

ITU's role on Closing the Gender Digital Divide

EQUALS
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Why does this matter?

We need to close the **gender digital divide** so that women and girls can benefit from:

- **Jobs.** *90% of new jobs will require some digital skills.*
(WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2021: gender gap is more likely in fields requiring ICT skills
Women make up: 14% of workforce in Cloud Computing, 20% in Engineering, 32% in Data & AI)*
- **Education.** *Internet access offers many learning and training opportunities outside the classroom, particularly to remote communities.*
- **Information.** *The web is an unprecedented source of knowledge and information, which can be used for self-empowerment and to make well-informed decisions.*
- **Services.** *Governments and the private sector are increasingly delivering services digitally.*
- **Voice.** *Digital platforms are increasingly important tools for expression, social connection, and political participation.*

ITU GENDER STRATEGY

The vision:

To empower women and girls through ICTs.

The mission:

To accelerate gender equality in ICTs by promoting equal opportunities in the digital society.

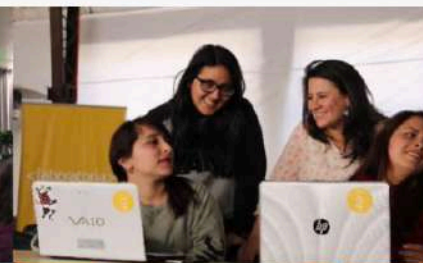
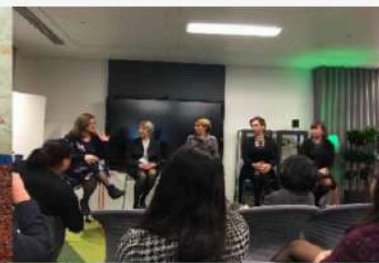
WHAT IS

EQUALS

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



<https://www.equals.org>



EQUALS Global Partnership

As the solution for achieving gender digital equality by 2030

Global partnership bringing together international organisations, industry, governments, civil society and research institutions to mobilise a movement for change and deliver practical, integrated solutions at scale.





A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WORKING FOR DIGITAL GENDER EQUALITY

- Global network
- Multistakeholder
- 100+ partners
- Goal: bridge the digital gender divide
- Services: platform, best practice and information sharing, advocacy, coordinated work
- **Strong potential to strengthen in-country work (visibility, partners, content)**

STEERING COMMITTEE

COFOUNDERS



OVER 100 PARTNERS INCLUDING:



4 AREAS OF ACTION



ACCESS

Achieve equal access
to digital technologies



SKILLS

Scale participation
in ICT learning and skills



LEADERSHIP

Empower women as ICT
leaders, creators and
entrepreneurs



RESEARCH

Ensure an evidence-based
approach towards achieving
the Partnership goals



EQUALS – Bridging the Gender Digital Divide



Improving Internet Access For Women
 Goal: Reduce the gender gap in internet access by 50% by 2030

Gender Digital Equality

Promoting Women's Leadership in Tech
 Goal: 30% of tech leaders are women by 2030

Building Women's Skills
 Goal: Ensure 60% of women and girls have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills by 2030

Leveraging Research
 Goal: Stakeholders have the information they need to make evidence-based decisions

- **> 52,000** women and girls receiving digital skills training and mentoring
- **2000+** EQUALS in Tech Awards nominations representing initiatives that are closing the gender digital divide and potential solutions
- **48** events to deliver on the EQUALS objectives
- **101** partners: governments, businesses, international organizations, NGOs and research institutions across 115 countries committed to the EQUALS partnership



THE COALITIONS' LEADERS AND OBJECTIVES

Improving Internet **Access**: reducing the gender gap in internet access by 50% by 2030

- Making it more **affordable** for women to access and use the internet
- Making all citizens **aware** of and **comfortable** with the benefits of **women** and girls **going online**
- Improving the **accessibility** of the internet for women
- Addressing **safety, security** and **harassment** concerns
- Developing **content** that is relevant for women
- Providing women and girls with the **confidence and know-how** they need to get online

Case study - Digital Ambassador Program

In Rwanda, the Government and the Digital Opportunity Trust are equipping young leaders (Digital Ambassadors) to deliver digital literacy training to citizens. To date 50 Digital Ambassadors have been trained, reaching 18,000 citizens, 49% of them women.

