

Overview of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union Network of Women (CTU-NoW)

Francola John
Stakeholder Engagement Specialist and
CTU Focal Point for ITU's Network of Women (NoW)
November 2024



Anguilla



Antigua and Barbuda



Barbados



Belize



British Virgin Islands



Cayman Islands



Cuba



Dominica



Grenada



Guyana



Jamaica



Montserrat



St. Kitts and Nevis



Saint Lucia



St. Maarten



St. Vincent and the Grenadines



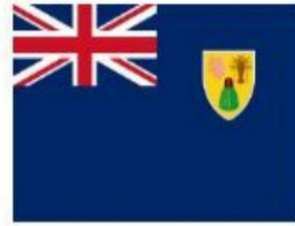
Suriname



The Bahamas



Trinidad and Tobago



Turks and Caicos

CTU TWENTY (20) MEMBER STATES

CTU'S DIRECT ROLE IN GENDER INITIATIVES IN THE ICT SECTOR

The CTU's Executive Council, at its 47th meeting in March 2023, approved the proposal **“Advancing Gender Equality: Integrating Parity and Mainstreaming into the National ICT Agendas of CTU Member States.”** The proposal included eight recommendations submitted and also approved by the General Conference of Ministers for immediate implementation. This was **Item 1 of the Resolution**, which pertains to the appointment of **National Focal Points (NFPs)** from Member States and **Points of Contact (PoC)** from non-member states

CTU'S DIRECT ROLE IN GENDER INITIATIVES IN THE ICT SECTOR

The GC further approved the following recommendations for the CTU-NoW :

1. Develop and recommend national policies that promote gender equality and mainstreaming in ICT;
2. Recommend comprehensive, gender-responsive national ICT agendas that prioritize gender
3. Encourage Member States to establish or strengthen multistakeholder partnerships, including with civil society, private sector and international organisations in order to support gender responsive ICT policies and initiatives
4. Strengthen the collection and analysis of data in ICT to monitor progress towards gender equality, identify gaps and challenges, and inform evidence-based policy-making.
5. Strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, and civil society organisations, to effectively address gender disparities in ICT.
6. Encourage the participation of women and girls in ICT education and career pathways in STEM, through targeted initiatives, scholarships and mentorship programs

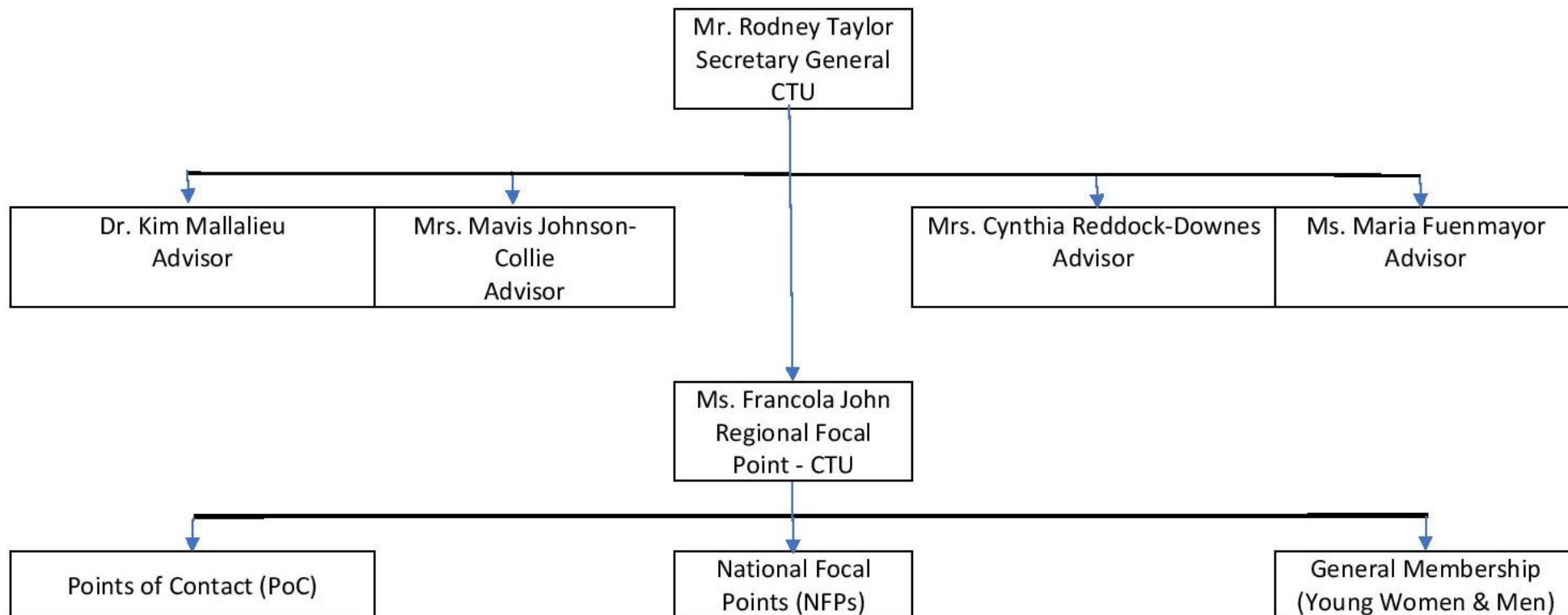
BENEFITS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING TO OUR MEMBERS

