



National Commission for Human Rights

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Chief Rule of Law and Democracy Section,
Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch
OHCHR-United Nations Office
Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Dear Madam,

Re: Submission of inputs to the topic received

Reference made to your letter dated January 6, 2017 requesting inputs from the Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights regarding obstacles faced by women in our country to access the internet, sex disaggregated data on access to the internet and measures to bridge the gender digital divide.

I have a pleasure to transmit to you herewith, the contribution of National Commission for Human Rights concerning the implementation of paragraph 13 of the resolution 32/13 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on internet adopted by the Human Rights Council on 1 July 2016.

Yours Sincerely,

M. Karemera
KAREMERA Pierre
Nirere
NIRERE Madeleine
Chairperson of the Commission



Obstacles faced by women in accessing the internet, sex disaggregated data on access to the internet and measures to bridge the gender digital divide in Rwanda
OHCHR – United Nations

The Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights received a topic from the United Nations Office of The High Commissioner for Human Rights requesting inputs regarding Obstacles faced by women in accessing the internet, sex disaggregated data on access to the internet and measures to bridge the gender digital divide. It is in that regard that the Commission would like to submit its inputs for your further consideration.

1. Sex Disaggregated Data on access to internet

In Rwanda, there is a significant awareness and reasonable penetration to benefit men and women in ICT. Business Development Centers (BDC) and more ICT points are being established in more remote areas. Newly optic fiber and antenna for internet connection are also being installed.

According to ICT Sector Profile 2015, Rwanda's Digital transformation efforts prioritize Governance along with Education, Healthcare, Agriculture, Finance, Trade and Industry as well as Women and Youth empowerment.

Sex disaggregated data on ICT in Education

Indicators		2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of TVET students enrolled in ICT related programs	Male	4001	6641	7171	9566
	Female	3955	5891	5814	6413
Total number of Open Distance and e-learning (ODEl) students	Male	2036	2607	3251	2066
	Female	1130	1767	2108	1185
ICT literacy: number of teachers trained in basic ICT literacy	Male	5336	5336	6001	9567
	Female	4041	4041	4245	6647

MYICT, ICT Sector Profile 2015

2. Obstacles faced by women in accessing internet

For different reasons, in Rwanda, women access to and use of ICT is still constrained by technological infrastructure factors as well as social constructed gender roles and relationships where capabilities of women to effectively use ICT services largely depends on social factors like illiteracy, geographic location, mobility and social class.



3. Measures taken to bridge the gender digital divide

To bridge gender digital divide, Rwanda has championed women advancement and reiterated the benefits realized from women advancement and gender equality as a human right. The President's initiatives to remove legal and social barriers that had kept many classes of people from fully Participating in public life has encouraged women in Rwanda to emerge successfully in the economic and social transformation of their country.

Through "He For She" Campaign aimed at encouraging men and boys to support gender equality and women empowerment, Rwanda is committed to bridge the gender digital divide and attain parity in ICT access, usage and innovation by 2020, to triple girls enrolment in Technical and Vocational training to advance women's employment opportunities and to eradicate Gender Based Violence in all its forms.

