



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

**Fourth Meeting of the Telecommunication
Development Advisory Group (TDAG)
Geneva, 12-13 October 2000**

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Note by the BDT Director

TASK FORCE ON GENDER ISSUES (TFGI)

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to report on the activities and progress of the TFGI since the March 2000 meeting.

Main recommendations of the TFGI Working Groups presently under implementation

Working Group 1: Reform, legislation and regulation of telecommunications

A final report, "Training Curriculum on Gender Perspectives in Telecommunications Policy" was submitted to the Task Force on Gender Issues. The Curriculum may be integrated as modules in BDT workshops and/or as a Seminar on its own. It will also be disseminated to training institutions and TFGI members.

Gender awareness guidelines, included in the Training Curriculum, are intended for use by licensing and regulatory bodies to mainstream gender awareness into licensing & regulatory functions of national agencies

Working Group 2. Technologies and global information infrastructure development and applications

A gender questionnaire was forwarded to all ITU members (regulators) with the annual regulatory survey. A database to evaluate the questionnaire was created and a report on the results was presented to the TFGI Meeting.

Working Group 3: Rural development and universal service/access

The feasibility study to create a pilot telecentre in a rural community, owned and operated by women was completed in June 2000. A final report, including a business plan for each telecentre, was submitted and will be used to solicit funding for the creation of the telecentres.

Working Group 4: Finance and economics, and development of partnership with private sector and NGOs

A private sector panel discussion was organized as part of the 3rd Meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues. The purpose of the panel was to attract private sector members into the Task Force and to determine more effective ways of encouraging their participation as active members of the TFGI through exchange of information and ideas as well as by soliciting in-kind and financial assistance to the projects and activities of the TFGI.

Working Group 5: Capacity building through human resources development and management

Three gender-training workshops were carried out for the trainers of the Multi-national Telecommunication Training Institute (ESMT), Dakar. A Report to the TFGI was presented and the evaluation of the workshop showed a very positive response to the training. Proposals for follow-up action include: creation of a committee to study the integration of a gender policy in the ESMT, establishment of agreements between ESMT and NGOs working on gender issues and completion of a gender analysis and action plan for the ESMT.

Extension of the gender training to the other Centers of Excellence is recommended.

Working Group 6: Networking and Partnerships

“The Task Force on Gender Issues – A Catalyst for the Sustainable Development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)”. A report prepared for the TFGI of recent data covering networking strategies, impacts of communication technology on women and on how telecommunications services can meet the development and information needs of women.

Representation of the TFGI in BDT meetings

- *Telecommunication Development Advisory Group Meetings, Geneva, 2-3rd March 2000.*
Tony Zeitoun, Vice Chairperson of TFGI, presented TFGI report to TDAG.
Paulette Abenkou, representative from CAMTEL and Member the TFGI, reported to TDAG on Women’s Training in Cameroon
- *Associate Rapporteurs to the ITU-D Study Groups 1 & 2 were nominated to emphasize the importance of integrating a gender perspective into SG Questions under discussion.*
- *Coordination Meeting of the Steering Committee of the TFGI, Ottawa, 12-13 June 2000*
The Meeting was hosted by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Representation of the Task Force on Gender Issues in outside meetings

- *Global Knowledge II Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-10 March 2000.*
Alison Gillwald, Steering Committee Member of the TFGI, attended the conference and assisted UNIFEM in promoting the cross cutting gender issues at the Women’s Forum.
- *Joint UNIFEM/ITU Workshop New York, 14 March 2000 which coincided with the 44th Commission on the Status of Women*
Patricia Faccin, BDT Focal Point on Gender Issues attended the conference and presented the work of the TFGI.
Alexander Ntoko, BDT Project Manager for E Commerce, presented BDT E-commerce project, in particular the ASAFE project for women entrepreneurs.
- *ArabCom 2000, Beirut, Lebanon 26-27 April 2000*
Patricia Faccin gave a power point presentation on the TGF I and it’s current activities.
- *Special Session of the General Assembly, Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the twenty first century, New York, 5-9 June 2000*
ITU was represented by Patricia Faccin and Hanne Laugesen . This session in New York was convened to review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995. Section III of the Outcome Document relates to the specific mention of the information and communication technology and focuses on the emerging issues affecting the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- *ILO Panel Discussion: From Beijing +5 to Copenhagen +5, Geneva, 28 June 2000*
Gillian Marcelle, Vice Chairperson of the TFGI was a panelist and made a presentation on ICTs: new jobs and opportunities

Recent developments

The U.N Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) signed a formal agreement in *New York on 6 July 2000*, that will enable more women to shape the information, technologies and policies of the 21st Century.

The new agreement establishes general principles and identifies areas in which the three agencies will cooperate to enable women to participate in, and benefit from, the current communications revolution. The agencies will encourage governments and the telecommunications industry to recruit, employ, train and advance women's fair and equitable access to ICTs. UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer, ITU's Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi and UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown signed the agreement.