

Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide: bridging the gender gap in Internet and broadband access and use

PROGRESS REPORT

September 2018



BROADBAND COMMISSION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide: bridging the gender gap in Internet and broadband access and use

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This report has been created collaboratively, drawing on contributions and insights from the participants of the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development.

The UN Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide is chaired by Mr Mats Granryd, Director General, GSMA, and is co-chaired by Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). GSMA has coordinated the process of drafting the document.

More information about the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide is available at <http://broadbandcommission.org/workinggroups/Pages/digital-gender-divide.aspx>.

Progress Report

In March 2017, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development's Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide, co-chaired by the GSMA and UNESCO, launched a report that outlines a set of recommendations for action that stakeholders can take to address the gender gap in Internet access and use.¹

The report also includes commitments by members of the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide to take forward some of the recommended actions. This report provides an update on progress against many of the commitments that have been made as well as new commitments to action by members of the Working Group.

Specifically, it sets out an update from Working Group members on actions they have taken against the four groups of recommended actions outlined in the March 2017 "Recommendations for action" report:

- The first group is concerned with the need for stakeholders to gain a better understanding of relevant contexts by supporting the collection, tracking and analysis of sex-disaggregated **data** on Internet access and use.
- The second group is concerned with the integration of gender perspectives in relevant **strategies, policies, plans, and budgets**.
- The third group seeks to address **barriers** related to affordability, threats that hamper access and use, digital literacy and confidence, and the availability of relevant content, applications and services.
- The fourth and final group concerns the need for supporting stakeholders to **collaborate** more effectively in addressing digital gender gaps by sharing good practices and lessons learned.

Figure 1: Recommendation areas



¹ "Recommendations for action: bridging the gender gap in Internet and Broadband access and use", March 2017, <http://broadbandcommission.org/Documents/publications/WorkingGroupDigitalGenderDivide-report2017.pdf>

**Understand
the context:
sex-disaggregated
data on Internet
access and use**

1

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

APC agreed to undertake a global mapping of actors and initiatives on gender and ICT to identify key issues and gaps, which included a focus on access.

The **GSMA**, **A4AI**, the **Web Foundation**, and **APC** agreed to collaborate to develop a common and open set of baseline indicators on the gender digital divide, which they will promote amongst research institutions and government stakeholders.



Update

APC completed the mapping study of research in gender and digital technology taking place in or concerning low- and middle-income countries in the last decade (2006-2017). The expert group meeting brought together 20 researchers working on gender and digital technology in October 2017 in Malaysia. The report is available here: <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/mapping-research-gender-and-digital-technology>.

The study found that gender-focused research with an ICT for development framework has grown into a subfield with many organisations and key actors, though not equally distributed within the global South. The study looks at gender and feminist research in five thematic areas: access, usage and infrastructure; economy and labour; autonomy and embodiment; expression and communication rights; and movement-building online and on ground.

While an increasing number of people are now using the Internet, the lack of comparable and accurate gender-disaggregated data obscures the true extent of the differences in access to, and use of the Internet between men and women. This toolkit has been designed for stakeholders who are interested in integrating gender into their research projects in order to better understand this gender gap in Internet access and use. It provides qualitative and quantitative example questions for a comprehensive range of relevant research topics that can be adapted depending on the country or context. It also offers guidance on how to conduct research involving women as well as a diversity of resources useful for investigating Internet access and use, designing a research project and analysing data. This toolkit is available here: <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/programme/connected-women/a-toolkit-for-researching-womens-internet-access-and-use/>.



Action

ITU agreed to continue to collect and publish gender-disaggregated data on Internet penetration and Internet users, as well as to estimate the digital gender gap in Internet use. This follows efforts of ITU and other Members of the Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development to collect internationally comparable gender-disaggregated ICT statistics.

USAID agreed to publish its gender digital divide survey toolkit, which supports the collection of sub-national disaggregated data. It has also agreed to encourage its field missions to use any standardised metrics and tools that are developed by the Working Group.



Update

ITU continues to collect gender-disaggregated data on Internet users twice a year. New gender ICT statistics, showing gender-disaggregated data for 92 economies, were released on the ITU website in January 2018. The digital gender gap in Internet use was estimated and featured in the 2017 Facts and Figures. The 2017 Facts and Figures show a wider global gender gap in 2017 than in 2013. While the gender gap has narrowed in most regions since 2013, it has widened in Africa.

