



International Taskforce on Women and ICTs

What is the International Taskforce on Women and Information and Communication Technologies?

Our vision is an information society for sustainable global development that fosters the potential for success of all its members. The overarching goal is to ensure women's full participation in this inclusive information society as leaders and creators, as well as users of ICT.

To these ends, the International Taskforce on Women and ICTs (ITF) was launched in November 2006 to create synergy in international work to increase women's participation in ICTs. Guided by the principles in the Declaration of Agreement (<http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/Declaration.html>) that serve as its foundation, the ITF promotes communication and information exchange, including the sharing of research, knowledge, and resources. The ITF has developed and will continue to develop collaborative activities and recommendations for policy and programming. Within the context and culture of the communities in which the members live and work, the future focus will energize action on policy, research, collaboration, communication, dissemination, and resource development. The ITF also works to encourage exchange and collaboration among groups from developed and developing countries.

In order to ensure that the participation of women in education and employment in ICT and engineering globally is measurably and significantly increased within five years, the ITF has identified four outcomes for women and girls that will shape its activity to 2011. These are:

- √ Increased access to ICT globally through formal and non-formal education and training;
- √ Improved technological literacy and expertise;
- √ Participation in the use, development, and design of ICT hardware, software, and content, including as entrepreneurs; and
- √ Increased presence and leadership at all levels and in all aspects of ICT, e.g. policy and decision making, regulation, program development, and the workforce.

The leadership of the ITF includes representatives of 46 national and international organizations from 23 countries, including UN organizations, multi-national corporations, international and local grassroots NGOs, Aid agencies, and others. Over 80 organizations representing six continents and 43 countries are members of the ITF and support its work.

What does the ITF do?

The promotion, support, or active engagement in project activity in the three areas listed below is a shared element of the organizational mission of all ITF members.

Through the work of the ITF, activities in these areas will be enhanced, expanded, and developed to achieve shared goals:

- √ Promoting women's ICT-enabled micro, small, and medium enterprises;
- √ Establishing baseline data and then tracking gender trends with regard to the use of ICTs for formal and non-formal education;
- √ Promoting gender-fair educational practices through and for the creative use of ICT;
- √ Promoting the representation of women in the ICT workforce.

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What has the ITF Achieved Since July 2005?

- Leadership of the Gender Stakeholder Network for the UN GAID.
- Cooperation through the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women in Science and Technology in Latin America with the Unit of Information Society of ECLAC.
- Coordination of gender mainstreaming of GK3, the international conference held by the Global Knowledge Partnership and co-sponsored by UN GAID, in collaboration with the GKP Gender Cluster.
- Startup of discussions between key stakeholders toward the creation of a European Center for Women and ICTs as one of the Regional Centers under a Global Institute.
- The creation of groups of young women volunteers in Science and Technology in Georgia for involving girls in ICT.
- The development of a Women in Technology organization for several of the Pacific Islands.
- The creation of a seventh standing committee for women and technology for the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) and its 92 country, 8 million member constituency, which was the result of an ITF-chaired WFEO conference in Tunisia in June 2007.
- Resulting from the input of the ITF, recognition by selected representatives of the World Bank of the need to attend to gender mainstreaming in their ICT programs.
- The creation of Women in Computer Science organization as part of the Brazilian Computing Association.
- The creation of the women and technology group under the Women's Leadership Network that supports APEC.
- A report on women and ICT in the Pacific Islands from Fiji.
- Cooperation through WIGSAT with Orbicom on development of a national measurement framework that can be implemented to ensure global gender equality for the knowledge society.
- An Action Plan in Latin America aimed at promoting awareness and cooperation of researchers, policy makers, and activists on the strategic use of ICT for gender equality and human development.
- An expanding focus on gender and ICTs in India through increased communication and awareness of groups currently in this space.

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