

Women's Political Participation and ICTs:
Existing Indicators, Frameworks and Measurements

INTERNET AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AS ENABLERS OF OTHER RIGHTS		
SOURCE/PUBLISHER	GOAL/TARGET	INDICATOR/ADDITIONAL NOTES
<p>Millennium Development Goals (2000)</p> <p>United Nations General Assembly: Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Farida Shaheed : The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its</p>	<p>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development: Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p> <p>Recommendations : 74. The Special Rapporteur recommends that: (a) States ensure that innovations essential for a life with dignity reach everyone and identify the priority needs of marginalized populations, including through consultative processes, direct funding and the facilitation of targeted research by public and private sector institutions; --(c) States ensure freedom of access to the Internet, promote open access to scientific knowledge and information on the Internet, and take measures to enhance access to computers and Internet connectivity, including by appropriate Internet governance that</p>	<p>8.14 Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants 8.15 Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants 8.16 Internet users per 100 inhabitants</p>

<p>applications (2012)</p>	<p>supports the right of everyone to have access to and use information and communication technologies in self-determined and empowering ways;</p>	
<p>OECD: The Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy (2008)</p>	<p>We share a vision that the Internet Economy, which covers the full range of our economic, social and cultural activities supported by the Internet and related information and communications technologies (ICT), will strengthen our capacity to improve the quality of life for all our citizens by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- - Enabling new forms of civic engagement and participation that promote diversity of opinions and enhance transparency, accountability, privacy and trust.	
<p>OECD Council Recommendation on Principles for Internet Policy Making: Communique on principles for internet policy-making (2011)</p>	<p>In the context of this High-Level Meeting, we, the representatives of OECD Members, Egypt and of stakeholders including the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), and the Internet Technical Community (ITAC), agreed on a number of basic principles for Internet policy making as an important step in ensuring that the Internet remains open and dynamic. We recognised that the Internet allows people to give voice to their democratic aspirations, and any policy-making associated with it must promote openness and be grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law.</p>	
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom</p>	<p>21. By explicitly providing that everyone has the right to express him or herself through any media, the Special Rapporteur underscores that article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenant was drafted with foresight to include and to accommodate future technological developments through which individuals can exercise their right to freedom</p>	

of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue* (A/HRC/17/27 ; May 2011)

of expression. Hence, the framework of international human rights law remains relevant today and equally applicable to new communication technologies such as the Internet.

22. The right to freedom of opinion and expression is as much a fundamental right on its own accord as it is an “enabler” of other rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to education and the right to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, as well as civil and political rights, such as the rights to freedom of association and assembly. Thus, by acting as a catalyst for individuals to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Internet also facilitates the realization of a range of other human rights.

67. Unlike any other medium, the Internet enables individuals to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds instantaneously and inexpensively across national borders. By vastly expanding the capacity of individuals to enjoy their right to freedom of opinion and expression, which is an “enabler” of other human rights, the Internet boosts economic, social and political development, and contributes to the progress of humankind as a whole. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur encourages other Special Procedures mandate holders to engage on the issue of the Internet with respect to their particular mandates.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution: The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet (July 2012)

85. Given that the Internet has become an indispensable tool for realizing a range of human rights, combating inequality, and accelerating development and human progress, ensuring universal access to the Internet should be a priority for all States. Each State should thus develop a concrete and effective policy, in consultation with individuals from all sections of society, including the private sector and relevant Government ministries, to make the Internet widely available, accessible and affordable to all segments of population.

The Human Rights Council, Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, –

1. Affirms that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression, which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice, in accordance with articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
2. Recognizes the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;
3. Calls upon all States to promote and facilitate access to the Internet and international cooperation aimed at the development of media and information and communications facilities in all countries;
4. Encourages special procedures to take these issues into account within their existing mandates, as applicable;
5. Decides to continue its consideration of the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, on the Internet and in other technologies, as well as of how the Internet can be

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression - Frank La Rue (A/66/290 ; August 2011)

an important tool for development and for exercising human rights, in accordance with its programme of work.

