



American Model United Nations
World Summit on the Information Society +10

WSIS+10/I/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Bridging digital divides

SUBMITTED TO: The World Summit on the Information Society +10

The World Summit on the Information Society +10,

1 *Recognizing* that ending the gender digital divide is in line with the achievement of Sustainable Development
2 Goal (SDG) 5, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

3 *Believing* more needs to be done in particular to ensure that poor and marginalized communities in all
4 countries are not left behind in the goal of bridging the digital divide,

5 *Further recognizing* that inclusion is a matter not just of connectivity, but also of affordability and the
6 development of content and capabilities, as indicated by the General Assembly Economic and Social Council 2016
7 Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow up to the outcomes of the
8 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) at the regional and international levels,

9 *Deeply Concerned* that the International Telecommunication Union data indicated that the proportion of
10 women worldwide who are online is 40.8%, compared with 45.9% of men,

11 1. *Recommends* increased collaboration between micro loan providers, including microfinance institutions,
12 banking groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on women empowerment and entrepreneurship
13 in Information Communication Technology (ICT) that:

14 (a) Encourage women to apply for loans and training through NGOs such as Aspire Mentoring
15 Women's Network to create businesses, obtain technology to run these businesses and use the internet to promote
16 and connect their businesses with the global economy;

17 (b) Implement information centers and cybercafes in schools and community centers to encourage
18 increased ICT access in remote areas that are;

19 (i) Run by women;

20 (ii) Arranged with consideration of special constraints to access that are faced by women, by of-
21 fering flexible hours, locational convenience or transportation, i.e. offering before or after school
22 opportunities with bussing options;

23 (c) Develop partnerships with academic institutions and community organizations to;

24 (i) Encourage female participation education continuation past the primary level;

25 (ii) Work to increase the recruitment and retention of women in Science Technology Engineering
26 and Math fields;

27 2. *Emphasizes* the implementation of the Engendering ICT toolkit, designed by the World Bank as an
28 online guide for general distribution to researchers, educators and development practitioners, which includes relevant
29 checklists, evaluation tools, examples of good practices and general resources that can be used to incorporate gender
30 into ICT projects and project components which:

31 (a) Adds to the Engendering ICT toolkit programs to promote technology literacy that are;

32 (i) Modeled after the Changing Lives in Central America Literacy Program, which yielded a 97.2%
33 literacy rate in participating schools;

34 (ii) Available for use by staff at libraries, schools and community centers;

35 (b) Promotes incorporation of technology in learning for students at all levels of education;

36 3. *Suggests* that the United Nations Women (UN Women), which supports United Nations Member States
37 as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works to coordinate and promote the United Nations
38 systems work, commit to gender inclusivity in ICT by ensuring the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up
39 to the outcome resolutions of WSIS+10 in 2015 that will:

40 (a) Recommend that experts advocate gender equality to be involved in the oversight of ICT imple-
41 mentation efforts in governments, civil society organizations and regional and international organizations;

42 (b) Implement the WSIS+10 Action Lines, part of the Geneva Plan of Action agreed to at the first
43 WSIS Summit in 2003, which identifies areas of activity relating to the role of ICT in enabling the SDGs, with special
44 consideration of gender inclusion barriers.

Passed, Yes: 64 / No: 16 / Abstain: 15