

Outcome Document

GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN OUR DIGITAL FUTURE: A NEW GENDER DEAL FOR WSIS+20

Conveners: World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) &
Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG)

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<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/301>

We advocate for a New Gender Deal for WSIS+20:

- a. Calling on all relevant actors – the UN system, governments, media and digital communication companies, and civil society movements - to support the inclusion of a new gender deal in the digital ecosystem.
- b. Interrogating existing norms and reinforces mechanisms to strengthen gender equality within the technology sector.
- c. Implementing actions designed to respond to urgent identified needs, such as:
 - i. ensuring universal and safe access of women and girls to the digital ecosystem;
 - ii. promoting regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms at national, regional and international levels;
 - iii. implementing frameworks for algorithmic transparency, incorporating methods such as third-party audits;
 - iv. promoting digital literacy programmes with a gender component;
 - v. encouraging efforts by women’s organisations in using digital media and online spaces to amplify their stories;
 - vi. ensuring safe conditions for women journalists and human rights defenders; and,
 - vii. tackling online and offline gender-based harassment and violence against women and girls, gagging clauses and consequent immunity from the law.
- d. Urging the international community to recognise the centrality of these issues in achieving gender equality in the 21st century.

We have recognized the following challenges:

- Marginalisation of women’s rights activists from digital governance spaces
- Solutions tend to be contextual at best while they should be systemic as well. For example, rather than address TFGBV against an individual, address the chilling effects.
- There seems to be no ability to act on digital injustices.
- There is as well no ability to scrutinize data agreements, particularly so in global majority nations that are recipients of what comes from the global north.
- Policy experiments happen without regard for national laws.
- There is a lack of recognition of misogyny in all its forms and intensity.

Our recommendations for the revision of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) are as follows:

- The GDC should include provisions that **recognize and address misogyny**
- It should include a **standalone specific gender goal** to prioritize women's and girls' rights to live free from violence and benefit equally from technology.
- It should provide for the establishment of a **gender equality committee** to integrate gender perspectives into digital policies, consisting of experts in gender, digital rights, cybersecurity, and representatives from women's organizations and survivors of digital violence.
- It should require **mandatory gender impact assessments** for all digital policies and initiatives to anticipate and mitigate negative impacts on women and girls.
- It should require **gender parity in decision-making** bodies related to digital technologies to ensure diverse perspectives and equitable outcomes.
- It should require **comprehensive online safety standards that prioritize the safety of women and girls**, including robust mechanisms for reporting and swiftly removing harmful content in order to transform norms.
- It should require **international collaboration and data sharing** given that TFGBV transcends borders:
- It should require provision of **safety services, psychological support and legal aid** to TFGBV survivors.
- It should ensure **investment in education and awareness campaigns** that promote digital literacy, respectful online behaviour, respect and consent.
- It should **hold rights bearers accountable for violating human rights in ALL jurisdictions**.



We recommend that the following thematic issues be included in the WSIS Forum 2025:

- Building an Information Society founded on feminist principles of equity, equality, inclusion, fairness and justice.
- Tackling online misogyny and tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)
- Transforming gender norms in the online space to enable respect for women’s digital rights, including the right to participate in all aspects of tech ecosystems.