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| Subject: | Proposal for new Resolution: Promoting ICTs to young women and men for social and economic empowerment |

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| **Summary:** As a follow up to discussions held at the RPM, Poland would like to further the debate on promoting ICTs to young women and men for social and economic empowerment |
| **Proposal:**  |
| For adoption. |
| **Background:**  |
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**Introduction**

The Republic of Poland strongly believes that Information and Communications Technologies (ITCs) are a key tool in overcoming, current dire financial situation within many member states. ICTs is an engine for growth, efficiency and productivity increase. The digital economy represents 3% of GDP in Latin America, 5% in EU 27, 6% in USA and 7% in Japan. As a result, Poland considers that ICTs by empowering especially endangered groups like the youth, could help in overcoming the financial crisis and mass unemployment of the young generations.

The draft resolution was already discussed during the Regional Preparatory Meeting in Belgrade (26-28 November 2013), where its ideas were incorporated into document: Priority Areas for Europe Regional Initiatives of which the fourth priority area is called: Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Youth. This priority has an objective to foster creation of an enabling environment and building capacities at the regional level aiming at growth of entrepreneurship, increase of innovation in the ICT ecosystem, while encouraging empowerment of the young men and women and creation for them new opportunities in the ICT sector.

This Polish contribution is a draft presented with a view to become an European Common Position for WTDC 2014.

RESOLUTION XX (WTDC, 2014)

**Promoting ICTs to young women and men for social and economic empowerment**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14),

*Noting:*

*a)* Resolution 70 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which call for promoting and increasing the interest of, and opportunities for, women and girls in ICT careers during elementary, secondary and higher education […] to encourage girls to choose a career in the field of ICT and foster the use of ICTs for the social and economic empowerment of women and girls;

*b)* The Tunis Commitment of the WSIS 2005 reaffirming Member States commitment to empowering young people as key contributors to building an inclusive Information Society to actively engaging youth in innovative ICT-based development programmes and widen opportunities for youth to be involved in e-strategy processes;

*d)* The WTDC-10 Resolution 38 on Youth Development of the Youth Forum in the Telecommunication Development Bureau

 e) The Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Initiative signed by BDT and Telecentre.org Foundation in Connect Americas 2012;

*f)* The BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, held in Costa Rica in September 2013 leaded by ITU gets together some 700 participants and over 3000 young people around the world who logged in virtually to contribute their ideas to shape the sustainable development agenda in the post-2015 era;

g) World youth set priorities for post-2015 development agenda in their “Costa Rica Declaration” as outcome of the Global Youth Summit, has been presented for consideration to the UN General Assembly at its sixty-eight session;

*h)* That the UN Secretary General put “youth” as a priority in his Agenda and included though the System Wide Action Plan on Youth, the youth employment, entrepreneurship and education as overall goals.

*Recognizing:*

1. That youth are digital natives, and best promoters of ICTs and the world force for progress;
2. That information and communication technologies (ICTs) are tools through which both young women and men can substantively contribute, participate, leverage their social and economic development;

*Considering:*

*a)* the progress made by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in promoting gender equality, in the development and implementation of projects that target youth and young women and are gender sensitive, as well as in increasing the awareness of the career development for young girls in ICTs and related fields within the Union and among Member States and Sector Members;

*b)* the results achieved within the framework of Resolution 70 rev PP-10 (Guadalajara) , by promoting the International Girls in ICT Day from 2011 to 2013, in which over 70,000 girls and young women in over 120 countries made aware of the job opportunities in the ICT sector with the support of BDT;

*c)* ICTs play an important role in the promotion of education, career development, work opportunities, as well as for social and economic development of young women and men;

*d)* that the ITU engaged though the Global Youth Summit a worldwide of community to gather their opinions and ideas on how technology can contribute to a better world and shape the post-2015 development agenda;

*e)* That the BDT plays a substantive role thorough its activities towards youth empowerment and involvement in the decision making processes related to the ICT for development related issues.

*Resolves:*

1 that the ITU-D taking into account the above considerations shall continue to support the development of activities, projects and events aiming at promoting ICT applications to young women and men, in particular in area of employment, entrepreneurship, education and thus, will contribute to youth educational, social and economic development and empowerment;

2 that the established ITU-D’ objective on Digital Inclusion will continue to support the work promoting ICTs to young women and men.

*Instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1. to seek appropriate means to integrate youth issues into the activities of the BDT;
2. to ensure that the necessary resources, within budgetary limits, are allocated to these related activities;
3. to promote ICTs for young women and men and their social and economic development and empowerment.

*Invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to assist Member States:*

1 to promote ICT for the social and economic development and empowerment of young women and men;

2 to provide concrete advice, in the form of guidelines to integrate young women and men in the Information Society;

3 to establish partnerships with Sector Members, in order to develop and/or support specific ICT projects that target young women and men in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

4. to include youth component in the BDT activities aiming at raising awareness of the challenges that youth are facing in ICT area, and calling for implementation of concrete solution.

5. to promoteICT friendly frameworks in education and career for youth without gender discrimination and thus, encourage young girls and women to be part of ICT sector.

*Encourages the Member States*

1. to share the best practices on national approaches targeting the use of ICT for young women and men social and economic development;
2. to develop national strategies for using ICT as a tool for educational, social and economic development of young women and men;
3. to promote ICT for youth empowerment and involvement in the decision making processes of the ICT sector;
4. to support ITU-D activities in field of ICT for social and economic development of young women and men.

*Requests the Secretary-General*

1. to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (2014) with a view to releasing appropriate resources,within the budgetary limitsfor the corresponding activities and functions,
2. to bring this resolution to the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General in an effort to promote increased coordination and cooperation for development policies, programmes and projects that link ICTs to the promotion and empowerment of young women and men.

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