The toolkit has been published online, and the Digital Inclusion team is tracking use, feedback, and customisation. This toolkit is available here: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/Gender_and_ICT_Toolkit.pdf.

New commitments to action

New commitments to take forward action were also made by Working Group members:

- The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** has committed to include specific gender-related statistics in the new version of the broadband development index for Latin America and the Caribbean. It has also committed to the inclusion of specific gender-related indicators in the measurement of outcomes of digital infrastructure investment projects financed with IDB funds.
- **LIRNEasia, RIA (Research ICT Africa)** and **DIRSI** committed to increase the amount of nationally representative data that would speak to the digital gender divide. As part of their After Access project, LIRNEasia have collected data in Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka); DIRSI has collected data in Latin America (Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Guatemala); and RIA has collected data in Africa (Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania). They have committed to make this survey data publicly available.

**Integrate
a gender
perspective
in strategies,
policies,
plans and
budgets**

2

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

A4AI and the **Web Foundation** agreed to develop a gender-responsive ICT policy curriculum to train policymakers across regions in key policy areas to address the digital gender gap.

The **GSMA** agreed to take forward the Working Group's recommendations for government stakeholders by developing them into a practical training course for government officials and regulators. This course will help participants develop a plan to implement the Working Group's recommended policy/regulatory actions in their respective countries.

ITU agreed to work closely with its Member States to measure and promote progress towards ITU's Connect 2020 Agenda, and specifically Goal 2, which is concerned with bridging the digital divide and providing broadband for all, and Target 2.5.A, which sets a target that "Gender equality among Internet users should be reached by 2020". The assessment of progress towards this target is and will continue to be done through the ITU performance management system, using data from the annual ITU's Measuring the Information Society Report.



Update

The first set of four training modules were developed and piloted at the Regional Conference for Francophone Africa on Gender Mainstreaming in ICT Policies and Programmes (<https://webfoundation.org/tic-femmes-senegal/>). The modules are being updated, and the complete curriculum and supporting materials will be available on the Web Foundation Women's Rights Online initiative webpage by the end of October 2018.

The development of this course has been completed, and it was successfully piloted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum in Geneva in June 2017. It has subsequently been delivered free of charge as an online and one-day face to face training course for policymakers on an ongoing basis. It is being rolled out through the GSMA's Capacity Building partner network and on GSMA's online portal for remote learning (www.gsmatraining.com).

ITU continues to measure and promote "Gender equality among Internet users" within the framework of the Connect 2020 Agenda and the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Union (Target 2.5.A). Regular reports are provided through the ITU Measuring the Information Society Report and the ITU Annual Progress Report (www.itu.int/en/annual-report-2016).

In addition, ITU will continue to work closely with its Member States, throughout the process of elaboration of the new ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023, in order to review and, if needed, update the targets related to the Digital Gender Gap, taking into account also the related targets of the SDG framework.

**Action**

ITU agreed to strengthen the reporting and monitoring of gender equality within the ITU with the support of the ITU Gender Dashboard, a reporting and monitoring tool that supports analysis processes. The tool aims to ensure that gender equality is included in the future development of ITU's strategy, policies and budgets by gathering data including ICT connectivity indicators disaggregated by gender. It has also agreed to continue to support the ITU Women in Standardisation Expert Group (WISE) to further encourage the inclusion of a gender perspective in the work of all ITU-T activities and groups, as well as to expand the Network of Women for the World Radiocommunication Conference (NOW4WRC) to group women's participation and contribution to those events.

Though Resolution 70, **ITU** to accord high priority to the incorporation of gender policies in the management, staffing and operation of ITU, so that ITU can become a leading organisation in the implementation of gender-equality values and principles to take advantage of the possibilities offered by ICTs to empower both men and women.

USAID agreed to release and share its gender digital divide staff training module, which supports the integration of gender into policies and sharing of good practices and lessons.

**Update**

The ITU Gender Dashboard has been implemented and is available online at: www.itu.int/genderdashboard - providing information on a) the participation of women in the ITU conferences, meetings and events, b) statistical data on the current status of the global digital gender gap, as well as on the participation of women in the technology sector, and c) gender-disaggregated data for the human resources of the organisation.

The Network of Women for the WRC-19 initiative was launched in December 2016 and aims to build capacity for World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and encourage a larger participation of women as delegates, chairs, vice-chairs, etc., at the conference. This is ongoing and the third mentorship programme cycle started in February 2018. In alignment with ITU-T Resolution 55, the Standardisation Bureau (TSB) continues to encourage active participation of women in all its meetings and events under the umbrella of the Women in Standardisation Expert Group (WISE).

