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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations |
| Proposed modification of WTSA-12 Resolution 55 - Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities |
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| **Abstract:** | In this document the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Administrations propose modifications to Resolution 55. |

Introduction

Since WTSA-12, the ITU has made progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective through both the operations of the Union and its activities. For example, the ITU has adopted a Gender Mainstreaming (GEM) Policy, the ITU Secretariat has recently agreed to implement a recommendation of the UN Joint Inspection Unit for an action plan to complement this policy, and the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) has established the ITU Women in Standardization Expert Group, among others.

It is necessary to update Resolution 55 to reflect the changes and developments that have occurred since 2012.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations propose amendments to Resolution 55 on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities, as provided in Annex.

MOD APT/44A6/1

RESOLUTION 55 (REV. HAMMAMET, 2016)

Mainstreaming a gender perspective[[1]](#footnote-1)1 in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector activities

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

noting

*a)* the initiative taken by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in adopting Resolution 7 (Valletta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that a task force on gender issues be established;

*b)* the endorsement of that resolution by the Plenipotentiary Conference in its Resolution 70 (Minneapolis, 1998), in which the conference resolved, *inter alia*, to incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of all programmes and plans of ITU,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*b)* Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of WTDC, which resolved that ITU D should include gender initiatives in each of the programmes established under the Istanbul Action Plan;

*c)* Resolution 55 (Rev, Dubai, 2014) of WTDC, on mainstreaming a gender perspective for an inclusive and egalitarian information society;

*d)* Resolution 1187, adopted by the Council at its 2001 session, on a gender perspective in ITU human resources management, policy and practice, which requests the Secretary-General to allocate appropriate resources, within existing budgetary limits, to establish a gender unit with full-time dedicated staff;

*e)* Resolution 1327, adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls,

recognizing

*a)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/289, adopted on 2 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which will be known as "UN Women", with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

*b)* Resolution E/2001/L.29, adopted in July 2001 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in which ECOSOC decided to establish, under the regular agenda item "Coordination, programme and other questions", the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

*c)* ECOSOC Resolution E/2012/L.8, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP), endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board in April 2012,

recognizing further

*a)* that the role of standardization is essential for effective development of globalization and ICTs;

*b)* that society as a whole, particularly in the context of the information and knowledge society, will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy-making and decision-making and equal access to communication services for both women and men;

*c)* that statistically very few women are included in the national and international standardization processes;

*d)* that there is a need to ensure that women can participate actively and meaningfully in all ITU-T activities;

*e)* that the Secretary-General has issued an updated ITU English Language Style Guide, which addresses the use of non-discriminatory language,

considering

*a)* the outcome document of the overall review of WSIS, which acknowledged that a gender digital divide exists as part of the digital divides, and called for immediate measures to achieve gender equality in Internet users by 2020, especially by significantly enhancing women’s and girls’ education and participation in ICTs, as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders, and reaffirmed a commitment to ensure women’s full participation in decision-making processes related to ICTs;

*b)* the 2013 report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, Working Group on Broadband and Gender, titled “Doubling Digital Opportunities – enhancing the inclusion of women and girls in the Information Society”;

*c)* the ITU Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Policy, adopted by the 2013 session of the Council, with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality and to leverage the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men;

*d)* that the ITU, in its strategic plan, includes gender issues with a view to debating and exchanging ideas to define, throughout the organization, a concrete action plan with deadlines and goals;

*e)* that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), for its part, has established the ITU Women in Standardization Expert Group, launched at the 2016 TSAG meeting, dedicated to promoting women in standardization,telecommunications/ICT and related fields and to recognize the men and women who have made a remarkable contribution in promoting the work of women in these fields;

*f)* the ITU-UN Women Gender Equality Mainstreaming – Technology (GEM-TECH) awards, which celebrate exceptional personal or institutional achievement and innovative strategies that harness ICTs for women’s empowerment;

*g)* the progress made by ITU in awareness-raising on gender issues, specifically over the last decade, in increasing women's participation in and contribution to international forums, in studies, projects and training, and through the Gender Task Force, Gender Focal Points and GEM Policy;

*h)* the successful establishment by ITU of an international "Girls in ICT" day , celebrated each year on the fourth Thursday of April;

*i)* the considerable recognition given to the work of ITU in gender and ICT within the United Nations family of organizations,

considering further

*a)* that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understand the impact of ICTs on women and men, given that ICTs can serve to foster gender equality and women's empowerment and to form an integral part of activities aimed at creating fairer and more inclusive societies;

*b)* that ITU should also continue in its efforts to ensure that the gender perspective is present in all of the Union's policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses and conferences,

appreciating

*a)* the efforts of the Secretary-General, in particular as an International Geneva Gender Champion, part of a leadership network that brings together female and male decision-makers to break down gender barriers;

*b)* the efforts of the TSB Director in establishing the ITU Women in Standardization Expert Group,

resolves

1 that ITU‑T should continue to encourage the inclusion of a gender perspective, including the use of gender-neutral language, in the work of all ITU‑T activities and groups, including TSAG and the ITU‑T study groups;

2 that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of this assembly;

3 that a high priority be accorded to gender mainstreaming in the management, staffing and operation of ITU-T,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to take necessary steps to continue implementing the ITU GEM Policy, including, supporting the implementation of recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to gender mainstreaming, supporting the Gender Focal Points for ITU-T, and encouraging TSB staff to undertake relevant training;

2 to continue the integration of a gender perspective in the work of TSB in accordance with the principles already applied in ITU;

3 to encourage Member States and Sector Members to contribute to meeting gender-equality objectives through the equal participation of qualified women and men in standardization activities as well as in leadership positions;

4 to encourage the participation, contribution and leadership of women in all aspects of ITU‑T activities;

5 to conduct an annual review on progress made in the Sector in advancing gender mainstreaming, including by collecting and reviewing the statistics on ITU-T standardization activities of women, and to share findings with TSAG and the next WTSA,

invites the Secretary-General

to comply with the reporting obligations, as required by the UNSWAP, on the ITU-T activities aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women,

invites the Directors of the Bureaux

1 to assist in the identification of subjects and mechanisms to foster the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in ITU-T, including through TSAG, the Radiocommunications Advisory Group (RAG) and the Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG);

2 to encourage ITU staff to take account of the gender-neutral guidelines of the ITU English Language Style Guide and to avoid, as much as possible, the use of gender-specific terms,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to submit candidatures to chairman/vice-chairman posts to support the active involvement of women experts in standardization groups and activities, and in their own administrations and delegations;

2 to actively support and participate in the work of TSB, to nominate experts for the ITU‑T Women in Standardization Expert Group and to promote the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

3 to encourage and actively support ICT education for girls and women, and prepare them for a professional career in ICT standardization.

1. 1 "Gender perspective": Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (Source: Report of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25-27 February 1998). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)