

Webinar - Women in ICT Standardization, 3rd edition

7 March 2024

Network of Women Telecommunication Standardization Sector



Dr. Rim Belhassine Cherif

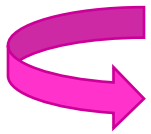
Chair, NoW in ITU-T

Vice-Chair, ITU SG13 – Chair, ITU SG13RG-AFR

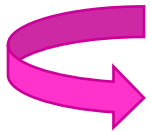
Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer, Tunisie Telecom

Introduction

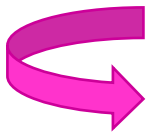
- ICT Standardization aims to establish a **reliable, sustainable, and inclusive** digital environment **but** women are not currently as well-served by standards as men
- Statistics show that **few women participate in the ICT standards development processes** which can aggravate the lack of gender-responsiveness in ICT standards



Why are women **underrepresented** in the ICT standards development process ?



Why should the **participation of women** in the ICT standards development process be strengthened?



What are the **main activities** of **ITU** to promote gender equality in ICT standardization?

Why are Women underrepresented in the ICT standards development process ?

Standardization organizations have traditionally been **male-dominated environments**

Limited access to quality STEM education and to the required qualifications and skills to participate in the standardization process

Lack of representation in ICT fields leading to the lack of diverse perspectives and experiences in the development of standards

Persistent stereotypes and biases about **gender roles and abilities in technical fields**

Underrepresentation of women in **leadership positions** and **decision-making roles**

Limited access to **professional networks** and **mentorship** opportunities

Why should the participation of women in the ICT standards development process be strengthened?



To ensure that standards are **inclusive** and meet the needs of all users, regardless of gender

To ensure that the interests and concerns of women are considered in the standards, leading to **fair, equitable and effective** results

To develop **more innovative and creative solutions** that are advantageous to society as a whole

To assist with **identifying and addressing gender bias and discrimination** in products, services, and systems

To **empower women** to assume **leadership positions** and play a role in influencing the direction of technology and society by involving them in governance and decision-making

To advocate for **gender equality in STEM fields**

To enhance women's **professional development** and career opportunities

To **help achieve SDGs** by promoting gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and universal access to technology and infrastructure

What are the main activities of ITU to promote gender equality in ICT standardization?

- ITU's work on gender equality is guided by **PP Resolution 70: Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through telecommunications/ information and communication technologies** + by its **Gender Equality and Mainstreaming policy and action plan**
- **Many initiatives, including:**



THE EQUALS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



ITU/UNESCO BROADBAND COMMISSION



NETWORKS OF WOMEN

Network of Women (NoW) in ITU-T

- ITU-T is very active on ICT standardization with **11 study groups** specialized in **cutting-edge ICT fields** including, quantum technologies, Cybersecurity, Trust, etc.
- The **ITU Women in Standardization Expert Group (WISE)** was created in **February 2016**
- In **late 2022**, the group was rebranded as **NoW in ITU-T** to align with the other ITU Sectors

Main Mission

Enhance the appeal of standardization and telecommunications/ ICTs development for women by providing opportunities for them to:

- showcase their expertise
- actively contribute to the standardization process
- engage in continuous learning
- impart knowledge to others
- foster meaningful connections
- and advance their careers



