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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Common Proposal | |
| PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ASSEMBLY | |
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| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION ON GENDER | |

**Introduction**

In this Asia-Pacific Common Proposal, APT proposes to the Radiocommunication Assembly to consider and approve a Resolution on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector.

At the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19), ITU Member states unanimously adopted a declaration that promotes gender equality, equity and parity in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (WRC-19 Gender Declaration).

This Declaration highlights the need to ensure that women participate actively and meaningfully in all activities of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector to effectively advance its work. As clearly given in *declares 3* of of this Declaration, Member States should consider and adopt a Resolution at the 2023 Radio Assembly on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector.

Yellow highlights in the proposed text indicate modifications to the draft resolution developed by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group Correspondence Group 1.

While radiocommunication plays a vital role in the globalization and the effective development of digital technologies, very few women participate in the international processes related to the advancement of radiocommunication systems and services. A new resolution on gender, specificaly adopted for the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, would be of crucial importance and a milestone for empowerment of women in radiocommunications.

**Proposals**

**ADD**

Draft new resolution on gender

**Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector**

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*recalling*

*a)* Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on gender mainstreaming in the ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICT;

*b)* Resolution 48 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on human resources management and development and, in particular, *Resolves* 10 stating that the Union must aim to become a model organization for gender equality and leverage the power of Telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men; and

c) The WRC Declaration on Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (Sharm El-Sheikh, 2019);

*recognizing*

*a)* that while radiocommunications plays an important role in globalization and the effective development of information and communication technologies (ICT), statistically women are under-represented in international radiocommunications processes including at all levels in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R);

*b)* that the work of the ITU-R can be advanced most effectively through the inclusion of more women from all ITU-R Regions participating actively and meaningfully;

*c)* that there is a need to ensure gender parity in ITU-R activities, including in and across all ITU-R Regions;

*d)* that the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) has established the ITU Network of Women, launched at the 2016 World Radiocommunication Seminar, which is dedicated to promoting women in radiocommunications, telecommunications/ICT and related fields;

*e)* that ITU has adopted a Gender Equality and Mainstreaming (GEM) Policy, with the aim of becoming a model organization for gender equality, and leverage the power of Telecommunications/ICTs to empower both women and men;

*f)* the progress made by the ITU in raising awareness on gender issues, specifically over the last decade, in increasing women’s participation in and contribution to international forums, in studies, projects and training, and in the establishment of an internal Gender Task Force, as well as the successful establishment by the ITU of an international “Girls in ICT” day to be held every year on the fourth Thursday of April;

*g)* that the ITU’s strategic plan references gender issues with a view to having a gender balanced workforce, mainstreaming diversity and inclusion practices across its work, and closing the digital gender divide;

*bearing in mind*

1. that society as a whole, in the context of the information and knowledge society, will benefit from equal access to communication services as well as from equal participation of women and men ~~all people, irrespective of gender~~ and from all ITU Regions, in policy-making and decision-making;
2. that the field of radiocommunications will benefit from equal participation of women and men ~~all people, irrespective of gender~~ and from all ITU Regions, in policy-making and decision-making.

*c)* the United Nations HeForShe initiative (2014) to involve men and boys in the promotion of gender equality;

*d)* that women continue to be under-represented in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), particularly those fields related to radiocommunications, both in academia and in the professional ranks;

*e)* that enhancing women’s and girls’ education and their participation in radiocommunications issues and ICT also contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

*encourages Member States and Sector Members*

*a)* to support the inclusion of women in all aspects and levels of ITU-R activities, including in domestic, regional and international processes;

*b)* to support the training of women in the processes of the ITU-R and of associated regional group meetings, as well as on relevant ITU-R tools;

*c)* to adopt proven measures to increase gender equality globally by encouraging more women to pursue academic degrees at all levels in STEM fields, particularly those related to ICT and radiocommunications;

*d)* to urgently undertake active measures to increase gender equity in primary and secondary education in mathematics and science to prepare all students and to encourage girls for the pursuit of undergraduate degrees in STEM fields, particularly in electrical engineering and computer science, which are critical for the development of ICT, and in particular radiocommunications;

*e)* to improve gender equity by substantially increasing the number of scholarships and fellowships offered to women pursuing academic degrees at all levels in STEM fields, particularly in electrical engineering and computer science;

*f)* to improve gender equity by substantially increasing the number of internships, training opportunities and summer jobs offered to women pursuing academic degrees in fields related to the development of ICT, and in particular to radiocommunications;

*g)* to actively support ICT education, with a focus on radiocommunications, for girls and women, and support all measures that will help prepare them for a professional career in ICT;

*resolves*

that the ITU-R should accelerate efforts to ensure that all its policies, work programmes, information dissemination activities, publications, study groups, seminars, courses, assemblies and conferences reflect the commitment of the ITU-R to gender equality and gender balance:

i) by according high priority to gender mainstreaming in the management, staffing and operation of the ITU-R;

ii) through the equitable selection of women from all ITU-R geographic regions:

a) for posts, including those at the professional and higher levels in BR;

b) for roles that build expertise and expand opportunity, such as delegates, including Heads and Deputy Heads of Delegation, in the preparation towards and at World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC);

c) for the roles of chairmen, vice-chairmen and rapporteurs of the ITU-R Study Groups, Working Parties, Conference Preparatory Group (CPM), the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) and the WRC;

iii) by encouraging Member States, Regional Organizations and Sector Members to support gender balance by actively promoting the inclusion of women in all aspects of ITU-R activities including the domestic, regional and international processes, with a focus on:

1. roles that build expertise and expand opportunities, such as delegates, including Heads and Deputy Heads of Delegation, and spokespersons in the preparation towards and at World Radiocommunication Conferences;

b) leadership roles such as chairman and vice-chairman posts in radiocommunications groups and activities;

iv) by supporting the ongoing work of the Network of Women to ensure that all women have an opportunity to develop as ITU-R leaders throughout their career;

v) by supporting the ITU Secretary-General to participate in the Planet 50/50 initiative sponsored by UN Women to tackle gender bias as a Geneva Gender Champion on behalf of the ITU-R;

vi) by improving the gender balance in candidates for roles of chairman and vice-chairman so as to support the active involvement of women in radiocommunications groups and activities;

vii) by promoting the use of ICT for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls;

viii) by encouraging Member States, Regional Organizations and Sector Members to propose women when designating participation in projects or trainings related to the work of the ITU and other international organizations,

*instructs the Director*

1 to continue to implement the ITU GEM Policy, including supporting the implementation of recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to gender mainstreaming and supporting the Gender Focal Points for ITU-R;

2 to continue to integrate a gender perspective in the work of the BR in accordance with the principles already applied in the ITU;

3 to include in all circular letters a~~the~~ statement encouraging and supporting the participation of women in ITU-R meetings and activities, with the goal of gender parity in delegations. ~~The membership is encouraged to have a goal of gender parity in their delegations~~”;

4 to conduct and to publish an annual review on progress made in the ITU-R Sector in advancing gender mainstreaming, including by collecting and reviewing statistics on ITU-R activities by gender, including information on chair and vice chair of Study Groups and Working Parties and delegation and geographical distribution, publishing current information on a public-facing web portal, and sharing findings with the Radiocommunication Assembly and the World Radiocommunication Conference.

**Reasons:**

At the WRC-19 ITU Member states unanimously adopted a declaration that promotes gender equality, equity and parity in the work of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector. As clearly given in declares 3 of of this Declaration, Member States should consider and adopt a Resolution at the 2023 Radiocommunication Assembly on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector.