

COM/CITEL RES. 327 (XLI-23)²

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON GENDER EQUALITY AND MEANINGFUL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The 41 Meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of CITEL, COM/CITEL,

RECOGNIZING:

- a. The fundamental values and principles of the Member States of CITEL and its role in supporting democracy, human rights, security and development as key priorities of the Organization of American States (OAS);
- b. CITEL's unwavering support for Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment, inclusive of all women, girls, men and boys, of vulnerable and marginalized groups, of aboriginal and indigenous communities, and of people with disabilities and people with special needs;
- c. The fact that the United Nations Secretary-General has put "listen to and work with youth" and "place women and girls at the centre" as two of the 12 commitments in his 2021 report entitled "Our Common Agenda" towards the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- d. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that strives to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls and foster gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue over all goals and targets of the agenda;
- e. The need and rights of all young women, men, boys and girls to be meaningfully engaged in decision making processes addressing their Digital Future, particularly in the context of discussions and adoption of resolutions, decisions or recommendations at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- f. The importance for CITEL and its Member States to be fully engaged with the United Nations "Youth 2030" and with the ITU's Youth Strategy, including the Generation Connect Initiative and the Generation Connect Global Youth Summits;

RECALLING:

- a. PP RESOLUTION 70 (Rev. BUCHAREST, 2022): Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/information and communication technologies;
- b. PP RESOLUTION 139 (Rev. BUCHAREST, 2022): Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- c. PP RESOLUTION 198 (Rev. BUCHAREST, 2022): Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology;
- d. WTDC RESOLUTION 55 (Rev. Kigali, 2022): Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU to enhance women's empowerment through telecommunications/ICTs;

- e. WTDC RESOLUTION 76 (Rev. Kigali, 2022): Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment;
- f. WTDC-22 / Americas Regional Initiative 2 AMS: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

- a. The need to continue supporting the successful activities and programs on Gender and Youth developed and undertaken by the ITU's BDT and by relevant agencies at the OAS;
- b. The adoption since 1996 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) of a number of resolutions highlighting the need for strengthening transparency and gender balance throughout the United Nations system;
- c. The Networks of Women (NOW) for the ITU Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Development (ITU-D) Sectors and the Women in Standardization Working Group (WISE) in the Standardization Sector (ITU-T);
- d. The 2022 ITU Generation Connect Youth Call to Action "My Digital Future";
- e. The Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector, approved at the World Radiocommunication Conference (Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019);

RESOLVES:

- 1. To establish a Working Group on Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment.
- 2. To adopt the Mandate, Terms of Reference, Performance indicators and Work Plan included in the Annex hereof.
- 3. To appoint the administrations of Brazil and Canada as Co-Chairs and the administrations of Paraguay and Peru as Vice-Chairs of this Working Group.
- 4. To derogate resolution COM/CITEL RES. 324 (XL-22).

ANNEX TO THE RESOLUTION COM/CITEL RES. 327 (XLI-23)

MANDATE, TERMS OF REFERENCE, AUTHORITIES, WORK PLAN AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER EQUALITY AND MEANINGFUL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Authorities:

Co-chairs: Brazil and Canada

Vice-chairs: Paraguay and Peru

Mandate:

To focus on the review and research of major issues, challenges, initiatives, policies and programs aimed at strengthening Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment in order to increase meaningful participation in and leadership of activities related to the inclusive development and use of telecommunications/ICTs.

