The Gender Caucus and the WSIS process

Rosario Gracia-Luque
Member of the Steering Committee
www.genderwsis.org

The Gender and the WSIS process

Presentation by the WSIS Gender Caucus in collaboration with the ITU Working Group on Gender Issues (WGGI)

Contents

1. Introduction
2. WSIS and PrepCom 3
3. Assessment key successes and challenges
4. Follow up and partnership

Introduction

1.1 What is the WSIS-GC?

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP

- National government representatives
- Civil society organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- The private sector and
- Members within the United Nations system

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Gender equality & women's rights are integrated into WSIS and its outcome processes

Introduction

1.2 Priority issues

- Capacity building and training, entrepreneurship and women's employment, and women's access to international markets
- Reforming of decision making
- Ensuring that ICTs contribute to the goals of peace, equality and empowerment
- Promoting universal right to communicate

Introduction

1.3 Advocacy strategy

- Gender divides
- Women as actors as well as users
- Convergence of traditional and new ICTs
- Targeted capacity building
- Evaluation and monitoring

Introduction

1.4 Programmes

- Advocacy and lobbying
- Electronic Networking
- Research & materials development
- Capacity building and training
- Summit Events planning
- CS Bureau (Gender Focal Point)
- Regional groups

Introduction

1.5 National Programmes

Tools to:

- Ensure integration of gender perspectives into each Information Society

- Influence the process and include gender perspectives in a substantial way - in our own countries.

- Enable gender equality advocates to create opportunities for themselves and others

- Prepare for international level negotiations through action at the national level

- Help realize the potential of the Information Society nationally

Introduction

1.6 Tool to create a National Gender Programme.

WSIS Gender Caucus Sourcebook

Contents:

1. Putting Together a Team
2. Setting Goals and Developing a Plan
3. Fundraising
4. Connecting with Your Government
5. Holding a National Workshop
6. Developing a Gender Declaration
7. Participation on and Collaboration with Government Delegations
8. Communicating Effectively
9. Connecting with the Global Process
10. Using the Summit to Grow the National Information Society

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.1. Gender Caucus Team

Steering Committee members

- Eva Rathgeber (University of Otawa/Carleton University)
- Gillian Goddard (Caribbean Foundation for Human Development)
- Gillian Marcelle (Technology for Development)
- Gloria Bonder (Catedra UNESCO)
- Ingunn Yssen (Consultant, Finland)
- Jacqueline Morris (Internet Business Consultant)
- Lettie Longwe (AMARC-Africa)
- Patricia Faccin (BDT/ ITU)
- Rosario Gracia-Luque (humanITy)
- Ruth Ochieng (ISIS-WICCE)
- Shafika Isaacs (SchoolNet Africa)
- Sucharita Eashwar (Media Consultant, India)
- Victoria Martins (Flacso-Prigepp)

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.1. Gender Caucus Team

Consultants

- Sundra Flansburg- Gender Advocacy Specialist
- Nish Matenjwa- Logistic Coordinator
- Deepali Schneider- Project Assistant
- Megan Smith – Offsite electronic networking consultant
- Bernie Vigano- Project Assistant

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3

- Orientation session
- Daily meetings
- Information sharing session
- Dissemination of proposal for replacement of text in the Declaration of Principles and Action Plan

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3

a. Orientation session (13/09/03)

- One-day session on Effective Lobbying and Advocacy for Change and Gender Equality
- Representation from the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe
- Unprecedented session on relaxation techniques.

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3

a. Orientation session (13/09/03) (2)

Outcomes

- WSIS Gender Caucus members and interested allies adopted teamwork as an effective lobbying and advocacy strategy that seeks to recognize and address developmental and social gaps.

- Strengthening of PrepCom 3 team

- Dissemination of information on the WSIS Gender Caucus

- Sharing of information on areas critical to gender advocacy in the WSIS process.

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3

b. PrepCom 3 daily Gender Caucus meetings

- Support mechanism
- Safe area of networking and sharing information
- Forum to update on latest lobbying initiatives
- Daily communication of developments to the electronic list.

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3

c. Information sharing session (in collaboration with the ITU WGGI)

Issues discussed:

- Good practices in the area of gender and ICTs (i.e. Tunisia, Iran, Sub-Saharian Africa)
- The role of older women and their relationship with new technologies.
- Main obstacles for a successful implementation of ICT programmes addressed to the female population.