14. The Special Rapporteur reiterates that the framework of international human rights law, in particular the provisions relating to the right to freedom of expression, continues to remain relevant and applicable to the Internet. Indeed, by explicitly providing that everyone has the right to freedom of expression through any media of choice, regardless of frontiers, articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were drafted with the foresight to include and accommodate future technological developments through which individuals may exercise this right. –

42. Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur stresses that, as stipulated in Human Rights Council resolution 12/16 (para. 5 (p) (i)), the following types of expression should never be subject to restrictions: discussion of government policies and political debate; reporting on human rights, government activities and corruption in government; engaging in election campaigns, peaceful demonstrations or political activities, including for peace or democracy; and expression of opinion and dissent, religion or belief, including by persons belonging to minorities or vulnerable groups.

45. In addition to the availability of relevant content online which is free of censorship, the Special Rapporteur also notes the importance of ensuring that

individuals possess the necessary skills to make full use of the Internet, or what is often referred to as “digital literacy”. The Special Rapporteur encourages States to provide support for training in information and communications technology (ICT) skills, which can range from basic computer skills to creating web pages. In terms of the right to freedom of expression, course modules should not only clarify the benefits of accessing information online, but also of responsibly contributing information, which can also contribute to combating the third type of expression mentioned above.

48. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur calls upon States to empower marginalized groups by ensuring that they receive effective digital literacy training. As the Special Rapporteur has noted in his previous reports, it is critical to strengthen the voice of those without power, especially people living in extreme poverty. Having access to the Internet allows people who are disadvantaged, discriminated against or marginalized to obtain information, assert their rights and participate in the public debate concerning social and political changes. Furthermore, the Internet allows minorities and indigenous peoples to express and reproduce their cultures, language and traditions, preserving their heritage and making a valuable contribution to others in a truly multicultural world. However, basic ICT skills are essential if users are to benefit from the full potential of the Internet.

G8 Declaration:
Renewed Commitment

5. For citizens, the Internet is a unique information and education resource and thus can be a helpful tool to promote freedom, democracy and human

for Freedom and Democracy (2011):
Section II: Internet

rights –

11. The Internet has become the public arena for our time, a lever of economic development and an instrument for political liberty and emancipation. Freedom of opinion, expression, information, assembly and association must be safeguarded on the Internet as elsewhere. Arbitrary or indiscriminate censorship or restrictions on access to the Internet are inconsistent with States' international obligations and are clearly unacceptable. Furthermore, they impede economic and social growth. –

13. We commit to encourage the use of the Internet as a tool to advance human rights and democratic participation throughout the world.

Council of Europe:
Declaration on Freedom of Communication on the Internet (2003)

Principle 4: Removal of barriers to the participation of individuals in the information society:

Member states should foster and encourage access for all to Internet communication and information services on a non-discriminatory basis at an affordable price. Furthermore, the active participation of the public, for example by setting up and running individual websites, should not be subject to any licensing or other requirements having a similar effect.

WOMEN AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES		
SOURCE/PUBLISHER	GOAL/TARGET	INDICATOR/ADDITIONAL NOTES
Beijing Platform for Action: Paragraph 237 (1995)	Women should be empowered by enhancing their skills, knowledge and access to information technology. This will strengthen their ability to combat negative portrayals of women internationally and to challenge instances of abuse of the power of an increasingly important industry. Self-regulatory mechanisms for the media need to be created and strengthened and approaches developed to eliminate gender-biased programming. Most women, especially in developing countries, are not able to access effectively the expanding electronic information highways and therefore cannot establish networks that will provide them with alternative sources of information. Women therefore need to be involved in decision-making regarding the development of the new technologies in order to participate fully in their growth and impact.	
World Summit on the Information Society: Geneva Declaration, Paragraph 12 (2003)	We affirm that development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis on equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to	

	that end.	
World Summit on the Information Society, Second Phase, Tunis Commitment, Paragraph 23 (2005)	We recognize that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divide in society and we reaffirm our commitment to women's empowerment and to a gender equality perspective, so that we can overcome this divide. We further acknowledge that the full participation of women in the Information Society is necessary to ensure the inclusiveness and respect for human rights within the Information Society. We encourage all stakeholders to support women's participation in decision-making processes and to contribute to shaping all spheres of the Information Society at international, regional and national levels.	
World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Plan of Action: Section C6 (2003)	Enabling Environment: I) Governments, in collaboration with stakeholders, are encouraged to formulate conducive ICT policies that foster entrepreneurship, innovation and investment, and with particular reference to the promotion of participation by women.	
Beijing Platform for Action: Strategic objective J.1. (1995)	Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication; Actions to be taken 239. By Governments: --(c) Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research; --(e) Encourage, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, these bodies to increase the number of programmes for and by women to see to it that women's needs and concerns are properly addressed; (f) Encourage and recognize women's media networks, including electronic	

