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| **Title:** | Updates on the Network of Women in ITU-T activities leading up to WTSA-24 |
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| **Abstract:** | This document provides an overview of the Network of Women in ITU-T activities from January 2024 to July 2024, and progress overview of the NOW4WTSA24 gender equality campaign for WTSA-24, including updates on upcoming activities. |
| **Action:** | TSAG is invited to take note of this document.  |

1. **NOW4WTSA24 campaign**

The [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/) campaign, which kicked off in January 2024 with the ​[Network of Women Breakfast at TSAG](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/events/20240123/Pages/default.aspx)​, aims to promote gender equality for the upcoming World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly ([WTSA-24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024)) that will be held in New Delhi, India, from 15 to 24 October 2024. The campaign has four main objectives, calling on Member States to:

1. Achieve overall **35%** female participation at WTSA-24, to surpass 32% participation at WTSA-20 (2022).
2. Nominate women for key ITU-T leadership positions for the next Study Period and in leadership roles at the Assembly (e.g., Chair, Vice-Chairs of various Working Groups and Committees).
3. Promote women’s active and meaningful participation in country delegations.
4. Encourage the appointment of women as Heads of Delegations (HoD), or alternatively Deputy HoD.
5. **NoW special event at WTSA-24 – 17 October 2024.**

The [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/) campaign will culminate on Thursday 17 October 2024 with a special morning event at the conference venue. That day will feature networking activities, expert panel discussions, and a high-level fire side chat with women leaders in tech and standards. All WTSA-24 delegates, particularly women, are encouraged to participate; registration for WTSA-24 is required with no additional registration necessary for this side event. The event will be webcasted and live-streamed on social media.

The outcomes of the panel discussions will feed into [NoW in ITU-T](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/Pages/default.aspx) action plan. This special event also aims to inspire young women in STEM by involving local female engineers. NoW in ITU-T celebrations will also feature a recognition ceremony honouring contributions from individuals to gender equality and awards recognizing Member States and regions that have best met [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/)’s objectives.

The event will be followed by a networking lunch kindly offered by the Government of India. An early version of the draft programme is available [online](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/NoW/events/20241017/Pages/default.aspx).

1. **NoW in ITU-T Regional Representatives**

NoW in ITU-T’s governance has expanded into a network of Regional Representatives aimed at advancing the objectives of [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/). During the TSAG meeting in January 2024, it was decided to appoint six (6) Regional Representatives by the Regional Telecommunication Organizations (RTOs), following discussions on the updated Terms of Reference for NoW in ITU-T approved during that meeting (see [TD423-R2](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-240122-TD-GEN-0423/en)). Accordingly, TSB Director’s [Circular 182](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/md/22/tsb/cir/T22-TSB-CIR-0182%21%21MSW-E.docx), issued in March 2024, an invitation to the RTOs to appoint a such Representatives.

The following Regional Representatives have been appointed by the RTOs:

* **Africa**: Ms. Rebecca Mukite, Head of Public & International Relations, Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Uganda.
* **Americas**: Ms. Tania Villa, ITU-T Study Group 12 Chair, Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT), Mexico.
* **Arab States**: Ms. Basma Tawfik, International Organizations Manager, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt.
* **Asia and the Pacific**: Ms. Miho Naganuma, TSAG Vice Chair, Senior Executive Professional, NEC Corporation, Japan.
* **CIS**: Ms. Maria Bolshakova, Acting Deputy Director General, Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC).
* **Europe**: Ms. Izabela Iglewska, Minister Advisor, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland.

Their mandate extends until the first TSAG of the new Study Period (2025-2028) following WTSA-24 and is renewable upon TSAG’s decision.

1. **NOW4WTSA24 campaign progress**
	1. **Promotion**

The promotion of [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/) gender equality campaign is ongoing via dedicated presentations that have been delivered during the Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTSA-24 taking place across ITU regions.

* 1. **NOW4WTSA24 regional activities**

TSB Director’s [Circular 182](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/md/22/tsb/cir/T22-TSB-CIR-0182%21%21MSW-E.docx) issued in March 2024 invited RTOs to consider hosting regional activities to promote the objectives of [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/). These activities may include panel discussions to raise awareness or training sessions to enhance women's participation in WTSA-24 and ITU-T standardization work, with the active involvement of the Regional Representatives.

As a result, a series of regional activities aimed at promoting WTSA-24 gender equality objectives are being conducted alongside Regional Preparatory Meetings kindly hosted by the RTOs.

* **May 2024**: CEPT meeting in Gdansk Poland hosted a successful [panel discussion](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2024/05.07_Effective%20engagement%20of%20European%20industry/BSG.aspx) on women leadership in the European digital landscape and bridging the standardization gap (BSG). The session convened women leaders from across Europe, including a youth representative, who shared their experiences in overcoming barriers to inspire women and girls to advance their careers in the field. The session’s recording is available [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1EngabIA4E&feature=youtu.be).
* **August 2024**: Two regional activities are planned to promote NOW4WTSA24, providing women delegates with networking opportunities and equipping them for active participation in WTSA-24 and ITU-T.
	+ **Asia and the Pacific**: Hosted by APT on 20 August 2024 during the APT WTSA24-5 Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The activity will include a networking breakfast and a lunch training session which will be kindly supported by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of the People's Republic of China, providing fellowships for women delegates to attend the meeting in person.
	+ **Americas**: Hosted by CITEL on 21 August 2024 during the 4th Preparatory WGCONF Meeting in João Pessoa, Brazil. The activity will include an interactive roundtable on enhancing the participation of women delegates from the Americas region.
1. **Call to action**

Member States are encouraged to actively pursue their efforts to advance [NOW4WTSA24](https://www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/now/about/) gender equality objectives. Delegates are kindly reminded to join NoW in ITU-T by signing up to the mailing list [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/iwm/?p0=0&p11=ITU&p12=ITU-SEP-ITU-T-SEP-Other%20Groups-SEP-Network%20of%20Women%20in%20ITU-T&p21=ITU&p22=ITU) to support the expansion of the Network.

TSAG is invited to take note of this document.

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