

**Seoul-Gyeonggi Declaration on
the Equal Participation of Women in the Information Society
WSIS Regional Thematic Meeting: Forum on Gender and ICT**

24-25 June 2005, Seoul, Republic of Korea

On behalf of Asia-Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWIN), Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) and ITU, I am very pleased to present the outcome of a WSIS regional thematic meeting on Gender and ICT. It was held at both Seoul and Gyeonggi Province through kind support from the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) in the Republic of Korea between 24 and 25 June 2005, where there were 36 countries represented from academia, NGOs, industries, governments, and international agencies.

The Meeting has noted the followings among others:

1. the Millennium Development Goal,
2. paragraph 12 of the Declaration of Principles of the first WSIS,
3. the Plan of Action referring to the special needs of women in relation to capacity building; ICT applications; cultural diversity and identity;
4. the second phase of WSIS will involve in developing a core set of benchmarks or indicators, that can be used to evaluate ICT for Development initiatives, etc..

It has recognized that the most critical aspects in the follow-up of the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action are:

1. Developing sex-disaggregated statistics and gender indicators
2. Integrating a gender perspective in national ICT policies and strategies
3. Ensuring ICT training and capacity building for women
4. Promoting the economic empowerment of women
5. Ensuring that women benefit from financing of ICT for Development
6. Facilitating gender equality in Internet and ICT Governance

Also, the Meeting has noted the growth of cybercrimes such as pornography, trafficking, exploitation, violence against women and sexism on the Internet as well as recognized that the Information Society provides both threats and opportunities,

Having noted and recognized those mentioned above, the Meeting has adopted 17 Recommendations. Since the full report is available at both the WSIS website and hard-copy, I will highlight the following Recommendations particularly focusing on financing and governance issues relating to Gender, due to the limited time:

1. Emphasize the gender component in ICT financing discussions,
2. Ensure that financing ICT for Development projects accounts specifically for women's development priorities and their information and communication rights;
3. Take into account the particular needs of indigenous, elderly, rural and marginalized women everywhere, and earmark a fair percentage of the Digital Solidarity Fund for projects aimed at bridging the gender digital divide;
4. Create opportunities for the participation of women in international and intergovernmental organizations involved in Internet Governance;
5. Support the collection of sex-disaggregated data on access and use of ICTs at the regional and international levels;
6. Emphasize the need for women's increased presence at all levels of decision-making and in the implementation of policies for information and communication through providing appropriate training, and monitoring of impact, for female public servants;
7. Mobilize resources to fund capacity building programmes at national, regional and global levels, to address ICT policy and Internet Governance issues, taking into account the needs of women and excluded communities, especially those from developing countries.
8. Invest in and support ICT infrastructure and services to promote women's participation and empowerment, and others.

We sincerely hope the Recommendations in the Seoul-Gyeonggi Declaration to be reflected at the outcomes of 2nd WSIS for empowerment of women in the Information Society.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.