

## RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

### **Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*noting*

- a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in information and communication technology (ICT) careers during elementary, secondary and higher education so as to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;
- b)* Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which calls for empowerment of young women and men through telecommunications/ICT;
- c)* the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 led by ITU, which brought together some 700 participants and over 3 000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;
- d)* that the world's young women and men have set priorities for the post-2015 development agenda in their "Costa Rica Declaration", as an outcome of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, which have been presented for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 68th session;
- e)* the fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "listen to and work with youth" as one of the 12 commitments in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" towards the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- f)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) advances national, regional and international events that promote ICTs that can be used by young women and men for social and economic empowerment, such as Global Youth Summits;

*g)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the development and implementation of a global strategy for youth employment,

*recognizing*

*a)* that young women and men are digital natives, the best promoters of ICTs and a world force for progress;

*b)* that in 2020, 71 per cent of the world's youth (aged between 15 and 24 years) were using the Internet, compared with 57 per cent of the other age groups and that, on the global scale, young people are therefore more likely to connect than the rest of the population, despite the numerous barriers to connectivity across the world;<sup>1</sup>

*c)* that some young women and men have had their education disrupted during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

*d)* that the ITU Youth Strategy, in line with the United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030, on working with and for young women and men, promotes youth engagement in digital development and has supported the empowerment of young women and men, bringing young women and men together to engage with ITU and its members, and is fostering dialogue of young women and men and their participation in ITU activities and decision-making processes;

*e)* that the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development Statement on COVID-19 and Youth highlights the unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized or vulnerable communities of young women and men, including, but not limited to, young women and men living in rural/remote communities, young migrants and refugees, young women, indigenous young women and men, and young persons with disabilities,

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ITU Measuring digital development: Facts and figures 2021

*considering*

- a) the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target young women and men and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing awareness on the importance of education in the ICT sector and awareness on career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;
- b) the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), through which, since 2011, by promoting more than 11 700 celebrations of International Girls in ICT Day, over 377 000 girls and young women in over 171 countries have been made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;<sup>2</sup>
- c) the fact that ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development and work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;
- d) the fact that ITU, through the Global Youth Summit, engaged a worldwide community to gather their opinions and ideas on how technology can contribute to a better world and shape the post-2015 development agenda;
- e) the fact that BDT plays a substantive role, through its activities, towards empowerment and engagement of young women and men and their involvement in the decision-making processes related to ICTs for development-related issues,

*resolves*

- 1 that ITU-D, taking into account the above considerations, shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aimed at promoting ICT applications among young women and men in particular, and thereby contribute to the educational, social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/home/history/>

2 that ITU-D continue leading the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy and promoting young women and men initiatives, such as Generation Connect, and continue coordinating the work for young women and men with the rest of ITU;

3 that the established ITU-D objective on digital inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men;

4 to empower young women and men in the use of telecommunications/ICT, particularly in developing countries, by promoting a greater number of regular dialogues and consultations with young women and men, incorporating their opinions into the implementation of ITU-D activities;

5 that ITU-D continues to mainstream engagement and participation of young women and men in the work of ITU to support the achievement of the overall goals of the Union; encourage the participation of young women and men in ITU programmes, events and activities; and contribute to promoting ICT policies related to young women and men within ITU Member States;

6 to encourage innovation and engagement of young women and men to foster sustainable development and address current and future challenges such as poverty alleviation, job creation, gender inequality and cybersecurity,

*resolves further*

1 to establish partnerships with academia concerned with development programmes for young women and men;

2 to add a dimension related to young women and men to study Questions, wherever possible, and encourage young women and men to contribute to ITU-D study groups,

*instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to seek appropriate means to integrate issues related to young women and men into the activities of BDT and to actively pursue diversity through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;

2 to continue to engage with all ITU Sectors in order to coordinate the ongoing implementation of the Youth Strategy throughout the Union;

3 to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these activities;

4 to promote ICTs among young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment;

5 to provide guidance on measuring the extent of the empowerment of young women and men at national and international levels;

6 to provide guidance on digital citizenship among young women and men, including digital government services;

7 to amplify the representation and participation of young women and men in BDT activities and initiatives,

*invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

to assist Member States:

1 to promote enrolment in ICT-oriented education programmes, including from early education, and to promote ICTs and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines, to integrate young women and men in the information society;

3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects for the implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy that target young women and men in developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 to include a component related to young women and men in BDT activities aimed at raising awareness of the challenges that young women and men are facing in the ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solutions;

5 to promote ICT-friendly frameworks in education and careers for young women and men without gender discrimination, and thus encourage young girls and women to be part of the ICT sector,

*encourages Member States*

- 1 to share best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to develop national strategies for increasing access to and use of ICTs as a tool for the educational, social and economic development of young women and men;
- 3 to promote ICTs for the engagement and empowerment of young women and men and their involvement in the decision-making processes of the ICT sector;
- 4 to support ITU-D activities in the field of ICTs for the social and economic development of young women and men, through the ongoing implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy;
- 5 to promote the relevance of ICTs as facilitators of new ideas for creating alternative work options;
- 6 to acknowledge the importance of entrepreneurship among young women and men, particularly in innovative sectors and new technology, for adding social and economic value and helping to create skilled jobs by promoting the use of ICTs among young women and men;
- 7 to aim to have an impact on the lives of young women and men around the world and to ensure meaningful participation of young women and men in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*encourages Member States, Sector Members and Academia*

- 1 to coordinate global and regional forums and other initiatives dedicated to young women and men, considering available resources, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2 to provide access to telecommunications/ICTs and provide up-to-date digital-skills training and opportunities for young women and men;
- 3 to foster collaboration with civil society and the private sector in order to provide specialized training for young innovators;

4 to promote participation of young women and men in work related to ITU-D, including in the composition of delegations to ITU-D meetings,

*invites Academia*

1 to equip young women and men with job-ready digital skills and, thereby, foster their empowerment and ability to compete in the global labour market to improve their quality of life, including through academic exchange programmes;

2 to promote ICT-related research by university students;

3 to encourage young women and men to use the opportunity of the ITU internship programme to gain their first work experiences,

*requests the Secretary-General*

1 to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference with a view to releasing appropriate resources, within the budgetary limits, for the corresponding activities and functions;

2 to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.