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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| ITU’S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESOLUTION 70 (REV. BUSAN, 2014) |

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| SummaryThis document summarizes ITU’s activities in the implementation of Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) during 2017.Action requiredThe Council is invited **to note** the report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References*PP* [*Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2014)*; Council documents* [*C13/INF/11*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0011/en)*,* [*C13/39*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-C-0039/en)*,* [*C14/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C15/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0006/en), [*C16/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0006/en),[*C17/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0006/en)*,* [*C18/13*](http://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0013/en)*,* [*C18/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0003/en)*.* |

# 1 Introduction

Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) highlights the role of ICTs to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in many ways, notably by encouraging girls to choose a career in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs), and by fostering the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls. The resolution also instructs the Council to continue initiatives to accelerate the gender mainstreaming process in ITU. This document provides a review of relevant activities and developments over that past year. Further information related to gender and ICTs can be found on [ITU’s gender webpage](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Pages/default.aspx).

# 2 Data Gathering and Tracking

ITU regularly collects and disseminates ICT indicators related to individuals accessing and using ICTs. These indicators can be disaggregated by gender, age, education, labour force status, and occupation. This information feeds analysis and provides solid evidence of women’s participation in the information society. ITU monitors and tracks three gender-related indicators that are included in the SDG Indicators Monitoring Framework: (1) “*proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex*” (which is one of the gender-related indicators), (2) “*proportion of individuals using the Internet, by sex*”, and (3) “*proportion of individuals with ICT skills, by sex*”.

ITU’s [Gender Dashboard](https://www.itu.int/genderdashboard) provides a visual overview of gender within ITU, including statutory committees, as well as in ITU meetings and events. Gender balance within the recruitment and selection process, the overall staff composition and promotions are monitored and viewable on the last tab of the [gender dashboard](https://www.itu.int/genderdashboard), with further detail in the Report to Council on Resolution 48. Women in the Professional and higher categories remained stable, and the percentage of women at the P-5 to D-2 also remained stable. HR continues investing in learning programmes such as I Know Gender, to foster gender equality in the organizational culture.

# 3 Bridging the Digital Gender Divide

### 3.1 Advancing Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UNGA in September 2015 underscores in its goal 5 and target 5b the need to “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women”. Also the WSIS Outcome recognizes that ending the gender digital divide and Achievement of the SDG 5 on gender are mutually reinforcing efforts, and commit to mainstream gender in the World Summit on the Information Society process. ITU participates in various inter-agency coordination meetings and mechanisms. In 2017, ITU, the Permanent Mission of Rwanda and UNWomen organized a joint side event entitled “Digital Inclusion: Towards Equal access, skills and leadership for women and girls” held on 21 March 2017 in the margins of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) in New York.

**3.2 Girls in ICT Day**

The International Girls in ICT Day takes place every fourth Thursday of April to encourage more girls and young women to take up ICT careers and studies. From its launch in 2011 through 2017, the campaign had reached 300,000 girls in 166 countries. The #GirlsinICT hashtag reached over 63 million Twitter accounts while the ITU Girls in ICT Portal received over 1 million page views, helping to raise visibility for the importance of attracting more women and girls to ICT studies and careers. In 2017 the day saw more than 2,100 events in 134 countries in which more than 70,000 girls and young women took part. The flagship Girls in ICT Day event organized in Geneva was connected with the Girls in ICT Day event organized in Vilnius, Lithuania during RPM-EUR and an event organized by Alfa Telecom in Beirut, Lebanon. The next International Girls in ICT Day will be held on 26 April 2018.

### 3.3 EQUALS: The Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide

[EQUALS](http://equals.org/), the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age, has the objective to establish a network of organizations working together to ensure that women are given access, are equipped with skills, and develop the leadership potential of girls and women to work in the ICT industry. The partnership has five co-founders: GSMA, ITC, ITU, UNU and UN Women; 27 partners and 26 Research group members, all working together to address the digital gender divide. The global framework of action focuses on three complementary and cross-cutting areas of action: (1) Access, (2) Skills, and (3) Leadership.

### 3.4 EQUALS in Tech Awards

The fourth annual [EQUALS in Tech Awards](https://www.equals.org/2017-equals-in-tech-awards) (formerly [GEM-TECH Awards](http://www.itu.int/en/action/women/gem/Pages/award-2016.aspx)) was held on December 19-20 at the 2017 Internet Governance Forum in Geneva, Switzerland. Almost 300 nominations were put forward this year from stakeholders across the globe. The Awards will celebrate three winners in the categories of Access, Skills and Leadership. The EQUALS in Tech Awards was made possible through partnership with the Swiss Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM), the Internet Society and support from Facebook.

### 3.5 Recommendations to Reduce the Digital Gender Divide

The Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, chaired by GSMA and UNESCO delivered a set of [recommendations](http://broadbandcommission.org/workinggroups/Pages/digital-gender-divide.aspx) in March 2017, to help reduce the digital gender gap in Internet and broadband access and to clarify the complementary roles of different actors. During the Annual Meeting of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in September 2017, the group launched its progress report “[Bridging the gender gap in internet and broadband access and use](http://www.broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/WG-Gender-Digital-Divide-Report2017.pdf)”. It provides an update on progress against the commitments of the Working Group members to take forward the four groups of recommended actions outlined in the outcome of March 2017.

# 4 Reinforcing Women’s Participation in ITU’s Meetings and Conferences

### 4.1 Gender Equality in Delegations

Following ITU’s collaboration on the publication “[Shaping the international agenda: Raising women’s voices in intergovernmental forums](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Documents/raising-womens-voices.pdf)”, ITU has increased efforts towards gender balanced representation and participation. Circular letters sent to membership encourage gender-balanced representation and invites nominations of women for key roles. The Secretary-General has indicated that all invitation letters signed by himself shall contain a sentence encouraging the participation of women delegates/participants.

### 4.2 WTDC-17, Buenos Aires

WTDC-17 appointed ITU-D’s first woman chairman of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), and achieved gender balance in the appointment of chairman of ITU-D Study Group Questions. The conference strengthened the mandate of BDT to provide policy and strategy advice on measures to bridge the gender digital divide, including education and skills development for empowering women and girls and creating conditions for employment prospects for women and girls in entrepreneurship, leadership and decision-making positions. BDT and Argentina hosted the dynamic [WTDC-17 Women’s Breakfast](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/WTDC-17-Women%27s-Breakfast.aspx) on 10 October to showcase initiatives and experiences on promoting digital skills and job creation opportunities for women and girls. The panel included the Ministers of Bangladesh and Lesotho, the Secretary of the Tanzania Universal Communications Service Access Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ministry of Modernization, Argentina.

### 4.3 ITU Network of Women for WRC (NOW)

During the 2016 World Radiocommunication Seminar ([WRS-16](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/wrs/2016/Pages/default.aspx)), the ITU ‘Network of Women for WRC’ ([NOW](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/wrs/2016/Pages/NOWforWRC19.aspx)) initiative was launched. NOW encourages gender balance in decision-making bodies, panels, statutory committees and study groups at ITU-R events. The aim of NOW4WRC19 is to build capacity early in the [WRC-19](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/2019/Pages/default.aspx) process and encourage greater participation of women delegates, including in roles such as chairs and vice-chairs. In May 2017, the first mentorship programme cycle was launched with a focus on the technical topics for the [Working Party 4A](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg4/rwp4a/Pages/default.aspx). Further sessions and mentorship programme cycles were organized in the context of [Working Party 4A](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg4/rwp4a/NOW4WRC19/Pages/default.aspx) and [Task Group 5/1](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg5/tg5-1/NOW4WRC19/Pages/default.aspx) meetings. Introductory sessions were organized during the ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminars 2017 for Arab countries in Oman ([RRS-17-Arab](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/rrs/2017-Arab/Pages/default.aspx)) and for Asia & Pacific in Cambodia ([RRS-17-Asia-Pacific](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/rrs/2017-Asia-Pacific/Pages/default.aspx)).

### 4.4 Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE)

In alignment with ITU-T Resolution 55 (Rev. Hammamet), TSB continues to encourage active participation of women in all its meetings and events under the umbrella of the [Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE)](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wise/Pages/WTSA-16-WISE-Event.aspx). WISE is dedicated to promoting women in standardization, telecommunication/ICTs, and related fields and to recognizing men and women who have made and continue to make remarkable contribution in promoting women and the work of women in these fields.

# 5 Institutional Awareness of Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

### 5.1 UN-SWAP Reporting

UN-SWAP is the United Nations system-wide action plan for gender equality and mainstreaming; an accountability framework applicable to all UN entities to measure, monitor and advance towards a common set of gender equality standards. ITU now uses the UN-SWAP framework for guiding gender equality and mainstreaming (GEM) within ITU; the implementation plan and progress is reported to Council and available as document [C18/13](http://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0013/en). ITU also reports annually to [UN-SWAP](http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/promoting-un-accountability) which is acknowledged by a formal letter to the SG, including an analytical annex on ITU’s progress. The letter is available as information document [C18/INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0003/en). Having completed its initial 5 years from 2012 to 2017, a revised second-generation framework, UN-SWAP 2.0, will be in place from 2018.

### 5.2 International Gender Champion of Geneva

The ITU Secretary-General is a founding member of the [Gender Champions of Geneva](http://genderchampions.com/geneva-2/). In addition to the panel-parity pledge, the Secretary-General has [committed](http://genderchampions.com/champions/houlin-zhao) to: (a) adopting positive measures to improve gender balance among ITU staff, (b) encouraging gender balance among delegates attending ITU conferences and meetings**,** (c) progressing towards gender balance in ITU statutory committees, and (d) encouraging Members States to nominate women candidates for chair and vice-chair positions of Conferences Committees, Council Working Groups, and Study Groups, as well as track, publish, and mention the numbers in particular during conferences.

### 5.3 Network of BR Women Engineers in the Space Sector

In order to develop visibility in the Aerospace Sector, BR female engineers, members of [Women in Aerospace Europe (WIA-E)](http://wia-europe.org/), continue to engage key stakeholders and delegates. In 2017 the network is expending with participation to the Girls in ICT Day with a satellite workshop and meetings with key stakeholders in the sector with the objective of encouraging and preparing for an equal and active participation at every level in the Sector.

### 5.4 Exploring technologies and hands-on STEM experience for Girls

In order to strengthen links and interaction between ITU and the local community, ITU HQ staff (BR Engineers, SPM, BDT) provided volunteer support and organized a [workshop on robotics](https://www.equals.org/single-post/2017/11/21/Hundreds-of-girls-expand-their-horizons-with-hands-on-STEM-experiences-in-Geneva) at the event “[Expanding your Horizons - Geneva](http://www.elargisteshorizons.ch/)” (EYH), hosted at the University of Geneva in November 2017. This event aims at encouraging girls aged 11 to 14 to study and consider a career in science, mathematics, engineering and technology (STEM) subjects.

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