

Bridging the Digital Gender Divide

The goal of SDG5 is "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Currently, in most developing countries and the least developed countries, the gender divide of access and use of internet is still prominent. Concerning this subject of open consultation, China has taken the suggestion into consideration from the following four aspects are some considerations on bridging the gender divide and promoting women's participation in the digital economy including the role of ITU, strengthening the construction of information infrastructure, protecting women's rights and urging women to participate in the digital economy and initiating women's interests

1. Role of ITU.

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a specialized agency engaged in the field of Telecommunications and ICT, ITU should play the role of technical support in Telecommunications and ICT, cooperating with UN Women and other agencies to achieve the goal of gender equality.

2. Strengthening the construction of information infrastructure

In some countries and regions, the construction of information infrastructure is in low level, or the telecom tariffs are very high, resulting in relatively limited information acquisition, which making some people, especially women, unable to access and use the Internet conveniently. We should continue to promote the construction of the information infrastructure in all countries, especially in developing countries and the least developed countries, to promote broadband, 3G/4G, and to reduce the user tariff for Internet access, so that more female users are able to use affordable internet. For example, China's strategy of "Facilitating Faster and More Affordable Internet Connection" has achieved great success. By the three quarter of 2017, the average download rate has reached 16.40 Mbit/s, increased by 35% compared to the end of 2016. Tariff is reduced continuously, by reducing the international long distance, and the elimination of domestic long-distance mobile phone roaming charges.

3. Protecting women's rights and urging women to participate in the digital economy

-- It's necessary to protect women's equal right to education

and work according to law. We should strengthen the protection of women's digital rights and provide channels for women to maintain their legal rights.

-- We need to carry out various brand activities, set up excellent Internet female example and stimulate women's consciousness and enthusiasm to participate in the digital economy.

-- We need to strengthen the training and education of women, improve women's skills, and enhance women's competitive advantage in the Internet and digital economy.

In China, there are agencies such as All-China Women's Federation and China Women's Development Foundation is committed to promoting women play a greater role in the digital economy. A series of brand activities such as "@ her entrepreneurial plan" were held. Platform such as "micro help" was established.

4. Initiating women's interests

The development of the Internet has promoted the emergence and popularization of various Internet applications, such as social software, payment tools, and car rental tools, which has brought great convenience to users' lives. Through the users' word of mouth and the application companies'

advertisement and promotion, more women began to use those convenient tools