	<p>networks and other new technologies of communication, as a means for the dissemination of information and the exchange of views, including at the international level, and support women's groups active in all media work and systems of communications to that end;</p> <p>241. By Governments, as appropriate, or national machinery for the advancement (a) Encourage the development of educational and training programmes for women in order to produce information for the mass media, including funding of experimental efforts, and the use of the new technologies of communication, cybernetics space and satellite, whether public or private; (b) Encourage the use of communication systems, including new technologies, as a means of strengthening women's participation in democratic processes;</p>	
<p>European Commission: Digital Agenda for Europe: A Europe 2020 Initiative (2010)</p>	<p>Action 60: Increase participation of women in the ICT workforce</p>	<p>What will the Commission do ?</p> <p>Provide young women with the opportunity to experience the ICT world through the same web 2.0 tools they use in their everyday social life.</p> <p>In 2011</p> <p>Encourage IT companies to</p>

		<p>organise internship programmes specifically tailored to young women and continue with the Shadowing Day exercise aimed at showing young people how an IT job looks like (http://ec.europa.eu/itgirls)</p> <p>In 2012</p> <p>Launch a Web 2.0 platform for girls containing teaching packages, specifically tailored and based on tools such as blogs, wikis, fora, social networks, tags, podcasts, videocasts etc</p> <p>Launch a longitudinal study on the impact of the Shadowing exercise</p> <p>Collect relevant statistics on</p>
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		<p>women in ICT</p> <p>Launch programmes for on-line retraining of women returners</p>
<p>Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression - Frank La Rue (A/66/290 ; August 2011)</p>	<p>3. Internet access and gender dimension</p> <p>58. The Special Rapporteur underlines the importance of equal and effective access to the Internet for women, which can play a key role in promoting their empowerment. Indeed, as highlighted in the latest report by the Broadband Commission, the Internet promotes empowerment by connecting women to a wide range of resources, for example to improve health, bolster education, allow for informed decisions and pursue economic opportunities.³¹ In this regard, there is an ongoing research project in India, which focuses on how ICT, such as mobile phone services, can facilitate women's entrepreneurship in the country, and also seeks to identify factors which enhance the ability of technology to transform women's economic experiences.</p> <p>59. The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, evolving from the Millennium Villages project, is an example of "e-education" initiatives which also help promote \ girls' education. This initiative has launched a global campaign to promote universal and equality Internet access in secondary education in developing countries, with an emphasis on girls' education. ICT skills will be used to enhance the quality of education and to connect</p>	

	<p>schoolchildren worldwide.</p> <p>60. The Special Rapporteur encourages further research on concrete initiatives around the world and on how ICT can help women to further improve their skills and knowledge, in particular in the employment sphere as well as citizen participation.</p>	
<p>United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/210: Women in Development (A/RES/54/210 ; 2000)</p>	<p>The General Assembly: –</p> <p>6. Urges all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;</p> <p>8. Requests Governments to ensure that the priorities of women are included in, and that women fully participate in, decisions on public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, technology, water supply and sanitation, electrification and energy conservation, transport and road construction and to promote the greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project planning and implementation stages to ensure their access to jobs and contracts;</p> <p>9. Stresses the need for assistance to enable women in developing countries, particularly grass-roots women's groups, to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;</p>	

<p>United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/135: Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/RES/54/135 , 2000)</p>	<p>The General Assembly: - - 2. Invites Member States, in collaboration with United Nations organizations and civil society, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including their five-year reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia: - - (b) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exists, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;</p>	
<p>WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION</p>		
<p>SOURCE/PUBLISHER</p>	<p>GOAL/TARGET</p>	<p>INDICATOR/ADDITIONAL NOTES</p>
<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)</p>	<p>Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive</p>	

	<p>and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.</p> <p>Article 20.</p> <p>(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.</p> <p>(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.</p> <p>Article 21.</p> <p>(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.</p> <p>(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.</p> <p>(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.</p>	
<p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)</p>	<p>Article 3</p> <p>States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.</p>	

