Gender equality... a focus on women and girls in ICT

Resolution 70 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)

The conference revised Resolution 70 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) on “gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies”.

The revised resolution encourages Member States and Sector Members to facilitate the employment of women and men equally in the ICT/telecommunication field, including at senior levels of responsibility, and to increase opportunities for women and girls in ICT careers during elementary, secondary and higher education.

Other revisions to the resolution call for a gender perspective to be incorporated in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan and financial plan for 2012–2015, as well as in the operational plans of the Union’s three Bureaux and the General Secretariat. The Council has the responsibility of expanding on the ITU initiatives of the past four years to accelerate the gender mainstreaming process in ITU as a whole, within existing budgetary resources, so as to ensure capacity building and promotion of women to senior-level positions. The Council is instructed to consider selecting the theme “Women and girls in ICT” to mark World Telecommunication and Information Society Day in 2012.

To implement the resolution, the Secretary-General is instructed to encourage the launch of a “Global Network of women ICT decision-makers”. He is also to announce a year-long call to action with a focus on the theme “Women and girls in ICT”.

The Director of BDT is to bring to the attention of other United Nations agencies the need to increase the interest and opportunities for women and girls in ICT careers, including by establishing an international “Girls in ICT” day, to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April. Member States and Sector Members are invited to establish and observe annually and internationally the “Girls in ICT” day.