organized with the support of many different partners.

**3.4 EQUALS: The Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide**

As a co-founder of the [EQUALS](https://www.equals.org/) initiative back in 2016, ITU has been leading the efforts along with other members to ensure that women can access ICTs, are equipped with digital skills, and build leadership. EQUALS is a cooperation among more than 100 partners across 115 countries. Thanks to this partnership, over 52’000 women and girls have received digital skills training and mentoring and 146 research projects have been explored to tackle the gender digital divide and identify solutions areas that lack regular access to Internet and digital technologies. The initiatives ITU leads through EQUALS and the regional offices are made possible thanks to the expertise and collaboration of partner governments and the private sector.

ITU and UNICEF launched in 2020 the report [“Towards an equal future: Reimagining girls’ education through STEM”](https://2b37021f-0f4a-4640-8352-0a3c1b7c2aab.filesusr.com/ugd/04bfff_d6ffe9bee8b24d7a814805d0f8c99db8.pdf), as a contribution to EQUALS Global Partnership. This report seeks to call attention to the potential of STEM education to transform gender norms in the education system, to improve quality learning opportunities for girls, and to highlight key actions that can accelerate girls’ transition between education and technical expert jobs in STEM industries.

ITU has been conducting long-standing work on Child Online Protection to develop a training on safety online for girls. The safety module will be part of workshops for girls delivered with GSMA in twelve countries.

On 8 March 2021, ITU, FIRST, and EQUALS launched the [Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Women-in-Cyber/Women-in-Cyber-Mentorship-Programme.aspx) that will feature guided monthly mentorship circles, and supporting activities like a series of inspirational keynotes and technical and soft skills trainings. It aims to shift the mentality and tackle systemic barriers that prevent broader inclusion, encourage women to take on leadership roles in cybersecurity, and promote knowledge sharing of professional best practices.

The same day, ITU and CISCO launched the [CISCO EQUALS Learning Space](https://www.equals.org/cisco-equals-learning-space) which aim at providing online courses to build tech skills where girls and young women can access free training on specific topics such as Cybersecurity, Entrepreneurship and Internet of Things. The courses are self-paced with the integration of live sessions delivered by experts of the EQUALS network.

Also, in March 2021, within the context of the Special Session on [Digitally Empowered Generation Equality in the wake of COVID-19](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Events/2021/Gendered%20Digital%20Divide/21-00145_2f_Digitally-Empowered-generation-equality_EV4-no-isbn.pdf?csf=1&e=Zhzrpf), the ITU Europe Office launched the ITU/UN Women report on key challenges and opportunities in empowering women and girls through ICTs.

Countries from Latin America were benefited from two editions of the online training course on [Women Leadership in the Telecommunication and ICT sector](https://academy.itu.int/index.php/training-courses/full-catalogue/liderazgo-femenino-en-el-sector-de-las-telecomunicaciones-y-las-tic), which was organized in coordination with EQUALS Global Partnership. The trainings were attended by almost 100 participants.

**3.5 EQUALS in Tech Awards**

The [EQUALS in Tech Awards](https://www.equals.org/awards), hosted by the [EQUALS Global Partnership](https://www.equals.org), recognize innovative solutions aimed at closing the digital gender gap. For the [EQUALS in Tech Awards](https://www.equals.org/awards) 2020, over 340 nominations were received from 70 countries representing the private sector, civil society, governments and academia. The ceremony of the awards was held virtually as part of the Internet Governance Forum on 6 November 2020.

**3.6 Enhance the digital ecosystem and build digital skills for women in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**

In partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and UNOPS, ITU has launched in September 2020 a cooperative project to enhance the digital ecosystem and build digital skills for women in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The project will benefit women in Burundi, Ethiopia, and Haiti. This will be achieved by building capacity at the policy level, increasing governments’ ability to mainstream gender and information and communication technologies (ICTs), and by expanding the horizons of women entrepreneurs through technology in sectors such as textiles and apparel, and the coffee and cocoa value chains. For more information see [here](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR17-2020-EIF-digital-gender-divide-Burundi-Ethiopia-Haiti.aspx).

### 3.7 Women in disaster risk management

### In 2020, ITU launched a joint report, together with the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC), on [“Women, ICT and emergency telecommunications”](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Women-ICT-and-Emergency-Telecommunications.aspx), that presents how, in the wake of a disaster, women are more vulnerable and more likely to die than men – even the COVID-19 pandemic is showing devastating social and economic consequences for women and girls – while at the same time, women are critical partners in building disaster resilience. The report highlights the importance of advancing gender equality in disaster risk management and leveraging context-appropriate ICTs which are critical to deliver essential information to the most vulnerable of communities in a timely manner, before, during, and after disasters strike.

### 3.8 Outstanding activities in ITU Liaison Office in New York

ITU’s liaison office at the UN in New York is also actively engaged in communications and partnership building activities to support implementation of Resolution 70. This includes promoting ITU initiatives at UN and other external events. ITU, UNICC and the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth have been collaborating on a gender and tech initiative called Talking Tech: Girls and Women in ICT. This initiative promotes ICT studies and careers to women and girls through one-one intergenerational interviews recorded online and promoted through social media. Older girls and young women in tech are matched with women in tech leaders and discuss such things as what they love about tech, their jobs, career journeys and aspirations, lessons learned and advice for younger women and girls. The women in tech are drawn from all sectors and a wide range of jobs and geographies. More than 100 women have been matched for interviews thus far. ITU NY also co-chairs the gender working group of the UN Inter-agency task-team in Science, Technology and Innovation.

