

Reception NOW4WRC23 during CPM23-2

Montbrillant Cafeteria, ITU, Geneva, Switzerland

Thursday, 30 March 2023

19h00

Speech

Mario Maniewicz
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Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address you today at this reception of the Network of Women, and to share some reflections on gender equality.

Gender has gained momentum. Since the approval of the Gender Declaration at WRC-19, we have seen several noteworthy advancements.

The creation of the RAG Correspondence Group, the launch of the NOW4WRC23 mentoring program, the appointment of regional coordinators, the endorsement of the ITU Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy by the ITU Council are just a few examples. Additionally, the Plenipotentiary Conference revised Resolution 70, and for the first time in our 157-year history, a woman was elected as Secretary-General of the ITU.

All of which signify change and progress.

However, despite this progress, many challenges remain in achieving gender equality. I will highlight ITU's key gender challenges:

- We need to empower women through ICTs. The adoption of ICTs by girls and women can promote their economic and social advancement.

- We want to tackle the challenge of expanding the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, particularly those related to the development of ICT, both in academia and in the public and private sectors.
- We call for a gender-balanced representation of delegates, candidates, and leadership positions in ITU activities. Active inclusion and participation of women will undoubtedly advance the work of the ITU-R most effectively.
- Finally, we commit to gender mainstreaming in ITUs management, staffing, and operation, which includes achieving a more equitable distribution of women and men amongst the professional posts and at senior-level positions.

The ITU has implemented several steps to tackle these challenges and promote gender equality, including the implementation of the ITU GEM Policy, the adoption of gender-inclusive language, and the establishment of initiatives such as EQUALS, Girls in ICT Day, WISE, and the Network of Women.

I am pleased to inform you that the mentoring program for the Network of Women for WRC-23 had 60 pairs of mentees and mentors and inspired the ITU-D to launch a similar programme of Network of Women leading to the WTDC. I also look forwards to the outputs of the RAG correspondence group in the lead-up to the Radiocommunication Assembly.

As you can see, there has been great progress in raising awareness on gender issues. I invite you to work with the ITU to implement the resolutions, policies, and declarations. To take concrete steps towards gender equality in the ITU Radiocommunications Sector. And to empower all women and girls to reach their full potential in the ICT sector.

Thank you very much.