

I n t e r n a t i o n a l   T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n   U n i o n

# ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION  
ASSEMBLY  
Johannesburg, 21-30 October 2008

---

## **Resolution 55 – Mainstreaming gender in ITU-T activities**

ITU-T



## FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

© ITU 2009

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, by any means whatsoever, without the prior written permission of ITU.

## RESOLUTION 55

### **Mainstreaming gender in ITU-T activities**

*(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008)*

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Johannesburg, 2008),

*noting*

- a) Resolution 70 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU;
- b) Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, which resolved that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) should include gender initiatives in each of the programmes established under the Istanbul Action Plan,

*noting further*

- a) 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;
- b) the Memorandum of Understanding between ITU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), signed in July 2000, which promotes cooperation to enable women to participate in, and benefit from, the current communications revolution,

*recognizing*

- a) that the role of standardization is essential for effective development of globalization and information and communication technologies;
- b) that many women, including women engineers, are competent to contribute to this development;
- 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 in all activities of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- 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 progress made by ITU, particularly in ITU-D, in awareness-raising on gender issues, specifically over the last six years, in increasing women's participation in international forums, and in studies, projects and training;
- b) the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan of the World Summit on the Information Society,

*resolves*

- 1 that ITU-T should 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 the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the ITU-T study groups;

2 that the gender perspective should be taken into account in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of this assembly,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau*

1 to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the work of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in accordance with the principles already applied in ITU;

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

3 to encourage the participation and leadership of women in all aspects of ITU-T activities, and note the proportional representation by gender;

4 to conduct an annual review on progress made in the Sector in advancing gender mainstreaming, and to share findings with TSAG and the next world telecommunication standardization assembly,

*invites the Secretary-General*

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*

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.