ITU's Council endorsed an action plan for implementing gender equality and mainstreaming in 2018. The plan is aligned to the United Nations system-wide action plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-SWAP) and the UN system-wide Gender Parity Strategy. ITU reports annually to UN-SWAP and to the Council.

The staff training module is now complete and available here: <https://www.panoplydigital.com/gender-and-ict-online-course/>.



Action

VEON agreed to integrate a gender perspective into a number of its plans and programmes, particularly those related to financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

UN Women supports intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (HLP WEE), to reflect the inclusion of women and girls in the digital revolution in their recommendations for Member States and other stakeholders on the formulation of policies, norms and global standards.



Update

Banglalink (VEON's subsidiary in Bangladesh) has partnered with the civic and social organisation iSocial (Infolady Social Enterprise Ltd.) to facilitate women's entrepreneurship across the country. The collaboration will empower underprivileged rural women to become agents, selling airtime and SIMs, and act as intermediaries for its Money Order Service that facilitates remittances. The initiative was taken considering the vital role of women's entrepreneurship in developing the rural economy of the country.

UN Women supports intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) where it serves as the Secretariat. In its Sixty-second Session (CSW 62) the agreed conclusions reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to close the gender digital divide and reflect the inclusion of women and girls in the digital revolution in its recommendations (<http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/62/outcome/csw62-agreed-conclusions-advanced-unedited-version-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3837>).

The UN Women team contributed weekly inputs to the Gender Equality Advisory Council's recommendations. The full set of recommendations are available in "Make Gender Inequality History: Recommendations from the Gender Equality Council for Canada's G7 Presidency" that fed into the Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, including its visions, commitments and declarations. UN Women was represented by the Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (<https://g7.gc.ca/en/g7-presidency/gender-equality-advisory-council/recommendations/>).

Address the barriers

3

3a: Affordable access

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

APC's Global Information Society Watch 2017 will be focused on community access networks, which will include a gender perspective. This edition is expected to contain 60 country reports and five thematic reports on various aspects of access and development and will be published during IGF 2017.

APC is developing a local connectivity access project, with research and advocacy components, that will include a gender perspective to understand barriers, opportunities and best practices to foster the growth of new models for the provision of local access which address affordability and coverage barriers.



Update

Work on the Community Networks edition of the Global Information Society Watch has begun. APC received 60 proposals for country-level chapters which are being reviewed. Proposals with a focus on gender in the context of community networks will be prioritised. A thematic chapter on infrastructure and gender will also be included in the edition. The GIS Watch Community Networks edition will be launched at IGF 2018.

Leading up to the launch of this edition, five monthly columns on gender and community networks and a special coverage of the GIS Watch edition will be produced on GenderIT.org from April to November 2018.

APC's local access project is conducting case studies of community networks with an emphasis on gender and social impacts. In this research, APC will profile women's participation and barriers thereof in 6 community networks. Visits in India, Argentina and Mexico have been completed.

Through this project, APC is working on creating a favourable regulatory environment for community networks that is gender-responsive at the national, regional and international level through workshops and submissions at WTDC, IGF and WSIS.

The project is creating synergies among diverse stakeholders, with a focus on organisations promoting the participation of women in technology, building capacity for the emergence of more community networks, as well as for established ones to be more sustainable. To this end, the project is assisting deployments of community cellular networks in Brazil and Colombia.



Action

The **GSMA** has made a commitment to help take forward some of the recommended actions specified above by supporting the Connected Women Commitment Initiative. This initiative enables mobile operators to drive an effort to reduce the gender gap in mobile Internet and mobile money by making formal commitments to increase the proportion of women in their mobile Internet and/or mobile money customer base by 2020.



Update

Through the Connected Women Commitment initiative, mobile operators are making formal commitments to reduce the gender gap in their mobile money or mobile Internet customer base by 2020. To date, 31 mobile operators have made 51 formal commitments to reduce the gender gap in their mobile money and/or mobile Internet customer base across Africa, Asia and Latin America, driving an effort to accelerate digital and financial inclusion for women. Through this initiative mobile operators have reached millions of women, acquiring over 12 million new female mobile Internet or mobile money customers since making their commitment. Through this initiative and others, the Connected Women programme and its mobile operator partners have delivered life-enhancing services to more than 27 million women.

New commitments to action

New commitments to take forward action were also made by Working Group members:

- **APC** has committed to commissioning and reviewing articles on access and gender from a feminist perspective, including experiments in local community networks and feminist infrastructure.

