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Applying gender lens to STI policies to deliver SDG 5

Statement submitted by

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1. ***What national policies and actions have proven effective in enhancing women's participation in development and deployment of technology?***

   - We have proven time and time again that the change is most efficient when it starts from the early childhood – we need to support girls, and make them feel that tech is for them just as much as it is for boys
   - This requires awareness raising and education on the intersection of gender, technology and innovation for the early childhood educators. Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture has several initiatives to enhance technology education equally for boys and girls
     - Innoplay, that focuses on craft design and technology (CDT) in the education of the youngest children from kindergarten to second grade.
   - Finland is also making active efforts to promote gender equality in higher education, concerning both staff and students. The national accessibility plan for higher education is currently in development. Promoting equality is proposed to be integrated both in law and strategies of universities, based on an intersectional approach.
   - The Academy of Finland, the main science funding agency of Finland is committed to the building of a transparent research ecosystem free of structures or operating models that treat people differently on the basis of gender or other personal characteristics. This means, for example, addressing gender equality throughout the funding value chain, and ensuring equal representation of women in the process.
   - Getting more women interested in tech requires we also need to highlight women in the technology sector as role models, get technology companies themselves to take the issue seriously and provide support networks for women.
     - Women in Tech –multistakeholder initiative led by Technology Industries Finland, annual Women in Tech forum and blog series by our Ministry of Transport and Communications

2. *The reasons for women's under-representation in STI and STEM are known, and many successful examples are emerging to redress this under-representation at all levels of education and employment.* ***What strategies and measures have worked best to increase the representation of women and under-represented groups at all levels of STI?***

   - The role of the private sector: the more diverse the companies are, the more profitable they are

- It is one thing to get women to work in the tech industry, but having them stay there is another issue entirely → many women leave the industry due to hostile work culture, harassment etc. Finland does not yet have quotas for repre
- Men need to get involved. Tech industry is highly male dominated, so men need to become a part of the solution. This requires clear commitment and addressing organizational culture as well.
- Requires multistakeholder action, not only a government effort. Important to create momentum in the private sector and make this everyone's cause. Various sector forums such as We In Games as important changemakers.

3. Many developing countries do not have adequate digital infrastructure and for many women internet and other costs of digital devices are prohibitive. Some women do not have adequate technological skills and other socio-cultural norms may restrict women's access to technology. **How can governments, the international community, the private sector, academia, and civil society partner to overcome these obstacles?**

- Multi stakeholder collaboration is key → GE forum & campaign
- Finland's leading role in the AC of T&I for Gender Equality
- These are the obstacles that we have identified in our AC's blueprint, and will work to tackle during the next five years
    - o Our vision is that by 2026, women and girls in all their diversity have equal opportunities to safely and meaningfully access, use, lead, and design technology and innovation with freedom of expression, joy, and boundless potential.
    - o For example, our coalition's action number one aim is to bridge the gender gap in digital access and competences. This requires improving accessibility of digital services, advancing innovative financing for 21st century skills and addressing harmful stereotypes, all addressed in our blueprint
    - o In addition, action is required to build gender transformative innovation ecosystems, improve access to financing for women tech entrepreneurs and increasing women's participation in the technology sector, also in leading roles.
- We encourage you to become a part of the process by joining the Generation Equality Campaign as a Commitment Maker.

- The work that is being done in the AC for T&I is in many ways ground breaking. In our Action Coalition's blueprint, we identified four actions that will make technology more equal and accessible for all
- To achieve those actions, we set up clear goals about what is going to be achieved by 2026, and the methodologies to actually make a change
- Our four actions are:
  - By 2026, reduce by half the gender digital divide across generations by accelerating meaningful access to digital technologies and universal digital literacy.
  - By 2026, increase investments towards feminist technology and innovation by 50% to support women's leadership as innovators and better respond to women and girls' most pressing needs. As part of this, we need transparency in how women benefit from research and innovation funding.
  - By 2026, double the proportion of women working in technology and innovation by setting up new networks and benchmarks to transform innovation ecosystems.
  - By 2026, a majority of countries and tech companies demonstrate accountability by implementing policies and solutions against online and tech facilitated GBV and discrimination.
- To achieve these goals, collaboration between different sectors are needed
- More women need to be in the decision-making tables
- One thing that is especially important in the GE campaign is the inclusion of young women and adolescent girls, really hearing what they have to say and learning from them
- The role of disaggregated data cannot be highlighted enough; an intersectional approach is crucial when gathering data → also both qualitative and quantitative indicators when looking at experiences in the industry

*5. More needs to be known about the benefits and risks associated with new digital technologies**. What more can be done to understand better how can new technologies benefit women and under-***

represented groups? How can they provide opportunities for developing countries to accelerate their efforts towards sustainable development?

- Intersectional approach is necessary in identifying both the risks and benefits with new digital technologies. We also need to consider specific gender audits where necessary.
- Digitalization brings many opportunities in achieving gender equality. However, it also creates new challenges that we as action coalition leaders aspire to tackle. One of those challenges – and a challenge that is a special priority to Finland – is eliminating and preventing online gender based violence.
- A theme that is very important to Finland is preventing and eliminating online GBV
- Currently, the web is not safe for women and girls. A recent survey of over 14,000 young women and girls found that 58 % of respondents have experienced online harassment, and 84 % of young women think the problem of online abuse is getting worse.
- Across the globe, girls and women are **27 times more likely** to encounter online harassment than men or boys, and the risk increases with women and girls in vulnerable positions.
- This also applies for women politicians, activists and human rights defenders. Social debate and discussion is increasingly taking place online, and attempts to silence specific groups of people represent a real threat to democracy.

6. What actions can CSTD and the international community take to strengthen global STI cooperation aimed at closing the gap on SDG 5?

- Prioritizing gender equality in global STI cooperation, make the case that gender equality will lead to better STI outcomes
- Highlighting the need to generate better gender-disaggregated data across countries and sectors
- Create networks, learn from best practices, pilot and scale successful initiatives
- Joining the GE campaign as commitment makers and challenging associates to join as well
- Raising the issue in your own organization and networks