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3
d. Proposal for replacement of text

Existing text (15/09/03)	Proposed text (20/09/03)	Article 9 (Declaration of Principles - DP) (26/09/03)
We affirm that the development of ICTs provides enormous promise for women, who must be an integral part of the Information Society. We are committed to ensuring that our information society fosters the emancipation and empowerment of women, promotes gender equality and portrays women fairly and respectfully.	Women are 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 of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.	We affirm that the development of ICTs provides enormous opportunities for women, who should be an integral part of and should be key actors in the information society. We are committed within the information society to enable women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and decision-making processes, and to ensuring that they are portrayed fairly and respectfully

2. WSIS and PrepCom 3

2.2 Activities at PrepCom3
d. Proposal for replacement of text (2)

New paragraph (AP-13A) Suggested by the WSIS GC (23/09/03)	Action Plan (as 26/09/03)
13A. These Action Lines will benefit from a strong foundation in gender awareness. With this foundation, they will contribute to eliminate the current gender inequalities and discrimination, and promote widespread empowerment of girls and women of all ages as full participants in, and contributors to, the Information Society. Gender dimensions should also form an essential component of designing, monitoring, and evaluating these actions.	• 4 (in brackets) All actions of this Action Plan should take account of international human rights, standards and gender equality in their formulation and realisation. In addition, where appropriate, measures in favour of youth should be proposed. The same should be applied to vulnerable groups and regions, where appropriate. • 12A Work on removing the gender barriers to ICT education and promoting equal training opportunities in ICT-related fields for women and girls. • 20 E-employment • 24 E-education • 29 Gender analysis and indicators

3. Assessment of key successes and challenges

3.1 Successes

From the Gender Caucus viewpoint:

- Daily meetings

- Orientation session

- Information sharing sessions

- Production of briefing and position papers

- Website as a platform for information and collaboration

3. Assessment of key successes and challenges

3.1 Successes

From the Governmental level viewpoint:

- Increased awareness of gender issues amongst the stakeholders

- Inclusion of changes in paragraph 9 (DP) and language included in the AP (par. 4, 12, 20, 24 and 29)

3. Assessment of key successes and challenges

3.2 Challenges

- Inclusion of proposed language in final Declaration of Principles and Action Plan (only 40% accepted)

- Stakeholder reluctance to include gender issues in the agenda.

- Plan of Action is still full bracketed

4. Follow up and partnerships

4.1 Follow up

- Organisation of workshops and awareness sessions around the globe (Latin America and Caribbean Region, Serbia, India)

- Lobbying stakeholders for the inclusion of gender issues in the agenda

- Participation in the WSIS process, emphasising the importance of the inclusion of gender related issues

- Participation in research seminars in different regions

- Evaluating the relationship between gender and ICTs through the work conducted by the different stakeholders

4. Follow up and partnerships

4.2 Partnerships

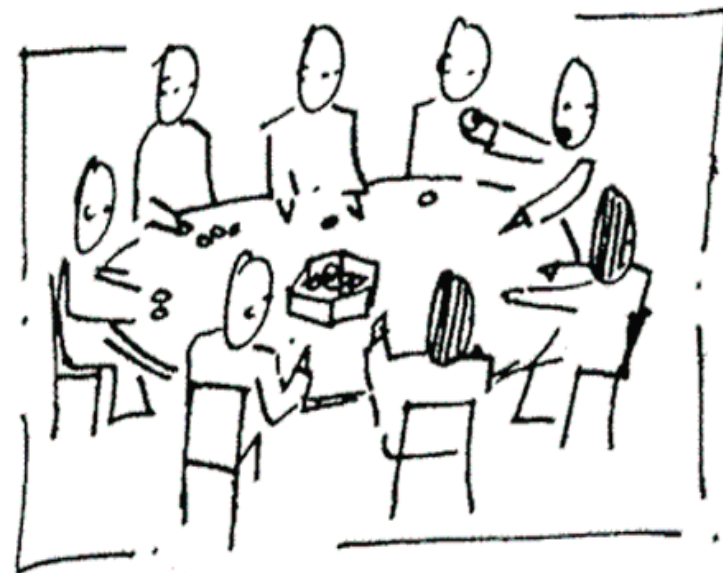Support national and regional level organizers in:

- Identifying partners and providing assistance for **organizing training and capacity building**

- Providing **relevant materials and document** templates (such as project proposal templates)

- Presenting the best **proposals received to potential funders**

- Featuring the **most effective programme plans** on the Gender Caucus website

4. Follow up and partnerships

4.2 Partnerships

- Regional and Sub-regional capacity building workshops

➢ Southern Africa Region Workshop, July 2003 in Malawi

➢ Latin American and Caribbean Region Workshop,October 2003 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- National Workshops and National Programmes

➢ Serbia and Montenegro Roundtable October 2003 in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

➢ India Roundtable October 2003 in Delhi, India.

Thank you!

The Gender Caucus in the WSIS process

Rosario Gracia-Luque

Steering Member

www.genderwsis.org