3b: Threats that prevent access and use

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

ITU agreed to continue its ongoing work on child online protection as guided by the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG COP), which includes the protection of girls and young women online.



Update

Following the last meeting of the CWG COP, members agreed:

- To have an online repository of country efforts.
- To provide guidance and ideas on how to improve the number of responses from young people.
- To involve different stakeholders at the meetings as this is a unique platform for information sharing and lessons learned.

National workshops to define strategies and policies on child online protection have been organised during the year.



In addition, **USAID** reported that they have launched the WomenConnected Challenge, a 1 million dollar effort to address the cultural contexts and social norms that continue to keep hundreds

of millions of women and girls offline. The awardees will be announced in fall 2018. See <https://www.usaid.gov/wcc> for awardee information when posted.

3c: Digital literacy and confidence

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:

 Action	 Update
<p>ITU has a range of initiatives which include a focus on digital skills and digital literacy which it supports, including its forthcoming Digital Skills for the Digital Economy toolkit to support Member States and Sector Members with assessment, design and implementation of national digital skills strategies and the International Girls in ICT Day campaign, as well as its GEM-TECH Awards, an annual special achievement award for outstanding performers and role models in gender equality and mainstreaming in the area of ICTs.</p>	<p>The Digital Skills for the Digital Economy toolkit is under development.</p> <p>Since 2011, over 300,000 girls and young women have taken part in more than 9,000 celebrations of International Girls in ICT Day in 166 countries worldwide. In 2017 alone, over 2,100 Girls in ICT Day events have been organised in 134 countries worldwide, involving over 71,000 girls and young women. The ITU Girls in ICT Portal received 487,000 page views in the first half of 2017. This compares to a total of 383,552 page views in 2016. #GirlsinICT reached over 63 million Twitter accounts in the first half of 2017. In 2018 the International Girls in ICT was observed on 26th April.</p> <p>The Nomination phase for the 2018 EQUALS in Tech Awards (formerly GEM-TECH awards) opened in March 2018. The Awards celebrate innovative projects and initiatives in four categories: access, skills and leadership and for the first time, research.</p>
<p>UNESCO has launched the MIL Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) for young girls and boys to empower them with necessary competence in media and information literacy (MIL), currently available in English and Arabic. UNESCO agrees to support capacity building for youth organisations to integrate MIL in the policy and operation of their strategy, irrespective of their mandate. This includes youth organisations involved in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.</p>	<p>UNESCO supported an initiative supporting community media operators to launch Internet-based radios across the country, with overall targets of youth, gender, and community.</p> <p>MIL Curriculum and MIL Assessment Framework were implemented in six countries. Co-financing with the EU-funded Net-Med youth project allowed UNESCO to further support MIL through informal working groups in Morocco and Tunisia.</p>
<p>Through its YouthMobile initiative, UNESCO aims to encourage young people to fully participate in the digital world by developing their skills and confidence to develop mobile applications that address local issues of sustainable development. It pays particular attention to the gender gap in the access to the Internet and ICTs by developing specific projects in partnership with existing local or global relevant initiatives.</p>	<p>YouthMobile supported the UNESCO IFAP (Information for All Programme) project "Girls can code", launched in January 2018 in Ghana by H.E. the First Lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo, targeting more than 300 students.</p> <p>In Nigeria, 150 girls graduated in March 2018 after an eight-month training programme from the UNESCO-FCTA YouthMobile project, supported by the Federal Capital Territory Administration of Abuja.</p>



Action

Commissioner **Speranza Ndege** agreed to prepare an instrument and administer it to sample female students in her University. She also committed to interviewing female staff (both teaching and non-teaching) to analyse the data, and to share the findings.

Nokia is taking action to advance the gender case, and contribute to reducing the gender gap in ICT. This includes supporting NGOs that work on empowering women and girls with the skills to participate and join the connected world, and those programmes which attract women and develop their careers in the ICT business and STEM.



Update

A research instrument was developed and administered to 90 students at Kenyatta University, studying ICT related subjects and subjects in Social Sciences. The study targeted both female and male students. The instrument was divided into two sections. Section A had questions on ICT and empowerment and was applied to both female and male students. Section B was gender specific (women and girls) and covered issues of technical competence and ICT, women empowerment in ICT and the role of the Government in empowering women and girls. The collection of data is completed and results are currently being analysed. Interviews of teaching and non-teaching staff are currently taking place. The findings will be shared at the International Annual Conference in the School of Education to be held on 4th-5th October 2018 at Kenyatta University. This year's Conference theme is "Educational Reforms and Technological Advancement: Enhancing Teacher Education, Training and Competence-based Learning."