This is increasing the adoption and use of digital services (such as e-government, mobile money, and e-business services) to improve lives and livelihoods.





Building **Skills**: ensuring 60% of women & girls have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in sustainable digital skills by 2025

- Ensuring girls achieve a minimum level of proficiency in **ICT skills**
- Ensuring women and girls can access high quality **ICT education and training**
- Ensuring women and girls have the skills to be **digital citizens and creators** in the digital world
- Changing **mindsets** of men and women about **women's role and potential in ICT**

Case Study - Digital Skills Fund

The Fund aims to provide 10,000 women and girls with digital skills. Led by the Web Foundation and the German government, it supports local initiatives providing gender-sensitive skills training across countries in the Global South. This includes training women and girls on using technology for social change and entrepreneurship.

The initiative also supports female role models and internet users within communities, social movements and workplaces to lead the next generation of women and girls in technology.



Promoting Leadership: ensuring 30% of tech leaders are women by 2030

- Changing **mindsets** of men and women about the role of women in ICT and business
- Ensuring **work-life balance** and women's **safety** and **security** in the workplace
- Ensuring **tech companies** implement internal policies to **employ** and **promote** women
- Ensuring that women **ICT entrepreneurs** receive the support they need to thrive
- Ensuring that women entrepreneurs and business owners across all sectors can use **ICTs to improve** their **competitiveness**

Case study - EQUALS at ITU Telecom World

24 women-led SMEs in the tech sector from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America attended ITU Telecom World in 2019.

The SMEs were able to generate half a million dollars in business leads at the event, by gaining exposure with buyers and investors and receiving tailored mentoring to improve their competitiveness.



Leveraging Research: Stakeholders have the information they need to make evidence-based decisions

- Identifying and fill key knowledge and evidence **gaps**
- Conducting **research** on strategically selected, high-impact topics
- Providing practitioners with **actionable guidelines and recommendations**
- Facilitating **research collaboration** across the globe

Case study - Taking Stock Research Report

The report surveys the existing knowledge on gender equality as it relates to the three EQUALS action areas – Access, Skills, and Leadership. The research report includes key findings on:

- Barriers to gender digital equality
- Opportunities for developing digital skills
- Pathways for promoting gender diversity and inclusion





ANNUAL EQUALS IN TECH AWARDS





Tech4Girls

A project of the EQUALS Skills Coalition



Gender Equitable Investment in Tech (GEIT)

A project of the EQUALS Leadership Coalition





GIRLS AND WOMEN

TALKING TECH

In support of
Girls in ICT Day
2020 - 2022



ICC

international
computing
centre

ICT SOLUTIONS
FOR THE
UN FAMILY



Office of the
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Talking Tech: Girls and Women in ICT

* ICT — information and communication technology

ORGANIZERS



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A YEAR OF INTER-GENERATIONAL
CONVERSATIONS IN SUPPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY
2020-2022

IN SUPPORT OF



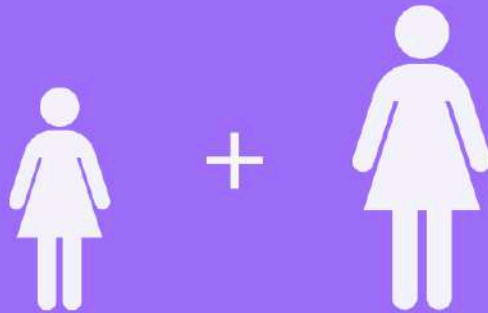
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LEADERSHIP

A project of the **EQUALS Leadership Coalition**

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Girls and young women in technology interview women who are role models, leaders, or simply further on in their careers in the technology sector.

