

## ADVOCACY TARGET 5: Achieving gender equality in access to broadband by 2020.

Sex-disaggregated data are not yet available for broadband connectivity. Based on Internet usage data as a proxy indicator, by the end of 2013, however, ITU estimates that some 1.3 billion

Internet users will be women (37% of all women worldwide will be using the Internet), compared with 1.5 billion men online (41% of all men), equivalent to a global Internet gender gap of 200 million fewer women online. The report of the Commission's Working Group on Broadband and Gender, "Doubling Digital Opportunities" (2013), examines the different methods for estimating Internet gender gaps.

This gender gap is more pronounced in the developing world, where 16% fewer women than men use the Internet, compared with only 2% fewer women than men in the developed world (ITU, 2013). Without further action, Intel (2013) forecasts that the Internet gender gap could grow to a total gender gap of 350 million in three years' time. This suggests that, in many countries, women are coming online more slowly and later than men, with serious implications for the ability of women to use the Internet to access information and develop the vital ICT skills needed to participate and work in today's digital economy.