

Bridging the gender digital divide through policy action

Kick-off for the Network of Women Digital Ministers & Launch of Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in Digital Policy

8 MARCH 2023

VENUE: UN HEADQUARTERS
CONFERENCE ROOM 4, GA BUILDING
NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

TIME: 3:00-4:15 PM

AGENDA

BACKGROUND

The next two years will be crucial in shaping an open, free, and secure digital future for all through the Global Digital Compact. To be truly inclusive, a human-centric and gender-transformative approach is imperative. Although the gender digital divide persists, with 69 per cent of all men are using the Internet compared with 63 per cent of all women (ITU, 2022), gender perspectives remain largely absent from the policymaking process: the current digital policy environment is mostly gender-blind and women are underrepresented in decision-making processes. High-level female leadership in policymaking has the potential to influence the entire digital ecosystem and make economic and socio-political opportunities accessible to everyone.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

In the spirit of the CSW67 priority theme, Germany and the ITU join forces to bridge the gender digital divide. In the side event, panellists and participants will explore **how gender-inclusive digital policy can change (digital) development outcomes**, what is needed to do so and particularly, what role female leadership in the digital sector can and should play. Germany and the ITU will kick off the **Network of Women Digital Ministers**, which is to be a platform for exchange and joint advocacy to enhance the representation, participation, and leadership of women in global policymaking processes in the digital sector seeking to promote more inclusive digital policies and to set standards for an accessible, safe, and gender-equal digital transformation. Moreover, ITU and EIF will launch the forthcoming **Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in Digital Policies**.

PROGRAM

Introduction & Welcome

- Ms. **Svenja Schulze**, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Ms. **Doreen-Bogdan Martin**, Secretary General, ITU

Panel Discussion: Policy Action for Gender-Equal Sustainable Development

- Ms. **Petra de Sutter**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Public Enterprises, Telecommunication and the Postal Services, Belgium
- Ms. **Dilia Leticia Jorge Mera**, Vice-Minister of Innovation, Transparency and Attention to Citizens, Dominican Republic
- Ms. **Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad**, Minister for Social Development and Family, Qatar
- Ms. **Krista Jones Baptista**, Executive Director, Data2X
- Ms. **Jamille Bigio**, Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, USAID
- Ms. **Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke**, Founder and Managing Partner of W4 Women's World Wide Web (moderation)

N.B: The participation of further digital ministers and vice-ministers has been requested and is to be confirmed.

Launch of the ITU Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in Digital Policy

- Mr. **Dr Cosmas Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau, ITU
- Ms. **Annette Ssemuwemba**, Deputy Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework

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