Nokia and greenlight for girls (g4g) are working together globally to help inspire young women in science. They have launched at Nokia headquarters in Espoo, Finland as well as in Tampere, Oulu, Paris and other cities worldwide. These activities have included 1800+ girls in 2017. The aim is to engage participants aged 11-15 from local schools, with a minimum of 20% from less advantaged communities, with hands-on science and technology workshops and activities run by role-model professionals.

Nokia is also taking actions to increase the proportion of women in leadership roles by 25% in 2020 (baseline 2016), and to increase the share of women in the total employee population, within the same timeframe. Nokia established the Gender Balance Steering Board led by Barry French, Nokia's Chief Marketing Officer, to drive a holistic action plan for gender diversity at Nokia, starting with awareness. Since the beginning of 2016, over 4,300 leaders and managers were trained on gender balance topics. Nokia continues to invest in the growth of StrongHer, an employee network to promote and enable gender balance. Currently, the global network has 2,600+ members, including 24% men, with chapters in 60+ countries worldwide.

**Action**

UN Women commits to supporting specific initiatives at the country level that focus on closing the gender digital divide. This includes leveraging technology to address digital literacy and skills through UN Women's digital platforms to leave no one behind.

**Update**

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality has been supporting the Women's Net in South Africa and Uganda (since 2016) in the area of ICT and governance. Women's Net is increasing the capacity of women in South Africa and Uganda to discuss, analyse, respond to and influence Internet governance more effectively and in support of women's rights agenda. Over 200 young activists have gained the skills needed to overcome the digital divide across gender, socioeconomic status, race and generations. These skills range from setting up an e-mail account to using social media as advocacy and information tools to create and manage campaigns. The trainings also addressed challenges and risks related to ICT, prioritising safety and privacy concerns. Over 450 women also participated in 11 local dialogues to devise strategies for a "feminist Internet" and to use ICTs for feminist movement building. The dialogues drew from an interactive two-week social media campaign of the same topics that actively engaged more than 1,400 Internet users and reached 19,500. Evidence-based policy briefs developed helped articulate an agenda to advocate for the inclusion of the voices and needs of women and minorities such as LGBTBIQ in the implementation of new Internet-related procedures.

In addition, the **World Bank Group** reported that they have produced a report on strategies for recruiting and retaining women in coding bootcamps.

See: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/682341531982131260/Women-wavemakers-practical-strategies-for-recruiting-and-retaining-women-in-coding-bootcamps>.

3d: Relevant content, applications, and services

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

VEON agreed to increase the availability of relevant apps including by making its pregnancy app available in more of its markets, and continuing the development of its mobile literacy programme in Pakistan by collaborating with more development partners in the country.



Update

Banglalink (VEON's subsidiary in Bangladesh) has set a minimum limit of 30% women entrepreneurs to receive training, mentorship and guidance in its local start-up incubator centre.

In addition, the **World Bank Group** reported that the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice's Digital Entrepreneurship Programme supports the growth of competitive mobile applications industries in emerging and frontier markets. The programme is scaling Mobile Application Labs (mLabs) which are regional incubation facilities for mobile software entrepreneurs.

Throughout all activities, the mLabs are paying particular attention to increasing female participation in its activities. infoDev is also increasing the capacity of enablers to reach and serve women entrepreneurs. The team has developed targeted tools and interventions aimed at accelerating women entrepreneurs, such as training content to build the capacity of accelerators to better reach and serve women.

**Work
together and
share good
practice and
lessons**

4

Update on existing proposed actions

The following progress has been reported by Working Group members against actions being taken in this area:



Action

Stakeholders are working together through the **Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide (EQUALS)** which is a global multi-stakeholder initiative to track and scale up initiatives and programmes to ensure that women and girls are equal participants in the digital technology revolution. Achieving equal access to digital technologies is a key action area of this partnership.

APC is coordinating the IGF Gender Best Practice Forum's (BPF) work on integrating a gender perspective into multi-stakeholder discussions on access.

Through a grant from the Swedish Government, the **World Bank Group** is developing a toolkit on best practices to mainstream Gender in ICT project design. The toolkit will look at best practices, and policies to be embedded in future WBG projects so the resulting ICT investments contribute to women's abilities to use technology for socioeconomic empowerment.

