

## RESOLUTION 55 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

### **Mainstreaming a gender perspective<sup>1</sup> for an inclusive and egalitarian information society**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

*noting*

- a) Resolution 7 (Valetta, 1998) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on gender issues, transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998);
- b) Resolution 70 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), which resolves to continue the work being done at ITU, and particularly in BDT, to promote gender equality in telecommunications/ICTs by recommending measures at the international, regional and national levels on policies and programmes that improve socio-economic conditions for women, particularly in developing countries;
- c) Resolution 55 (Rev. Dubai, 2012) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) activities, which ensures gender mainstreaming in ITU-T activities,

*noting further*

- a) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, 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) ECOSOC Resolution 2012/24, 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);
- c) that the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB), in April 2013, advocated the "Action Plan to measure gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system", under which ITU will participate in the dissemination, coordination, communication and networking activities forming part of the strategy,

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<sup>1</sup> "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 United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25-27 February 1998).

*noting also*

- a) Millennium Development Goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women", which promotes a cross-cutting subject area that has implications for the other goals;
- b) the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), namely the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- c) Resolution 1187, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2001 session, on a gender perspective in ITU human resources management, policy and practice;
- d) Resolution 1327, adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in telecommunications/ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls;
- e) Resolution 1356, adopted by the Council at its 2013 session, on the four-year rolling operational plan for ITU-D for 2014-2017;
- f) the decision of the Council at its 2013 session to endorse the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy (GEM), 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;
- g) the establishment of a Task Force on Gender Issues by the Secretary-General, to prepare a Union-wide action plan to implement the policy,

*recognizing*

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs can help to create a world in which societies are free of gender discrimination, women and men enjoy the same opportunities, and the economic and social potential of women and girls is guaranteed in order to improve their conditions as individuals;
- b) that the effect of telecommunications/ICTs as a catalyst will serve the actions and objectives agreed at Rio+20 to ensure that the world takes a more sustainable path to development, incorporating the social, economic and environmental dimensions, favouring social inclusion, equality of women and men, and strengthening protection of the environment on which all forms of life depend,

*considering*

- a) the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of economic and social empowerment of women and girls;
- b) that the Broadband Commission for Digital Development has set a new gender target of getting more women connected to ICTs as a "critical" objective of the post-2015 development agenda;
- c) the contributions made by the Task Force on Gender Issues, proposing ways of ensuring that gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women is underscored in policies and programmes and fully integrated in ITU's work and strategic plan,

*resolves*

- 1 that BDT should maintain close links and collaborate, as appropriate, with the Task Force on Gender Issues set up by the Secretary-General, and the Working Group on Broadband and Gender of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, reciprocally supporting gender mainstreaming in the Union's activities, and that these groups should join forces to eliminate inequalities in access to and use of telecommunications/ICTs, in the interests of building a non-discriminatory and egalitarian information society;
- 2 that BDT should collaborate with the Working Group on Broadband and Gender of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, with a view to promoting synergies for establishing the new goal of "gender equality in broadband access by the year 2020";
- 3 that BDT should continue to work to promote gender equality in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, recommending action on policies and programmes at the international, regional and national level in order to improve the socio-economic condition of women, with greater emphasis on developing countries;
- 4 that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of this conference;
- 5 that high priority be accorded to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU-D;
- 6 that BDT should contribute to the professional employment of women in decision-making posts, encouraging women's leadership in the sphere of telecommunications/ICTs, collaborating to promote a plural, inclusive and integrating information society;
- 7 to invite the Telecommunication Development (TDAG), Radiocommunication (RAG) and Telecommunication Standardization (TSAG) advisory groups to assist in the identification of subjects and mechanisms to foster the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, as well as matters of mutual interest in that regard;
- 8 to ensure that the ITU regional offices are informed on progress and results achieved and participate in implementing this resolution,

*further resolves*

to endorse the following measures:

- 1 design, implement and support projects and programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are either specifically targeted to women and girls or gender sensitive, at the international, regional and national levels;
- 2 support the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and the development of gender-sensitive indicators that will enable cross-country comparisons and reveal trends in the sector;
- 3 evaluate relevant projects and programmes to assess gender implications, in connection with Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference;
- 4 provide gender mainstreaming training and/or capacity building to BDT staff responsible for the design and implementation of development projects and programmes and work with them to develop gender-sensitive projects as appropriate;

- 5 incorporate a gender perspective into study group Questions, as appropriate;
- 6 mobilize resources for gender-sensitive projects and projects specifically targeted to promoting policies for women and girls as creators of the potential offered by telecommunications/ICTs and as consumers;
- 7 develop partnerships with other United Nations agencies to promote the use of telecommunications/ICTs in projects aimed at women and girls, with the aim of encouraging women and girls to connect to the Internet, increasing training for women and monitoring the telecommunication/ICT gender gap,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

- 1 to report to TDAG and the Council on the results and the progress made on the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of ITU-D, and on the implementation of this resolution;
- 2 to continue the work of BDT in promoting the use of telecommunications/ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls,

*invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

to assist members:

- 1 to encourage the mainstreaming of a gender perspective through appropriate administrative mechanisms and processes within regulatory agencies and ministries and to promote inter-organizational cooperation on this issue within the telecommunication sector;
- 2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines for gender-sensitive project development and evaluation in the telecommunication sector;
- 3 to increase awareness of gender issues among members through the collection and dissemination of information related to gender issues and telecommunications/ICTs and through best practices on gender-sensitive programming;
- 4 to establish partnerships with Sector Members in order to develop and/or support specific telecommunications/ICT projects that target women and girls in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;
- 5 to encourage Sector Members to promote gender equality in the telecommunication/ICT sector through financial commitments to specific projects involving women and girls;
- 6 to support active involvement of women experts in ITU-D study groups and other ITU-D activities,

*invites the Plenipotentiary Conference*

- 1 to build on and consolidate past accomplishments, by providing the necessary financial and human resources for the effective and sustained integration of a gender perspective in the development activities of ITU-D;

2 to instruct the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link access to and use and appropriation of telecommunications/ICTs and broadband for women and girls;

3 to support the promotion of gender equality, empowerment and the social and economic development of women and girls.