

# **COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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## **Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2025 to implement the outcomes of the WSIS**

### **Submission by**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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## WSIS report submission 2025 – UN Women

In the reporting year, UN Women's work to advance the gender dimensions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was anchored in the [Beijing+30 global review](#), which reaffirmed that gender equality and women's and girls' human rights are foundational to sustainable development and inclusive digital transformation. According to the Beijing+30 Secretary-General's report, Member States have intensified action to address digital divides, expand digital services, and legislate against technology-facilitated gender-based violence, yet major structural barriers persist.

The [Progress on the SDGs - Gender Snapshot 2025](#) underscores the scale of the challenge: if current trends continue, 351 million women and girls will still live in extreme poverty by 2030, while closing the gender digital divide could benefit 343.5 million women and girls, lift 30 million out of poverty by 2050, and generate US \$1.5 trillion in global GDP gains by 2030. These findings reinforce the urgent need for gender-responsive digital infrastructure, safety, and governance across WSIS Action Lines.

### Analytical Overview

Beijing+30 findings highlight accelerating digital transformation, rapid AI expansion, and widening inequalities. Persistent gender gaps remain a defining trend:

- **Stagnant gender digital divide:** Increasing digital literacy for women and girls has been a policy priority in over 73% of reporting Member States. However, insights drawn from national Beijing+30 reviews show that women remain significantly less likely to access the Internet, mobile devices, STEM employment, or digital financial services, especially in low-income countries and rural areas.
- **Emerging risks from AI:** AI systems reproduce gender stereotypes, reflect biased datasets, and facilitate harmful content, threatening progress on multiple WSIS action lines and undermining equality in employment, public life, and access to services.
- **Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is rising sharply:** Legal reforms on technology-facilitated GBV have sharply increased, with 70% of States reporting action, but protection remains insufficient. One study of 14,000 girls in 31 countries found that more than half of girls surveyed had been harassed and abused online.
- **Uneven digital transformation:** Many countries have expanded gender-responsive digital services, including e-health, e-learning, e-government and digital ID, yet barriers in accessibility and affordability persist. The Gender Snapshot notes that 68.3% of national statistics offices report decreased funding for gender data systems, undermining monitoring of digital inclusion efforts.
- **Shrinking civic space and democratic backsliding:** This is driven by digital repression, restrictions on women's rights organizations and women human rights defenders, gendered disinformation and weak accountability mechanisms.

### Innovative Practices and Future Actions

In 2025, UN Women issued the [Beijing+30 Action Agenda](#), which first priority "a Digital Revolution" sets a forward-looking roadmap to ensure that women and girls fully benefit from digital transformation by bridging gaps in connectivity, skills, safety, access to services, and participation in decision-making. This will be one the primary vehicle for accelerating WSIS implementation moving forward.

In the lead-up to the Beijing+30 High-Level Meeting, Member States registered a first wave of concrete digital-equality commitments, demonstrating strong political momentum for gender-responsive digital transformation. Countries including Zimbabwe, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, South Sudan and China committed to actions that directly advance WSIS Action Lines through:

- Law and policy reforms to guarantee women's and girls' digital rights and protect them from technology-facilitated GBV.
- Increased financing for gender-responsive digital infrastructure, digital public services, and ICT access for women and girls.
- Large-scale programmes expanding digital literacy and closing digital-skills gaps for women, adolescent girls, and marginalized groups.
- Efforts to transform discriminatory gender norms, including initiatives engaging men and boys to support women's digital participation.
- Strengthening gender-data systems and accountability, including commitments to improve ICT gender-disaggregated data collection.
- Addressing intersectional inequalities, ensuring rural women, girls with disabilities, and those facing multiple forms of discrimination are not left behind.
- Support for feminist movements and civil society, recognizing their role in digital governance, safety, and accountability.

Building on this momentum, UN Women will work with Member States, the UN system, civil society, youth organizations and the private sector to translate these political pledges into measurable WSIS-aligned results.