The **ITU** will undertake further research and collect evidence on the gender and ICTs and SDG5-relevant references in the ICTs and Broadband policies worldwide.



Update

Launched in 2016, EQUALS was co-founded by UN Women, ITU, the United Nations University, ITC and the GSMA to bring together private sector representatives, government officials, academic institutions, civil society organisations and others to facilitate collaboration to address the gender digital divide. Through the EQUALS partnership, organisations are having greater reach and impact by participating in one or more Coalitions on ICT Access, Skills and Leadership and a Research group focused on improving data and promoting evidence-based solutions. More than 60 partners have joined EQUALS to engage in collective action to bring women and girls to tech and tech to women and girls.

To effectively address the issue EQUALS partners have launched the EQUALS Commitments (<https://www.equalso.org/commitments>). In addition, at the EQUALS Principals Meeting in September 2018, the different Coalitions will present their deliverables on Access, Skills and Leadership, and the Research Group will present a high-level summary report.

This report is currently being produced based on research and inputs from various organisations. The report, which takes into account intersectionality and a feminist perspective on issues related to access, will be published in the latter part of 2018.

The Engendering ICT toolkit has been completed and was launched in April 2018.

The policy mapping research project is ongoing by the Broadband Commission Secretariat, ITU and with the support of the pro bono research organisation. The results supported by the report are expected to be released after the Broadband Commission Meeting in New York, September 2018.

**Action**

UNESCO notes that various of its initiatives continue to foster global coordination and collaboration in areas of research, advocacy and visibility. Examples include the Global Alliance for Media and Gender (GAMAG) and the UNITWIN Network for Gender, Media and ICTs. UNESCO also agrees to emphasise inter-sectoral and inter-agency work in line with UNESCO's priorities; particularly in implementing gender equality, media and information literacy, and youth-related activities.

UN Women commits to continued collaboration with civil society, the private sector and partners to raise awareness, advocate for action, and assess progress towards closing the gender digital divide.

**Update**

UNESCO supported Project Gender and Media, which seeks to strengthen the IPDC-GAMAG partnership for gender transformative media development. UNESCO further promoted these resources through networking at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018.

UNITWIN Network applied Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) in 10 universities around the world, with multiple other universities now in the application process. The Caribbean Broadcasting Union held workshops for executives of its members on the implementation of GSIM.

The Women's Empowerment Principles were created by UN Women and the Global Compact in 2010 as the guiding platform for the private sector companies, including those in the digital sectors, to take intentional actions and make deliberate policies to promote gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. Through the work with EQUALS UN Women expects to make connections with tech companies so that they embrace the WEPs and create an inclusive workplace and market place for women in the tech sector (<http://www.weprinciples.org/>).

UN Women, the Web Foundation, and the Alliance for Affordable Internet released in March at the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women the report on Universal Service and Access Funds: An Untapped Resource to Close the Gender Digital Divide. The research calls on governments to invest at least 50 per cent of funds collected for expanding connectivity in projects targeting women's Internet access and use and is available here: <https://webfoundation.org/research/closing-gender-digital-divide-in-africa/>.

In 2016, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) initiated a collaboration between Wikimedia, Empower Women, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and a group of volunteers, and launched "HerStory: The Movement of writing a feminist version of history" to enhance and increase the content on Wikipedia related to women and gender equality. HerStory uses ICT to facilitate crowdsourced knowledge production and collaboration





Action



Update

between volunteers by building the technical capacity of women to be able to document the stories and contribution of women and produce the foundational knowledge needed for the personal and career development of millions of women and girls.

The African Union Commission (AUC), UN Women Ethiopia, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) launched the African Girls Can CODE Initiative (AGCCI). The project will run from 2018-2022 and is designed to expose and equip young girls with digital literacy, coding and personal development skills. The four-year programme will train young girls to become programmers, creators and designers, placing them on track to take up educations and careers in ICT and coding (<http://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/08/media-advisory-for-agcci-2018>).

Over 55 volunteer students, recent graduates and gender experts worked on narrowing the gender gap on Wikipedia in Macedonian language through the WikiGap initiative, organised by the Swedish Embassy in the FYR Macedonia, UN Women Skopje office and the local branch of Wikipedia – Shared Knowledge in Skopje. Their work resulted in developing 103 new articles on women and gender equality issues that made a significant mark in the country (<http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/06/wikigap-initiative-in-skopje-brings-great-success-in-raising-awareness-for-gender-equality>).

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