



Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi  
MINISTRE DE LA COMMUNICATION, DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS,  
DES POSTES ET DE L'ECONOMIE NUMERIQUE



## DAKAR DECLARATION

*Recalling* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women in 1995, which identified and anticipated the importance of emerging global technology and communications platforms as critical spaces for women's equal participation and inclusion, and which included a strategic objective to “increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication”;

*Recalling* the Preamble to the WSIS+10 Statement on implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), reaffirming the importance of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women's empowerment, guaranteeing the inclusion of women in the emerging global ICT society, including the mandate of UN Women;

*Recalling* the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, notably Article 2 concerning the elimination of discrimination against women and the need to integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities, and in all other spheres of life, as well as Article 9 Right to Participation in the Political and Decision-Making Process, and Article 12, Right to Education and Training, which underlines the need to promote education and training for women at all levels and in all disciplines, particularly in the fields of science and technology;

*Recalling* the Open Data Charter, notably Principles 3 (Accessible and Usable), 5 (*For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement*) and 6 (*For Inclusive Development and Innovation*), governments should raise awareness of open data, promote data literacy, build capacity for effective use of open data, and ensure citizen, community, and civil society and private sector representatives have the tools and resources they need to effectively understand how public resources are used; encourage the use of open data to develop innovative, evidence-based policy solutions that benefit all members of society, as well as empower marginalised communities; and create or support programmes and initiatives that foster the development or co-creation of datasets, visualisations, applications, and other tools based on open data;

*Recalling* the African Platform on Access to Information Declaration of 2011;



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*Recalling* Resolution 70 of the ITU (Rev. Busan, 2014) - Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies;

Recalling the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equal Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the Community Region:

*Recalling* that in 2013, the Broadband Commission endorsed an advocacy target, calling for gender equality in access to broadband by 2020;

*Recalling* that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its 57<sup>th</sup> session, in 2013, adopted agreed conclusions that highlighted emerging issues, such as the role of information, communication and technology and social media;

*Recalling* SDG 5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, specifically the targets to 1) enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women, and 2) adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels;

*Recalling* the Accra Summit Action Plan adopted in Accra on the occasion of the Africa Summit on Women and Girls in Technology;

*Recalling* the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms endorsed by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in October 2016 in Banjul, Gambia, notably Article 13 with regards to gender equality, underlining that to help ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of gender, women and men should have equal access to learn about, define, access, use and shape the internet. Efforts to increase access should therefore recognise and redress existing gender inequalities, including women's under-representation in decision-making roles, especially in internet governance;

*Considering* recommendations made in the March 2017 report by the Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide and *Recommendations for Action: Bridging the Gender Gap in Internet and Broadband Access and Use* by the UN Broadband Working Group on the Digital Gender Divide;

*Anticipating* the Sixty-Second session of the Commission on the Status of Women Review Theme will be participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women and the agreed conclusions of the 47<sup>th</sup> session;



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## Call on Francophone African Governments, Private Sector, Media, Civil Society, and International Organisations to:

- 1) **Integrate and promote gender perspectives in the development of public policy** through the integration of gender equality targets and key performance indicators into strategies, policies, plans and budgets, with a specific focus on ensuring policy dialogue at the grassroots level between public policy decision-makers, media and civil society, particularly women and youth. This must entail synergies between all ministries and government agencies, for effective gender mainstreaming.
- 2) **Address the barriers women face in both access, use, and production of local content on the internet** that impede gender equality online, and promote:
  - a. unlimited and unfettered access to affordable internet;
  - b. women's safety and digital rights online, as well as the use of ICTs to ensure women are involved in the fight against online harassment, trolling, and bullying, violation of privacy, radicalisation and violent extremism;
  - c. digital equality, literacy and skills, and confidence, through the promotion of multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships to promote digital citizenship, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship;
  - d. availability of relevant and localised content, applications, and services developed by and for women and girls;
  - e. mobilisation of and dialogue with communities working already on gender data-driven initiatives, and work to minimise duplication of efforts while maximising the scalability of interventions.
- 3) **Support concrete multi-stakeholder cooperation, with a focus on the Francophone Africa region, through** the development of tools and policies to support local, national and international efforts; effective sharing of best practices and methodologies to address the digital gender gap, as well as the development of sustainable and scalable initiatives, working with grassroots and international organisations of women and girls, public policy decision-makers, the private sector, and innovators and entrepreneurs, to ensure the expansion and scaling of successful initiatives and best practices. Consider the implementation of periodic convenings to foster knowledge exchange and accountability of governments.
- 4) **Commit to and advocate for the collection and analysis of gender-based data.** Secure resources to enable gender data collection and dissemination to monitor



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progress on digital equality. This data must be open to all to see, open licensed, and machine-readable; open gender data is essential in encouraging regional accountability and enabling transnational knowledge exchange.

- 5) **Advocate for appropriate financial investment** from international, regional, sub-regional, national, and local funding mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the aforementioned policies and programmes developed to promote gender equality in the online sphere and ICT sector in Francophone Africa.
- 6) **Accelerate the adoption, consolidation and implementation of requisite legislation, such as Right to Information laws** and rights-based cybersecurity laws, integration of cyber security and mobilisation on the dangers of ICTs in gender policies and programmes.

Dakar, 27 September 2017