INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION
ASSEMBLY
Dubai, 20-29 November 2012

Resolution 55 – Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU-T activities

CAUTION !

PREPUBLISHED RESOLUTION

This prepublication is an unedited version of a recently approved Resolution. It will be replaced by the published version after editing. Therefore, there will be differences between this prepublication and the published version.

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

© ITU 2012

RESOLUTION 55

Mainstreaming a gender perspective[1] in ITU-T activities

(Florianópolis, 2004; Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Dubai, 2012),

noting

a)   the initiative taken by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in adopting Resolution 7 (Valletta, 1998), transmitted to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), which resolved that a task force on gender issues be established;

b)   the endorsement of that resolution by the Plenipotentiary Conference in its Resolution 70 (Minneapolis, 1998), in which the conference resolved, *inter alia*, to incorporate a gender perspective in the implementation of all programmes and plans of ITU;

c)   Resolution 44 (Istanbul, 2002) of the WTDC, which resolved that ITU-D should include gender initiatives in each of the programmes established under the Istanbul Action Plan;

d)   Resolution 55 (Doha, 2006) of WTDC, endorsing a specific action plan for the promotion of gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies;

e)   Resolution 55 (Rev. Johannesburg, 2008) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), in which it is resolved that the ITU-T should encourage the inclusion of a gender policy, including the use of gender-neutral language, in the work of all ITU-T activities and groups, including the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

f)   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 information and communication technologies (ICTs),

noting further

a)   Resolution 1187, adopted by the Council at its 2001 session, on a gender perspective in ITU human resources management, policy and practice, which requests the Secretary-General to allocate appropriate resources, within existing budgetary limits, to establish a gender unit with full-time dedicated staff;

b)   Resolution E/2001/L.29, adopted in July 2001 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in which ECOSOC decided to establish, under the regular agenda item

---

[1] "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 Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, third session, New York, 25-27 February 1998).

"Coordination, programme and other questions", the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

c) Millennium Development Goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women", which calls for the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015;

d) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 21 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;

e) Resolution 1327, adopted by the Council at its 2011 session, on ITU's role in ICTs and the empowerment of women and girls;

f) ECOSOC Resolution E/2012/L.8, 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);

g) the endorsement of the SWAP reporting framework by the Chief Executives Board in April 2012, calling upon the UN system to engage in its roll-out and report on implementation,

recognizing

a) that the role of standardization is essential for effective development of globalization and ICTs;

b) that society as a whole, particularly in the context of the information and knowledge society, will benefit from equal participation of women and men in policy-making and decision-making and equal access to communication services for both women and men;

c) that statistically very few women are included in the national and international standardization processes;

d) that there is a need to ensure that women can participate actively and meaningfully in all ITU-T activities;

e) that the Secretary-General has issued an updated ITU English Language Style Guide, which addresses the use of non-discriminatory language,

considering

a) that 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 the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, project the concept of the information society, and that continued efforts must be undertaken in this context to bridge the gender digital divide;

b) that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), for its part, conducted a study on women in telecommunication standardization, exploring the gender perspective and activities related to gender mainstreaming in ITU-T and TSB, in the interests of determining the degree to which women are active participants in all ITU-T activities;

c) the progress made by ITU in awareness-raising on gender issues, specifically over the last decade, in increasing women's participation in and contribution to international forums, in studies, projects and training, and in establishing an internal Gender Task Force;

d)　　　　the successful establishment by ITU of an international "Girls in ICT" day to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April;

e)　　　　the considerable recognition given to the work of ITU in gender and ICT within the United Nations family of organizations,

considering further

a)　　　　that there is a need for ITU to investigate, analyse and further understand the impact of ICTs on women and men, given that ICTs can serve to foster gender equality and women's empowerment and to form an integral part of activities aimed at creating fairer and more inclusive societies;

b)　　　　that ITU should also continue in its efforts to ensure that the gender perspective is present in all of the Union's policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses and conferences,

resolves

1　　　　that ITU-T should continue to encourage the inclusion of a gender perspective, including the use of gender-neutral language, in the work of all ITU-T activities and groups, including TSAG and the ITU-T study groups;

2　　　　that inclusion of the gender perspective should be ensured in the implementation of all relevant outcomes of this assembly;

3　　　　that a high priority be accorded to gender mainstreaming in the management, staffing and operation of ITU-T;

4　　　　to invite TSAG, the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) 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,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1　　　　to undertake the integration of a gender perspective in the work of TSB in accordance with the principles already applied in ITU;

2　　　　to organize gender-mainstreaming training for TSB staff;

3　　　　to encourage Member States and Sector Members to contribute to meeting gender-equality objectives through the equal participation of qualified women and men in standardization activities as well as in leadership positions;

4　　　　to encourage the participation, contribution and leadership of women in all aspects of ITU-T activities;

5　　　　to conduct research to identify women in standardization, with a goal of creating an ITU-T Women in Standardization Group;

6　　　　to conduct an annual review on progress made in the Sector in advancing gender mainstreaming, and to share findings with TSAG and the next WTSA,

invites the Secretary-General

1　　　　to comply with the reporting obligations, as required by the UNSWAP, on the ITU-T activities aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women;

2   to encourage ITU staff to take account of the gender-neutral guidelines of the ITU English Language Style Guide and to avoid, as much as possible, the use of gender-specific terms,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1   to submit candidatures to chairman/vice-chairman posts to support the active involvement of women experts in standardization groups and activities, and in their own administrations and delegations;

2   to actively support and participate in the work of TSB, to nominate experts for the ITU-T Women in Standardization Group and to promote the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

3   to encourage ICT education for girls and women, and prepare them for a career in ICT standardization.