



## Session Outcome Document

### Empowering Women and Girls through Digital Technology (TU160 Gender Champions Workshop)

ITU Gender and Youth Office

Monday, 7 July 2025 16:00–16:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/345>

#### Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025

- **Bridging the gender digital divide:** Recognized persistent inequalities in skills, access, leadership, and representation, and called for targeted, gender-responsive policies.
- **Youth-led innovation:** Showcased how young women innovators from diverse regions drove transformative change in digital development, particularly in underserved and conflict-affected areas.
- **Leadership in digital spaces:** Emphasized the importance of increasing women's representation and influence in decision-making roles within the digital ecosystem.
- **Role of safe and inclusive online spaces:** Addressed online violence, harassment, and digital safety as essential to achieving gender equality in the tech space.
- **Grassroots-led digital transformation:** Highlighted the importance of empowering local women-led initiatives and ensuring that international support reached community-based innovators.
- **Intergenerational collaboration:** Promoted dialogue between youth leaders, policymakers, and industry to strengthen inclusive policy and programme design.
- **Gender-responsive and inclusive technology design:** Advocated for approaches that prevented bias and inequality from being embedded into digital systems.

#### Tangible Outcomes of the session

- key achievements
  - Enhanced the visibility of the ITU160 Gender Champions as role models for gender and digital inclusion.
  - Creation of a space for meaningful exchanges between young leaders, policymakers and technology stakeholders.
  - Sharing of practical examples of projects addressing online safety, inclusive education, indigenous connectivity, digital health, disability inclusion, geospatial innovation, robotics and IoT solutions, climate action, and women's digital entrepreneurship.



- announcements/launch during the session
  - Broadcast of the ITU160 Gender Champions Collective Call to Action, urging all sectors to prioritise inclusive leadership, gender-responsive design and intersectional policymaking.
- agreements/commitments as an outcome of the session
  - ITU, Canada and partners reaffirmed their willingness to collaborate in supporting young women leaders in digital transformation.

#### **Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond**

- Establish permanent mechanisms to ensure the participation of young women leaders in WSIS and other international ICT forums.
- Expand direct support, including funding and mentorship, for women-led grassroots digital projects in developing and conflict-affected countries.
- Promote safe and inclusive digital spaces by addressing online gender-based violence and ensuring digital dignity for all.
- Integrate gender perspectives and intersectionality into the design of emerging technologies from the outset.
- Extend the ITU160 Gender Champions initiative beyond 2025 as a long-term platform for mentorship, advocacy and innovation in digital transformation.