*WSIS FORUM 2015*

*GENDER DIMENSIONS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT*

**THEMATIC WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY 25 MAY, 09:00 – 10:45 / ROOM C2, ITU TOWER**

*MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SESSION AT [HTTPS://WWW.ITU.INT/NET4/WSIS/FORUM/2015/AGENDA/SESSION/190](HTTPS://WWW.ITU.INT/NET4/WSIS/FORUM/2015/AGENDA/SESSION/190)*

## *TALKING POINTS*

# DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN

## CHIEF, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT, INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

- It is a great honour to be with you here this morning to open this thematic workshop GENDER DIMENSIONS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **WSIS Forum 2015.** This workshop is opening the agenda for WSIS Forum 2015, which as you know is the annual forum that reviews the implementation of the agreements of the World Summit on the Information Society.

- As in past years we have a very rich programme for the week, with 5 days full of high level discussions, workshops and different knowledge exchange. Overall we have about 100 of events this week.

- **WSIS+10.** However, as you all may already know this will be a special event, since it is the last forum that takes place before the UNGA High-level Meeting on Overall WSIS+10 Review, to take place at the end of the year in New York.

- **The event is also the last forum before the negotiations begin next month in NY.**

- In this context this Forum will be unique, since the discussion taking place this week will be followed closely by the UNGA to review the WSIS outcomes and decide on new issues and dimensions of the information society that may need to be incorporated in the global agenda for the next 10 years.

- **Action line C7 e-environment.** Environmental sustainability has played a very important role in the WSIS process, which included environmental issues as part of action line C7, ICT applications, covering three specific dimensions:

  - Use of ICTs for <u>environmental protection</u> (with focus on use of resources)

  - <u>Sustainable consumption and e-waste</u>

  - Use of ICTs for <u>monitoring</u>, with special focus on natural disasters

- **10 years after.** A lot has happened in the field of environmental sustainability in the last 10 years, with new environmental challenge and threats. In particular

  - The rise of the issue of climate change, which has become a growing concern

  - The acceleration of the rates of deforestation and loss of biodiversity

  - The strengthening of the sustainable development agenda, with the Rio+20 conference and the post 2015 process.

- This means that we can expects changes in this action line

- **E-waste.** In the area of e-waste, the problematic has also accelerated

  - The rate of obsolete ICT equipment has increased, driven by process such as the adoption of smart phones or the transition to digital TV and radio

  - The increased of old equipment that ends in landfills, not being properly handled. This equipment still doesn't represent a big

volume (estimated 2% of total waste), but represents the most significant volume of toxic waste (estimated of 70% of toxic waste).

- o And this has become a problem for both developed and developing countries.

- The WSIS+10 process will have to look into this issues into a revised WSIS agenda.

## **The importance of gender**

- **Gender in ITU.** ITU governing bodies have requested ITU to incorporate a gender dimension in every ITU activity, both in ITU's programmes, as well as in ITU's administration.

- **Main ITU work.** Our main work to date has been focused on promoting a higher role of women in decision making of ICT companies, and motivate the increase enrolment in women in ICT related studies. In addition, we are also looking at what other topics in which to mainstream a gender perspective, such as the issue of e-waste

- **Gender and e-waste.** Our panellist today will present why it is important to incorporate a gender perspective in the issue of e-waste, covering issues such as

    - o The economic opportunity of e-waste, with particular focus on women who work in the management of e-waste, and why it is important to train them to do proper handling of e-waste

    - o The negative effects that e-waste has in local environment, looking at specific health and hygiene issues, with special focus on reproductive health, loss of quality of life and lifestyles, etc.

    - o The role of women as drivers of a more efficient use of resources, looking into extending the life cycle of ICT equipment.

- **Linkage Beijing Platform for Action.** These issues are also linked to the following strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Platform for Action:

- o Women and the Economy Diagnosis

    - ▪ Strategic objective F.1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, **appropriate working conditions** and control over economic resources. Actions to be taken.

    - ▪ Strategic objective F.3**. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women**. Actions to be taken.

- o Women and the Environment Diagnosis

    - ▪ Strategic objective K.2.Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development. Actions to be taken.

    - ▪ Strategic objective K.3.Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional, and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women. Actions to be taken.

- Thank panellists for their participation and invite them to bring conclusions to the WSIS+10 process.

- **Final invitation to join us at the High level dialogue on gender and ICTs. 28 May from 9 to 11am Room C1**