OBJECTIVES



- Inspire girls/younger women with information about a range of ICT careers and encourage them to pursue ICT studies or careers.
- Raise the visibility of role model women in tech, share information about their career journeys and work.
- Collect advice from women in tech on how to successfully navigate a career.
- Share good practices on how ICT is being used to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other UN goals.
- Build connections between girls/young women and successful women in tech.
- Provide girls/young women with a leadership opportunity to present and promote an organization, initiative or an academic programme which they are affiliated with and to share their own journey in tech.



FACTS :

60+

PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS

120+

GIRLS AND WOMEN MATCHED



TARGET 193 COUNTRIES



SHARING EXPERIENCES
FROM ACROSS THE WORLD



SHOWCASING A BROAD RANGE
OF ICT JOBS AND CAREER PATHS

INTERVIEW METHODOLOGY AND DYNAMICS

Approximately 30 minutes in length.

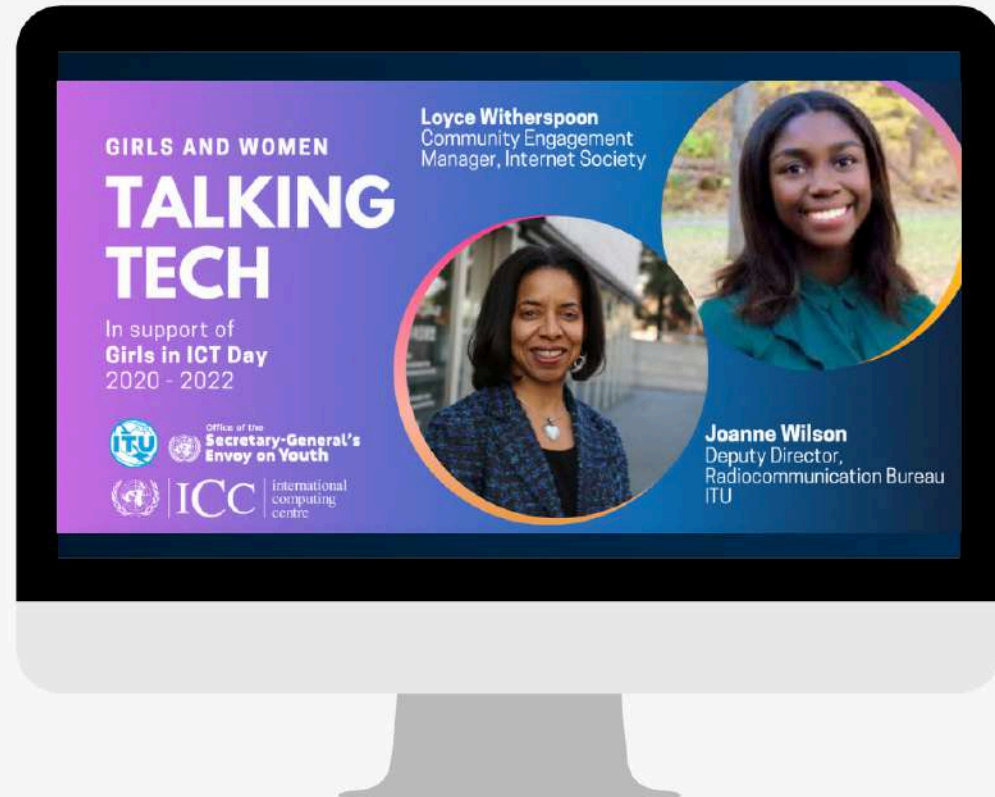
Recorded, not live.

Can be conducted in English or any other language (with subtitles) — as long as all participants speak the same language.

The interviewer and interviewee can be located in different cities / countries.

Conversation: the woman also asks the girl / young woman-interviewer questions.

Interviews are recorded by the organizers or by the participants themselves.



THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW



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#EQUALSinTech
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www.facebook.com/equals

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