



Norwegian Ministry
of Culture and Equality



telenor
group



Side-event at CSW67

Organized by The Government of Norway, The Government of Malawi, Telenor Group and Plan International

How do we combine private and public sector strengths to secure digital access and skills for all adolescent girls?

The Government of Norway, the Government of Malawi, Telenor Group and Plan International invite to a panel discussion during CSW67. The conversation will revolve around good practices of addressing the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls in accessing and gaining the required skills for a digital future.

Adolescent girls are facing barriers due to their age, gender and other characteristics preventing them from safely accessing, using and designing digital technology. Girls and women are, on average, less likely than boys and men to own a mobile phone, use mobile data, or use social media apps. There is also a stark gender disparity in Internet access, which limits the ability of girls to access information, participate in public life, and benefit from many opportunities that the digital era offers.

The digital gender divide begins in the early stages of life. It continues through education and employment, leading to digital exclusion of girls, adolescent girls and women in increasingly digitized economies and societies. We cannot achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 unless girls and women have equal access and ability to use technology. It is also problematic that a lot of technology reinforces societal structures, that functions are biased against them and does not meet their needs.

Massive efforts have been made by both public and private sectors to advance people's access to skills and opportunities for a digital future. Are these efforts equipping all adolescent girls with access and skills and contributing to closing the digital gender divide? We are currently risking that a whole generation of girls and women are unable to reap the benefits of technology. Stakeholders that take these challenges head on and optimize technological development and innovation, and at the same time ensure that no one is left behind, will be critical. How can partnerships ensure that policies and initiatives for a digital future prioritizes access and skills for all adolescent girls?

Overall goal of the side-event

Establish a cross-sectoral dialogue during CSW67 and discuss good practices from public, private and civil society partnerships that, in different contexts, address barriers vulnerable adolescent girls and women face in accessing and obtaining digital skills.

Key objectives

1. To present concrete examples of how the different stakeholders, through public and private investments, have been able to deliver concrete, substantial and sustainable results in securing access and providing digital skills for all adolescent girls.
2. To outline the case for public, private and civil society partnerships to address the digital gender gap, thereby contributing to reach SDG5 and fulfilment of the principle of “leaving no one behind”.
3. To hear what adolescent girls themselves ask from governments, media companies and the tech industry.

Panellists

1. Hon Jean Muonaowauza Sendeza, Malawi Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
2. Anette Trettebergstuen, Norwegian Minister of Culture and Equality
3. Marcus Adaktusson, Senior Vice-President Public Affairs and Sustainability, Telenor Group
4. Hiqmat, She Leads UN Youth Advocate
5. Frankie Solberg Rød, Norwegian Youth Delegate on Equality to CSW67

Moderated by: Kari Helene Partapuoli, CEO Plan International Norway and Phoebe Kasoga, CEO Plan International Malawi

Logistics

- Date: Thursday 9 March
- Time: 6.30 - 7.45 pm EST
- Location: UNHQ – Conference Room A (CR-A)
- [Registration](#)
- RSVP by 8 March 2023