

**REGIONAL MEASURES FOR THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE ICT**

The XX Meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies (PCC.I),

**CONSIDERING:**

- a) That it is necessary for Member States to foster the participation of women and girls within the framework of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and allow them to benefit from the wide-ranging opportunities stemming from new technologies;
- b) That, on 8 April 2011, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) announced the creation of an international “Girls in ICT Day”, which will be held every year on the fourth Thursday in April, with a view to articulating this sector of the population with the ICT ecosystem;
- c) That, at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on October 2010, by means of the Resolution entitled “Gender mainstreaming in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies”, it was resolved to adopt a gender perspective during the implementation of all ITU programs and plans;
- d) That, by means of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Heads of State and Government undertook to:
  - Foster gender equality and the empowerment of women as an effective means to combat poverty, starvation and disease, and to bolster a truly sustainable development.
  - Develop and implement strategies offering young people everywhere a real opportunity to find serious and productive work.
- e) That the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose effects are aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, exclusion or restriction based on sex and has the purpose or effect impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, social, cultural, civil or any other field,

**RECOGNIZING:**

- a) That CITEI, in the Working Group on Development, and, in the area of the Rapporteurship on ICTs for social inclusion considers subjects related to "Issues of Gender" to advance the development of initiatives related to "The women and girls in ICT", for their digital inclusion which will result in a social and economic impact;
- b) That CITEI is an area to agree on lines of action and share strategic policies between Member States,

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<sup>1</sup> CCP.I-TIC/doc. 2612/12 rev.2

## RECOMMENDS:

1. To invite all Member States to observe the following principles:
  - 1.1. To provide all women and girls in the Region with equitable access to ICT infrastructure and services.
  - 1.2. To encourage public policies on gender inclusion and equal opportunities within the scope of the ICT.
  - 1.3. To promote the involvement of women in the productive, economic, technical and education sectors of the ICT.
  - 1.4. To bolster, strengthen and support social organizations engaged in the promotion of women and girls in the ICT, allowing these organizations to work with the public, private, and academic sectors as well as civil society at large.
  - 1.5. To foster the inclusion of women in the ICT employment area.
  
2. To urge all Member States to:
  - 2.1. To provide women and girls with easier access to new technologies and promote the implementation of equal and non-discriminatory means of communication.
  - 2.2. To review the feasibility of including in their broadband plans and digital agendas public policy guidelines promoting and facilitating women's and girls' access to technology and communication as well as the education and training on the use of these technological tools.
  - 2.3. To develop public policies which foster gender equity in Web sites, electronic systems and in general throughout the ICT and Telecommunications areas.
  - 2.4. To ensure the access of women and girls from indigenous and Afro-descendant communities and villages, contemplating mass technological advances that incorporate these groups' mother tongues and cultural identity aspects.
  - 2.5. To promote and bolster women's and girls' interest in science, technology and technologic innovation.
  - 2.6. To conduct socio-demographic studies and gather statistics on gender and ICT that allow making specific decisions on those areas which fail to promote gender equality.
  
3. To invite the Secretariat of CITELE to adopt measures fostering gender equality in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - 3.1. In communications and invitations, whenever it is necessary to refer to a group of men and women, as long as the language permits, avoid the use of the masculine and plural form "*los*" [the, in Spanish] (e.g., "*los delegados*" ["the delegates", in Spanish]), instead using "*los delegados y las delegadas*").
  - 3.2. To foster actions with the Member States promoting the mass access of women and girls in the Region to the ICT, which could include: creating workshops, setting up a virtual

forum and a virtual newspaper, or performing training activities on the electronic education platform.

**INSTRUCTS:**

- a) The Executive Secretary of CITEL to disseminate this information among the delegations of CITEL's Member States and to conduct the relevant implementation follow-up.
- a) The Rapporteurship on ICTs for social inclusion, to follow-up this Recommendation.