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| itu_logo | World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16)Hammamet, 25 October - 3 November 2016 | CCITT/ITU-T 60th Anniversary logo |
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| PLENARY MEETING | Revision 1 toAddendum 5 toDocument 46-E |
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| Member States of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) |
| Proposed new Resolution [IAP-2]: Promoting gender equality in ITU-T activities |
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| **Abstract:** | CITEL supports the existing work of the ITU-T to promote gender balance within the sector and proposes additional steps to promote the involvement of women in standardization.  |

Introduction

CITEL has proposed suppression of Resolution 55, “Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU-T activities” in favor of this new resolution, “Promoting Gender Equality in ITU-T Activities.”

This new resolution is based directly on the text of Resolution 55, but substantially updates existing references, removing those which are out of date, and citing many new actions, decisions, and events which are relevant to gender equity and gender balance. It further provides specific steps to promote greater participation of women in the work of the ITU-T.

Proposal

CITEL text proposes that the ITU-T continue its efforts to ensure that all of the ITU-T's policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses and conferences reflect our commitment to gender equality, and that priority be given to gender balance in the selection of chairmen, vice chairmen, and rapporteurs, and for posts in the Standardization sector. The text further urges member states and sector members to include qualified women on their delegations whenever possible.

ADD IAP/46A5/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [IAP-2]

Promoting gender equality in ITU-T activities

(Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

recalling

*a)* that a fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter adopted by world leaders in 1945 is "equal rights of men and women";

*b)* United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence, adopted on 21 July 2010, establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality[[1]](#footnote-1) and the Empowerment of Women, known as "UN Women," with the mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

*c)* ECOSOC Resolution E/2012/L.8 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP, 60th Session, March, 2016), which stresses the need to ensure women’s full, equal, and effective participation in all fields, and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors, and public, social, economic and political life; and

*d)* the United Nations HeForShe initiative (2014), sponsored by UN Women with the participation of the UN Secretary-General, to involve men and boys in the promotion of gender equality;

considering

*a)* that equal access to communication services for both women and men is essential to the achievement of the Information Society;

*b)* that while standardization plays an important role in the effective development of ICTs, statistically very few women participate in international standardization processes;

*c)* that there is a need to ensure that qualified women can participate actively and meaningfully in all ITU-T activities;

*d)* that the standardization work of ITU-T can be advanced most effectively through the active inclusion of women;

*e)* that ITU-T has established the Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE);

considering further

*a)* that “promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women” is part of the common vision for the information society articulated in the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Declaration of Principles, which contributes to achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5, "Achieve gender equity and empower all women and girls";

recognizing

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies (ICTs), which instructs the Secretary-General to give particular attention to gender balance for posts at the professional and higher levels in ITU, particularly in senior positions, and to give appropriate priority to gender balance when choosing between candidates who have equal qualifications for a post, taking into account geographical distribution (No. 154 of the ITU Constitution) and the balance between women and men; and

*b)* The 2016 United Nations Joint Inspection Unit Report’s recommendation that the “Secretary-General present to the Council for endorsement at its 2017 session an action plan to complement the Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Policy, with specific targets, indicative timelines and monitoring measures to improve gender balance, especially at senior management levels, within each component of the Union, and report annually to the Council on its implementation”;

noting

*a)* that the ITU has adopted a Gender Mainstreaming (GEM) Policy, with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality that leverages the power of telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men; and

*b)* the progress made by ITU in awareness-raising on gender issues, specifically over the last decade, in increasing women's participation in and contribution to international forums, in studies, projects and training, and in establishing an internal Gender Task Force, and the successful establishment by ITU of an international "Girls in ICT" day to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April;

resolves

1 that the ITU-T continue efforts to ensure that all of the ITU-T's policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses and conferences reflect our commitment to gender equality, and give priority to gender balance:

• for posts, to include those at the professional and higher levels in the Standardization sector, and

• in the selection of chairmen, vice chairmen, and rapporteurs;

2 that the ITU-T will continue to support WISE;

invites Member States and Sector Members

*a)* to foster gender equality and fairer and more inclusive societies by sponsoring the participation of more women in ITU standardization activities;

*b)* to include more women in their delegations; and

*c)* to nominate qualified women for chairmanship and vice chairmanship positions of committees and study groups as recommended by the Secretary-General’s 2 February 2016 report to Council on “ITU’s Activities Related to Resolution 70”;

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1. to encourage the participation and contribution of women in all aspects of ITU-T activities and support an increase in the number of women in ITU-T leadership positions by:

*a)* encouraging member states and sector members to include qualified women on their delegations, by, inter alia, including in all circulation letters the statement, “Member states and sector members are invited to include qualified women on their delegations whenever possible”; and

*b)* making the selection of qualified women for TSB positions at the P and D level a top priority when consistent with geographical considerations;

2 to support the ongoing work of WISE to ensure that all qualified female participants have an opportunity to develop as ITU-T leaders by serving as rapporteurs or associate rapporteurs;

3 to post on a public-facing WISE web page current information on the number of women attending Sector events, to include administration or sector-member affiliation, and study group distribution, and identify the study groups in which women hold leadership positions;

4 to share these statistics, and statistics on the gender as well as geographical distribution of financial assistance to attend ITU-T meetings and other events, with TSAG and the next WTSA;

5 to include gender balance as a factor in the distribution of scholarships to attend ITU-T meetings where resources are available; and

6 to encourage qualified women to apply to the professional staff.

invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to join the ITU Secretary-General by participating in the UN Human Rights High Commissioner-sponsored Planet 50/50 initiative to tackle invisible gender bias as a Geneva Gender Champion on behalf of the ITU-T;

invites the Secretary-General

1 to comply with the reporting obligations, as required by the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP), on the ITU-T and TSB activities aimed at promoting gender equality and the creation of opportunities for women;

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to submit candidates for chairman/vice-chairman posts to support the active involvement of qualified women as well as men experts in standardization groups and activities, and in their own administrations and delegations;

2 to actively support and to nominate experts for the ITU-T Women in Standardization Expert Group;

3 to promote the use of ICTs for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

4 to encourage ICT education for girls and women, and

5 to support all measures that will help prepare women and girls for a career in ICT standardization.

1. Speaking of work to promote gender equality, UNDP notes that, “This effort includes advocating for women’s and girls’ equal rights, combating discriminatory practices and challenging the roles and stereotypes that affect inequalities and exclusion.”

UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/gender-equality/overview.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)