

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-second session
Geneva, 13-17 May 2019**

Panel discussion on applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation

Statement submitted by
International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

Monday, 13 May 2019

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ITU STATEMENT

Commission on Science and Technology for Development, twenty-second session

Item 3

Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation.

13 May 2019

The ITU conducts several activities towards mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Secretary-General is a founding member of the Geneva chapter of the [International Gender Champions](#) and has taken the panel-parity pledge to avoid single-sex panels.

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”*.

The [WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015](#) invite all WSIS Stakeholders to mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end. ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP and UNESCO have been working with the UN WSIS Action Line focal points and across ITU, to fully integrate Gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies, including the annual WSIS Forum.

ITU and UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, have launched the African Girls Can CODE Initiative that aims to train and empower girls and young women aged 17 to 20 years old across Africa to become computer programmers, creators and designers.

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.

[EQUALS](#), 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 Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, chaired by GSMA and UNESCO, delivered a set of [recommendations](#) in March 2017, to help reduce the digital gender gap in Internet and broadband access and to clarify the complementary roles of different actors.

Further information related to gender and ICTs can be found on [ITU's gender webpage](#).