# 4 Reinforcing Women’s Participation in ITU’s Meetings and Conferences

### 4.1 Gender Equality in Delegations and Conferences

Stemming from ITU’s collaboration on the publication “[Shaping the international agenda: Raising women’s voices in intergovernmental forums](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Documents/raising-womens-voices.pdf)“, ITU continues efforts to increase participation of women in ITU events. An internal checklist supports staff in planning gender-responsive events. Conference circular letters to membership and event invitations encourage gender-balanced representation and invite nominations of women for key roles. Statistics are reported on event pages and ITU’s gender dashboard.

### 4.2 ITU Network of Women for WRC

4.2.1 The Network of Women for WRC initiative is a knowledge sharing and mentoring network that encourages gender balance in decision-making bodies, panels, statutory committees, and study groups at ITU-R events leading to the next World Radiocommunication Conference.

4.2.2 The [NOW](http://www.itu.int/go/NOW4WRC19)4WRC19 mentorship programme (prior to CPM19-2 and WRC-19) brought together 205 new and experienced delegates from 70 countries and matched over 180 mentor/mentee pairs to share knowledge and encourage a larger and more active participation of women in the WRC process. NOW4WRC19 participants led the effort that succeed in the adoption of the [WRC-19 Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/2019-CM10.aspx).

4.2.3 In December 2020, the Network of Women for WRC23 (NOW4WRC23) was launched. It aims to continue building capacity and encouraging greater participation of women in key roles, increasing attendance in ITU-R meetings and conferences as delegates, chairs, and vice-chairs, for example, and working towards exceeding the 30 per cent threshold necessary for any sustained cultural change. In addition to updating and relaunching its mentorship programme, NOW4WRC23 is also expanding to include regional initiatives, led by Co-Chairs nominated by each of the six Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTO), will be carried out within and during the RTOs’ preparatory processes for the WRC-23.

4.2.4 Lastly, the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) established the [Correspondence Group on Gender](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/rag/cg-gender/Pages/default.aspx) to consider an appropriate course of action to initiate and implement the provisions of the WRC-19 Gender Declaration prior to the next Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23).

### 4.3 Network of Women:

### In January 2021 ITU-D launched the Network of Women at the World Telecommunication Development Conference ([NoW4WTDC21](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/AsiaPacific/default.aspx)), with the overarching aim of increasing the number of women participating in ITU-D meetings as well as taking up leadership roles, such as committee chairs, working group chairs and other management roles related to processes in preparation of WTDC itself, and beyond. It will be a platform to understand the challenges that women delegates face and explore possible avenues to overcome them. It will also allow sharing important lessons in a supportive community through mentorship and networking opportunities.

### 4.4 Setting the Standard for Gender Equality

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector continues to undertake actions to improve gender equality in TSB and ITU-T. The AI for Good Summit continues to focus on increasing the number of female speakers on technical topics. ITU-T also continues collaboration with other Standards Development Organizations and UN agencies on ensuring that the standards development processes are inclusive, and the standards developed are gender responsive.

### 4.5 ITU Digital World 2020

The Forum at ITU Virtual Digital World 2020 took place online for the first time, under very different circumstances from previous physical editions of the ITU Telecom World. However, the participation of female speakers continued to be encouraged in the same way, resulting in a gender balance in Forum sessions of 21% female and 79% male speakers, with female speakers present in every session.

# 5 Institutional Awareness of Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

### 5.1 International Gender Champions of Geneva

The ITU Secretary-General is a founding member of the Geneva chapter of the [International Gender Champions](https://genderchampions.com/) (IGC). In addition to the panel-parity pledge to avoid single-sex panels, the SG [commits](https://genderchampions.com/champions/houlin-zhao) to further work on: (1) reinforcing the efforts to help countries to have the necessary capacity to collect and disseminate/share global/regional/national gender- and age-disaggregated data on access and use of ICTs and digital skills; and (2) helping countries to raise awareness and promote the active participation of girls and young women in ICT related careers and other digital skills to fulfil the demand of future jobs on an equal basis.

### 5.2 ITU as a Safe and Professional Environment

ITU continues its efforts to ensure a safe and harmonious work environment for all. ITU participates in the Chief Executive Board (CEB) task force addressing sexual harassment within the United Nations system. Work is focused on scaling up prevention and response mechanisms to sexual harassment. ITU has also been involved in the sub-working group on a code of conduct to prevent sexual harassment during or in relation to UN events. The code is accessible from ITU’s [Delegates Corner](https://www.itu.int/en/delegates-corner/Pages/default.aspx).

ITU Harassment Policy (including sexual harassment) is under review within an internal drafting working group.

### 5.3 UN-SWAP and Gender Equality and Mainstreaming across ITU

The United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) is the accountability framework applicable to all UN entities to measure, monitor and advance towards a common set of gender equality standards. In 2018, ITU “met” or “exceeded” requirements for 5 out of 17 UN-SWAP2.0 indicators. In 2019, ITU “met” requirements for 5 indicators. ITU was commended to prioritize on performance indicators still noted as “missing”, such as establishing a financial benchmark, improving representation of women from P3 and above, conducting a gender equality capacity assessment. The full letters and report cards for the years 2018 and 2019 are provided in information note [C21/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0004/en).

### ITU continues efforts to incorporate a gender perspective in the work programmes, management approaches, and human resource development of the Union. A gender element has been incorporated into the staff electronic performance management and development system (ePMDS). A review of the 2013 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy is currently underway; a number of focus groups and individual interviews took place during 2020 and will inform the new policy which will align to the 17 UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicators.

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