



# OUR GENDERED EXPERIENCES IN POLICY SPACES. Challenges and Needs.

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## **ABOUT THE SESSION.**

**This session is oriented to:**

- 1/ share the essential pillars of a gendered perspective;**
- 2/ know the feminist principles of the internet;**
- 3/ learn from gendered experiences & the lack thereof;**
- 4/ share good practices for feminist and gendered policy design and not-so-good ones we need to avoid.**



# Part I.

- Gendered policy
- Principles for design
- Feminist Principles of the Internet.
- Advocacy and policy





## **The path to ICT for good is gender-responsive:**

It should start with the recognition that technology development and use are both subject to entrenched patriarchal norms and gender-discriminatory behaviours coupled with socio-economic challenges.  
Technology is not neutral.



A gender-responsive ICT policy is one that **equally considers and addresses the connectivity challenges and needs for all groups in society**, and takes into particular consideration the unique challenges faced by women when it comes to accessing and using the internet.



## Gender perspective checklist of any decision or project

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Were women &amp; diverse group <b>consulted</b> in the policy or infrastructure project?</li><li>✓ Enough women in decision making positions?</li><li>✓ Creates <b>Agency</b> for women and other genders?</li><li>✓ <b>Heterogeneity</b> of women and other groups</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Context</b> of women ?</li><li>✓ <b>Evidence-based</b> policy? Research conducted?</li><li>✓ Was potential <b>impact</b> on women or some women assessed?</li><li>✓ Was the <b>platform, medium, channel assessed</b> in its impact on women? E.g. online applications for vaccines. Barriers for online access? Biometric I.D. safe for women?</li></ul> |
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## Principles for design:

1/ **Rights-respecting:** international human rights instruments provide an opportunity to identify with more precision the responsibilities of internet intermediaries to ensure that the systems they create do not reproduce gendered inequality.

2/ **Access:** promoting access to mobile broadband services and other forms of access will help to enable connectivity for even more people. Similar programmes that target low-income groups (who are often disproportionately women) or women themselves can help redress the gender digital gap in many countries. USF may include women-led projects and demand gendered projects to qualify for funding



3/ **Monitoring impact:** Impact assessment, performance tracking, and consultation with a variety of stakeholders are required to show that the due diligence standard has been met in this respect (UN Guiding principles for business and human rights)

4/ **Law, trust and community norms:** Women's particular privacy, security, and access issues pose heightened design challenges. For example, women are disproportionately affected by insider security threats from intimates who have extensive knowledge of their identity and biographical details .





5/ **Effective multi-stakeholders remedies:** non-legal measures such as education about the value of human rights, awareness-raising about community conduct standards and the impact of hate speech, efforts to promote counter-speech, and increasing the visibility of civil social dialogue across the social ecology. In order to be effective, these approaches will necessarily require the voluntary participation of grassroots activism and private organizations—including social media companies—in national and multinational efforts and education systems.



### **Feminist Principles of the Internet:**

- ✓ Access (information, usage)
- ✓ Movements (resistance, movement building, governance)
- ✓ Economy (economy, open source)
- ✓ Embodiment (consent, privacy & data, anonymity, prevent violence)
- ✓ Freedom of Expression (expression, pornography)
- ✓ Free choice of what each woman wants to publicize or politicize
- ✓ Has to be a safe space.
- ✓ Accountability of players and intermediaries.



### **Insights from policy & advocacy:**

- ✓ CEDAW
- ✓ UN Special Procedures
- ✓ ITU
- ✓ Internet Governance Forum
- ✓ National work



## Part II. Story- telling

- Your personal take on gendered perspective in ICT policy?
- What are your experiences from community networks?
- What good or not-so-good practices can you share with us?



***Thanks for your attention***