Terms of reference:

- a. Establish a CITEL wide perspective on activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening Gender equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment by maintaining on-going coordination and consultation with PCC.I and PCC.II on activities aimed at the promotion of Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment, in particular to support the Americas Network(s) of Women for the Radiocommunication (ITU-R) and Development (ITU-D) Sectors, as well as the Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE ITU-T) and exchanging lessons learned and best practices in improving these initiatives in the region.
- b. Encourage programs, projects, initiatives and capacity building activities, including through coordination and consultation with PCC.I and PCC.II, in telecommunications/ICT gender perspectives that promote a fully inclusive participation of all women and girls and the meaningful empowerment of young women and men in decision making processes at national, regional and international levels affecting their “Digital Future”, including at meetings, conferences and assemblies of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- c. Coordinate with the ITU regional office on follow-up mechanisms and activities to support the implementation of the United Nations “Youth 2030”, the ITU’s Youth Strategy and the Generation Connect Global Youth Summits, including any output documents.
- e. Support the relevant CITEL Working Groups in preparation for ITU Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings, including ITU Advisory Groups in the preparation of Inter-American Proposals (IAPs) or Inter-American Contributions (IACs) that contain inclusive language related to Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment.
- f. Coordinate as appropriate an exchange of information and best practices on Gender Equality and Meaningful Youth Empowerment with other relevant agencies in the OAS, in particular the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Youth Americas Business Trust.

Performance indicators: (to be collected in annual basis 2023-2026)

- a. Percentage of participation of women in CITELE meetings.
- b. Percentage of participation of women and youth in workshops and seminars conducted by CITELE.
- c. Percentage of participation of women and youth in key areas/leadership role in the work of CITELE.
- d. Number of CITELE case studies/best practices revised to include focus on women and youth as reported by PCC.I and PCC.II's substantive working groups.
- e. Number of CITELE workshops and seminars with focus on women and youth.
- f. Number of women and youth* from the Americas region participating in conferences of the ITU.
- g. Number of women in leadership roles from the Americas region within working groups and conferences of the ITU.

Work Plan (2023-2026):

2023:

- a. PCC.I: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCC.I Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country and engagement of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion and gender equality of WGPR;
- b. PCC.II: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCCII Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country;
- c. To engage with NOW4ITU-R to organize a preparatory session for WRC-23;
- d. To engage on further capacity building and/or mentoring activities related to gender/youth perspectives;
- e. To start coordination with Secretariat and Americas Chapter of NOW4ITU-R, WISE and NOW4ITU-D to supervise the development of content to the special website on gender/youth issues at CITELE webpage, according to Decision PCC. I/DEC. 338 (XLII -23);
- f. To report to annual COM/CITELE session on activities carried out and available data performance indicators;

2024:

- a. PCC.I: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCC.I Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country and engagement of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion and gender equality of WGPR;
- b. PCC.II: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCC.II Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country;
- c. To engage with WISE to organize preparatory sessions for WTSA-24;
- d. To engage on further capacity building and/or mentoring activities related to gender/youth perspectives;
- e. In accordance with Decision PCC.I/DEC.338 (XLII-23), to encourage and supervise the development of content related to gender/youth issues on the CITELE webpage;
- f. To explore potential opportunities to increase the physical and virtual presence of Youth from the CITELE region at WTDC-25;
- g. To examine opportunities to partner with sector members, member states, the private and non-profit sectors to leverage all available financial resources to help support gender and youth related initiatives.
- h. To report to annual COM/CITELE session on activities carried out and available data performance indicators.

2025:

- a. PCC.I: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCC.I Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country and engagement of the Rapporteurship on broadband, universal access, digital inclusion and gender equality of WGPR;
- b. PCC.II: a special Session on Gender Equality and/or Youth empowerment at least during one PCC.II Meeting in the year, in conjunction with host country;
- c. To engage with NOW4ITU-D to organize preparatory and on-site sessions in the context of the WTDC-25;
- d. To engage on further capacity building and/or mentoring activities related to gender/youth perspectives;
- e. To keep on supervising the development of content to the special website on gender/youth issues at CITEL webpage, according to Decision PCC. I/DEC. 338 (XLII -23);
- f. To report to annual COM/CITEL session on activities carried out and available data performance indicators.

2026:

- a. To prepare a Report on the WG activities during the cycle (2023-2026) to be presented to the 9th CITEL Assembly.