- Gender mainstreaming requires the practice of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action.
- Gender mainstreaming is an integrative approach to achieving gender equality. It involves the consideration of the impacts of decisions, policies, and programs on both men and women to ensure that they benefit equally. This approach does not favour one gender over the other but promotes fairness and equal opportunities.
- Gender mainstreaming is a continuous process that requires commitment, resources and an interest in promoting gender equality. When applied to the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), gender mainstreaming ensures that there is equal opportunities and access to resources, skills and benefits.

STRUCTURE OF CTU-NoW



Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Network of Women Structure



PURPOSE OF THE CTU-NoW

ITU Gender Declarations & Resolutions

Conference	Title
Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019	Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector
Florianópolis, 2004	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming Gender in ITU-T activities
Johannesburg, 2008	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in ITU-T Activities
Dubai, 2012	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector Activities
Hammamet, 2016	RESOLUTION 55 Promoting Gender Equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector Activities
Geneva, 2022	RESOLUTION 55 Promoting Gender Equality in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector Activities
Valletta, 1998	RESOLUTION 7 Gender and Telecommunication Policy in Developing Countries
Istanbul, 2002	RESOLUTION 44 Mainstreaming gender in ITU-D Programmes
Doha, 2006	RESOLUTION 55 (Doha, 2006) Promoting gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies
Dubai, 2014	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective for an Inclusive and Egalitarian Information Society
Buenos Aires, 2017	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective for an Inclusive and Egalitarian Information Society
Kigali, 2022	RESOLUTION 55 Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective for an Inclusive and Egalitarian Information Society
Minneapolis, 1998	RESOLUTION 70 Inclusion of Gender Perspective in the Work of ITU
Marrakesh, 2002	RESOLUTION 70 Gender Mainstreaming in ITU
Antalya, 2006	RESOLUTION 70 Gender Mainstreaming in ITU and Promotion of Gender Equality Towards All-Inclusive Information Societies
Guadalajara 2010	RESOLUTION 70 Gender Mainstreaming in ITU and Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Through Information and Communication Technologies
Busan, 2014	RESOLUTION 70 Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Through Information and Communication Technologies
Dubai, 2018	RESOLUTION 70 Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies

PURPOSE OF THE CTU-NoW

Women in ITU Sectors



R Sector

NoW4WRC19/x est 2016 to start **building capacity** early in WRC process to encourage greater participation of women as **delegates, chairs, vice-chairs, etc., at WRC-19**, emphasizing:

- **Gender balance** among delegates
- **Prepare** women delegates in **key roles**
- **Grow** ITU women's **community** capacity & **contribution**

Key Tangibles

- ✓ Declaration on Promoting Gender Equality, Equity and Parity in ITU-R Sector (WRC-19)
- ✓ Mentoring Programme



T Sector

ITU **WISE** (Women in Standardization Expert Group) est 2016 (?) to encourage **active participation** of women in **ITU-T activities** and **ITU-T leadership roles**, as well as the inclusion of a **gender perspective** in all **ITU-T's work**, in alignment with ITU-T Resolution 55 (Rev. Dubai, 2012).

Key Tangibles

- ✓ WTS Resolution 55 (Geneva, 2022)
- ✓ Mentoring Programme



D Sector

NoW4WTDC/**NowiITU-D** est 2021 to:

- Build a **support** community for female **delegates**
- **visibility & empowerment** of women in their **delegations**
- promote **active participation** of women in **ITU & sector**
- **Mentor** to grow a **stronger base** for women in the digital space

Key Tangibles

- ✓ WTDC Resolution 55 (Rev Kigali 22)
- ✓ Mentoring Programme

PURPOSE OF THE CTU-NoW

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (NFP):

- Represent the Member State within the CTU-NoW;
- Facilitate communication between the CTU-NoW and national stakeholders;
- Promote gender inclusion initiatives at the national level;
- Support the development of programmes that encourage female participation and leadership in ICT

PURPOSE OF THE CTU-NOW

ROLE OF POINT-OF-CONTACT (PoC)

- Represent your organisation or sector by participating in multi-stakeholder activities within the CTU-NoW
- Contribute to proposals and policies to the CTU within the C-NoW.
- Support the development of programmes that encourage female participation and leadership in ICT.
- Support the National Focal Point (NFP) as required

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Effective communication will be maintained through:

1. CTU-NoW Google Drive
2. A Whatsapp group dedicated to the CTU-NoW;
3. Emails from : NoW@ctu.int;
4. CTU Social Media pages;
5. Constant Contact
6. CTU Members' Circular;
7. Quarterly "In the k-NoW" newsletter;
8. Annual reports detailing the Network's activities and achievements;

CTU'S WORKPLAN 2025

We hope to create a dedicated platform for sharing experiences, mentoring and encouraging women across the region to assume leadership roles associated with the statutory meetings and study groups at various treaty-based events hosted by the OAS/CITEL, ITU, United Nations:

- **ITU Council Working Groups;**
- **World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) 2025;**
- **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 2025;**
- **Global Symposium for Regulators 2025;**
- **United National Internet Governance Forum 2025;**
- **World Telecommunications Policy Forum (WTPF) 2026;**
- **ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) 2026;**
- **World Radio-communications Conference (WRC) 2027;**
- **World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) 2028**

CTU-NOW WORKPLAN 2025

A draft Workplan for 2025 will be submitted at the next planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday 28th January 2025.

The Plan will focus on the following key goals:

- 1. Empowerment and Capacity Building**
- 2. Advocacy and Policy Influence**
- 3. Knowledge Sharing and Research**
- 4. Partnerships and Collaboration**
- 5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

CALL FOR ACTION

The CTU will act as a facilitator for the ITU Network of Women by building a community in the Caribbean Region and thereby enabling the following activities to be achieved. The recommendation below is in alignment with the ITU's Handbook on mainstreaming Gender in digital policies:

- 1. gather data and conduct research;**
- 2. define a gender mainstreaming practice;**
- 3. align the practice with national strategic documents;**
- 4. allocate resources;**
- 5. identify focal points in key government institutions and consult with stakeholders;**
- 6. collaborate and partner with other government institutions and stakeholders;**
- 7. measure impact**

Thank You