

COLLABORATION REQUEST BETWEEN CITEL AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE USE OF ICT'S AS TOOLS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY TO PREVENT AND ERRADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The XXVI Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications/Information and Communications Technology (PCC.I),

CONSIDERING:

- a) The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by United Nations (UN), specifically the following: i) Promote gender equality and women empowerment and, ii) Encourage a global partnership for development; goals that manage to reflect in the international system as a world in equal terms and more opportunities for everyone;
- b) The provisions of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (convention of Belem do Para), particularly the rights of women to a life free of violence;
- c) The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Human Rights of Women and Gender Equity and Equality (PIA), which calls on States to promote gender equity and equality and human rights by strengthening and fostering the rights of all women to a life free of any form of violence, and to eliminate cultural patterns or stereotypes that denigrate the image of women, including materials disseminated through the media;
- d) That the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) was the first intergovernmental organization of the Organization of American States (OAS), created to ensure the recognition of human rights of women, and one of its main functions is to advice the OAS in every issue related to women's rights and gender equality;
- e) Resolution 55 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) points out the inclusion of a gender policy in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and combines efforts to eradicate the inequalities in the access to telecommunications/ICTs and their use for the benefit of an information society free of discrimination and inequalities;
- f) Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), "Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies", that states the encouragement of gender equality in Telecommunications/ICTs, recommended the adoption of policies and programs aimed at enhancing social and economic conditions for women;
- g) Resolution 201 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU related to "Creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of information and communication technology applications", in which it is recognized that the use of telecommunications/ICT can enhance competitiveness and productivity, increase the efficiency and benefits of every aspect in everyday life, as

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well as inquiries with relevant organizations within the sector and other actors, in order to explore new ways of cooperation to boost the expansion and use of cyber applications,

RECOGNIZING:

- a) That violence against girls and women is an offense against human dignity and a violation of human rights, which undermines the development of countries, creates instability in societies, and impedes progress toward justice and peace;
- b) That women worldwide, are victims of different types of violence, notwithstanding their social and economic situation;
- c) That ICTs are tools of great value to inform and allow women (children, teenagers and adults) to know their rights and be able to realize if they suffer any type of violence;
- d) That technologies play a double role, on one hand mobile phones or Internet (social networks) can contribute to the protection of women, offering communication links, assisting and informing to other women, providing ways of documenting violent actions, which are being subject of, and on the other hand, technologies have also enabled new forms of violence against women, such as cyber violence and cyber harassment;
- e) That ICT are instruments that can contribute to foster gender equality and women empowerment, as well as tools to eradicate violence against women, allowing them to enjoy the rights and principles relating to security, equality, freedom, integrity and dignity provided in Human Rights;
- f) That is of vital importance to make actions and solid commitments in order to protect the rights of women and children to a dignified life and free of violence and discrimination; as well as search for conducive mechanisms for protection and access to justice;
- g) The urge to generate regional gender indicators that reveal the tendencies of the sector and impact on the use of telecommunications/ICT as tools to encourage gender equality and contribute to the eradication of violence against women and to build evidence of the forms and incidence of harassment and violence against women and girls perpetrated through ICTs,

RESOLVES:

- 1. To request the Executive Secretary of CITEI to strengthen the current collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and establish active coordination with it to address solutions to themes related to the visibilization, prevention and eradication of violence against women in an effective manner through the positive use of the information and communication technologies (ICTs).
- 2. To strengthen CITEI's "Program for Inclusion of Women and Girls in ICT" by updating a roadmap for the development of projects, the necessary human and financial resources, and the commitment of the Administrations and other regional and international institutions to empower women through ICTs.
- 3. To request that the Executive Secretariat of the CIM, especially through the work of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará and its Committee of Experts, identify concrete ways to visibilize the forms and incidence of harassment and violence against women and girls perpetrated through ICTs.

4. To establish an Ad hoc Group presided by the Mexican Administration, with a vice-chair from the Administration of the Dominican Republic, and made up of the Member States of CITEI that want to be part of it, with the main objective of looking for the implementation of ICTs as tools for the empowerment of women, particularly the prevention and eradication of violence against women; specifically through applied investigation, shared experiences, identification of best practices, conduction of seminars and workshops, development of policies, online courses, and generation of gender indicators.

5. To conduct annually an award ceremony, within the framework of PCC.I, that acknowledges the best contributions and leadership examples of the use of technologies to contribute to the prevention and eradication of violence against women. The terms will be proposed by the Ad hoc Group.

ANNEX TO THE RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 243 (XXVI-15)

Description of the Ad Hoc Group

1. Objective

Identify, find, and promote the application of ICTs as tools for the empowerment of women, particularly in the prevention and eradication of violence against women; specifically, through applied research, sharing experiences, identification of best practices, organization of seminars and workshops, development of work programs, development of policies, online courses, and development of content and applications (apps); and generation of gender indicators.

2. Terms of Reference

a. To establish coordination mechanisms between CITEI and CIM.

b. To identify concrete ways of identifying and giving visibility to the manifestations and incidence of harassment and violence against women perpetrated through ICTs;

c. To update a roadmap for the development of projects, human and financial resources, and the commitment of the Administrations and other regional and international institutions with the empowerment of women through ICTs, contributing to the strengthening of CITEI's "Program for the Inclusion of Women and Girls in ICTs".

d. To draw up the terms to award the best initiative on the topic of using ICTs to contribute to the prevention and eradication of violence against women.

e. To organize the awards ceremony within the framework of PCC.I, recognizing the best contributions and examples of leadership with respect to the use of technologies to contribute to the prevention and eradication of violence against women.

3. Duration: 2 years