
GENDER WORKING GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING 29 January 2013

Summary Document

Welcome and Launch

- Dr Hamadoun Touré framed the creation of the group by noting the importance of technology as a means to gender equality; and suggesting that efforts should be made to increase female adoption of ICT. Of particular interest are the opportunities for political empowerment as technology allows women to become integrated, active and informed contributors within their communities. Dr Touré highlighted the work done by the ITU on Girls in ICT and Girls in Tech initiatives in this area.
- Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi welcomed the participants, urging all to focus on the empowerment of women, as women's participation particularly in governance is crucial for inclusive sustainable development. She noted that globally, women are 21% less likely to own a mobile phone than a man and that then work of the group should be framed in this context. She also added that ICTs are not neutral and that, if left alone, they can in fact exacerbate gender inequalities. Ms Fraser-Moleketi concluded by urging the working group members to be bold in their approach and in setting collective goals.

Introduction of agenda and terms and reference

- Agenda adopted
- Terms of reference adopted

Discussion of deliverables and next steps

- Call attendees agreed on the need to be bold in defining a work plan and deliverables. The group felt they could wield considerable influence and have a lasting impact.
- Attendees referenced recent reports relevant to the WG, noting need to compile and identify best practices. **A report** could be a possible outcome for the working group, but members felt the urge for bolder and broader goals.

- Attendees raised the issue of **mobile platforms** for gender empowerment, and issued some concrete proposals for the working group to partner with.
- Members of the group expressed the need for **implementing a mapping to take stock of existing initiatives and programmes** on gender and ICTs with the purpose of having state of the art information on the subject to then identify critical gaps and challenges. The mapping exercise will provide guidance for the working group, and at the same time be a key input for its overall work and planned report.
- The WG should take into account ongoing discussions regarding the post-2015 development and the innovative public-private partnerships supporting this process. Several private sector companies were forthcoming with applications which could be used to display the information and encourage interaction. The creation of a dashboard was explicitly mentioned by one of the vice-chairs of the group.
- Members of the group expressed the need for **action at the country level**, noting that only 119 countries have defined a national broadband strategy and that only 15% of those reference or target gender specifically. The working group could target education, for example, and examine how gender references could be inserted as a guideline for countries.
- Attendees expressed the need for **gender centric indicators/metrics** on uptake mobiles and the use of ICT based applications and platforms for empowerment.
- **Attendees were urged to compile their suggestions for deliverables for discussion at the meeting in Mexico.**

Logistical and other business

- The Commission secretariat will provide necessary support to the WG, including coordinating and facilitating meetings and deliverables.
- Invitations to attend the WG meeting on 16 March, alongside the meeting of the Broadband Commission in Mexico will be shared by the Secretariat as soon as possible. External experts who are not Commissioners will be invited to the Broadband Commission meetings on 17 March as observers only.

Meeting recording available at:

- <http://itu.adobeconnect.com/p18ckatutjh/>