	<p>Article 7 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; b. To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; c. To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country. <p>Article 8 States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.</p>	
<p>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)</p>	<p>Article 3 The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant.</p> <p>Article 25</p>	

	<p>Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:</p> <p>(a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;</p> <p>(b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;</p> <p>(c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.</p>	
<p>Beijing Platform For Action (1995) – Section G: Women in Power and Decision Making</p>	<p>Strategic objective G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making</p> <p>Strategic objective G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership</p>	
<p>Beijing Platform for Action: Strategic objective J.1. (1995)</p>	<p>Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication; Actions to be taken 239. By Governments: --(c) Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research; --(e) Encourage, to the extent consistent</p>	

	<p>with freedom of expression, these bodies to increase the number of programmes for and by women to see to it that women's needs and concerns are properly addressed;</p> <p>(f) Encourage and recognize women's media networks, including electronic networks and other new technologies of communication, as a means for the dissemination of information and the exchange of views, including at the international level, and support women's groups active in all media work and systems of communications to that end;</p> <p>241. By Governments, as appropriate, or national machinery for the advancement (a) Encourage the development of educational and training programmes for women in order to produce information for the mass media, including funding of experimental efforts, and the use of the new technologies of communication, cybernetics space and satellite, whether public or private; (b) Encourage the use of communication systems, including new technologies, as a means of strengthening women's participation in democratic processes;</p>	
<p>The Millennium Development Goals (2000)</p>	<p>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</p>	<p>Indicator 3.3 :Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</p>
<p>United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/210: Women in</p>	<p>The General Assembly: - - 12. Requests Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation at all levels so</p>	

Development (A/RES/54/210 ; 2000)	that their priorities, skills and potentials can be adequately reflected in national policy;	
United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/135: Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/RES/54/135 , 2000)	<p>The General Assembly: - -</p> <p>2. Invites Member States, in collaboration with United Nations organizations and civil society, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, including their five-year reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia: - -</p> <p>(e) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women by supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including in rural institutions;</p>	
Commission on the Status of Women, 47 th Session: Participation and Access of Women to the Media, and Information and Communications Technologies, and their	Establish or, where they already exist, expand skills training, vocational and employment training and capacity-building programmes for women and girls, and women's non-governmental organizations, on the use, design and production of ICT, including to prepare them to take on leadership roles and to promote their participation in the political process, and integrate a gender perspective in ICT training programmes for teachers and in the training programmes for media professionals;	

Impact on and use as an Instrument for the Advancement and Empowerment of Women (2003)		
Millennium Development Goals (2000)	Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Commission on the Status of Women, 47 th Session: Participation 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: Agreed Conclusions: Section J	Establish or, where they already exist, expand skills training, vocational and employment training and capacity-building programmes for women and girls, and women's nongovernmental organizations, on the use, design and production of ICT, including to prepare them to take on leadership roles and to promote their participation in the political process, and integrate a gender perspective in ICT training programmes for teachers and in the training programmes for media professionals;	

(2003)		
World Summit on the Information Society, Second Phase, Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, Paragraph 90 (2005)	d) implementing effective training and education, particularly in ICT science and technology, that motivates and promotes participation and active involvement of girls and women in the decision-making process of building the Information Society.	
United Nations Security Council: Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General (September 2010) (Indicators for the Implementation of Resolution 1325)	Operational gender-responsive systems in place to monitor, report and respond on violations of women's and girls' rights during conflict, ceasefires, peace negotiations and after conflict	Number and percentage share of women in governance bodies of national human right bodies
United Nations Security Council: Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General (September 2010) (Indicators for the Implementation of	Provisions addressing the specific needs and issues of women and girls are included in early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms and their implementation is monitored	Number and percentage share of women in executive positions of relevant regional and subregional organizations involved in preventing conflict

Resolution 1325)		
United Nations Security Council: Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General (September 2010) (Indicators for the Implementation of Resolution 1325)	Increased representation and meaningful participation of women in national and local governance, as citizens, elected officials and decision makers	Women's political participation in parliaments and ministerial positions (Women's share of seats in parliament; ministerial positions)
United Nations Security Council: Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General (September 2010) (Indicators for the Implementation of Resolution 1325)	Increased representation and meaningful participation of women in national and local governance, as citizens, elected officials and decision makers	Women's political participation as voters and candidates (Women's share of persons registered to vote; persons who actually vote; and parliamentary candidates)