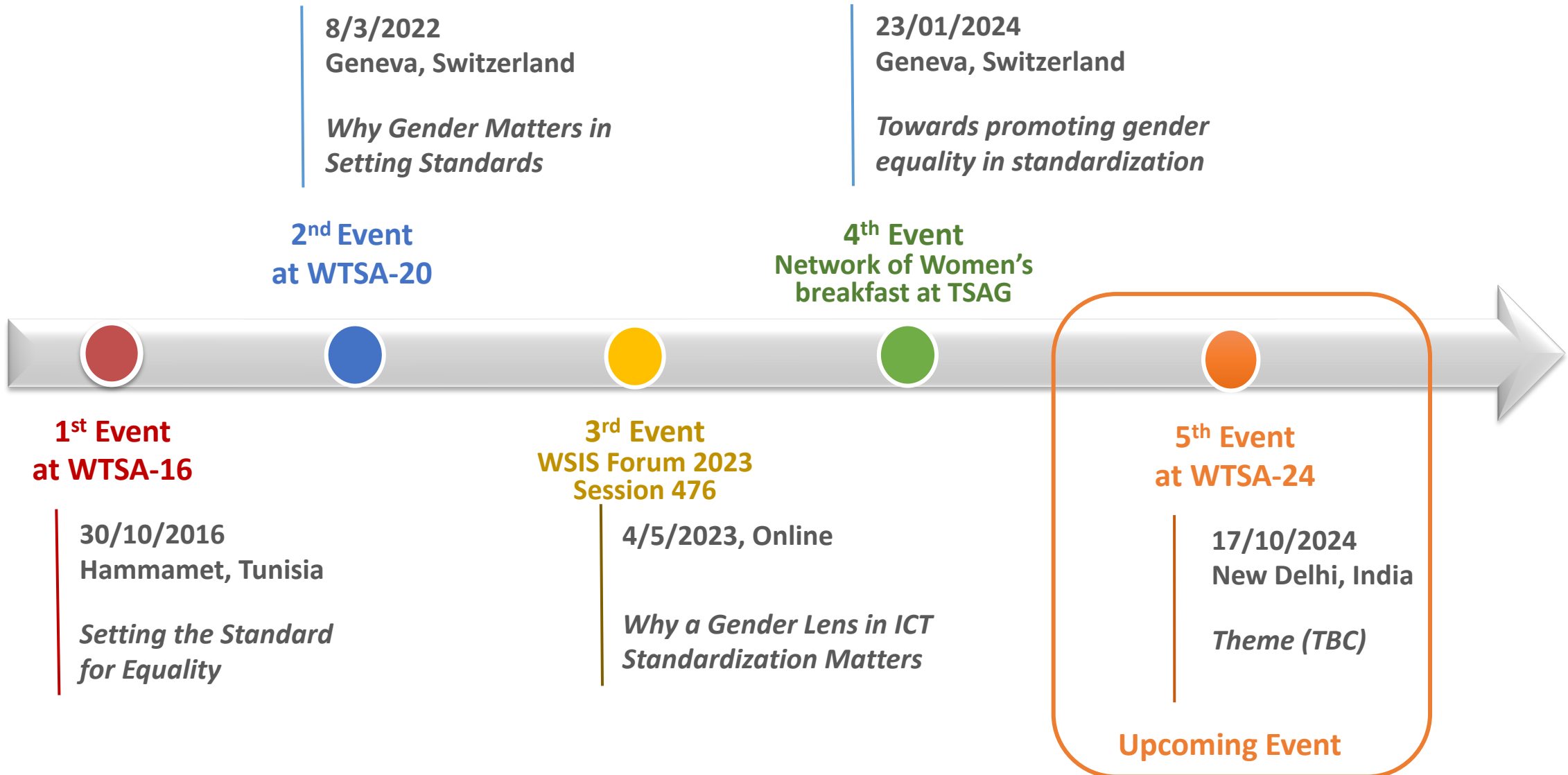
NoW in ITU-T Objectives



- Promoting **women's engagement** in ITU activities, the standardization sector, the WTSA and beyond
- Advocating for women in **leadership positions** + championing their career advancement in the ICT industry and supporting standardization activities
- Hosting special events to empower women through **knowledge exchanges, networking, and tech innovation showcases**
- **Recognizing achievements** + generating resources for women from developing countries, to cultivate diverse leadership talent
- Building a **community** + uplifting young women in the industry through **mentorships** with senior NoW in ITU-T members

- Read the [Terms of Reference](#)
- Visit the Network's [homepage](#)

NoW in ITU-T events



Objectives for WTSA-24

(15-24 October 2024, New Delhi, India)



1

Reach 35% female participation

2

More gender balanced delegations

3

More women as Heads of Delegations

4

More women for key ITU-T leadership positions in next Study Period

Network of Women for WTSA-24

#NOW4WTSA24

www.itu.int/wtsa/2024/NoW/



Priorities & Future Activities



- Develop **trainings** for female delegates attending WTSA-24
- Enhance **collaboration and coordination** with NoW in ITU-D and Now in ITU-R
- Consider setting-up a **mentoring programme**
- **Expanding the Network's outreach to the regions**

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**Network
of Women**
Telecommunication
Standardization Sector



Thank you!

For updates, join our [mailing list \(nowinitut@lists.itu.int\)](mailto:nowinitut@lists.itu.int)

Contact us: NoW-T@itu.int