



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
29 November 2022

Original: English

---

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

**Sixty-seventh session**

6–17 March 2023

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and  
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly  
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and  
peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

---

\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### Empowering Female Leadership Through Digital Technology And Innovation

The Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved if the women and girls can firmly close the double divide (gender gap) which is preventing women from innovation, in a digital age and in depopulated areas from becoming the leaders that our world needs.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is one of International Network of Liberal Women pillars. This implies enhancing the role of women as drivers to develop women's awareness of their rights and political, economic, social and cultural responsibilities, human rights protections, and prevention of climate change, and directly contributing to SDG 5 on gender equality.

Globally, women have an infinite talent available, but sometimes this is not well identified or supported, which risks its potential going to waste and sometimes are particularly impacted by the climate crisis. We aim to recognise the immense potential of female talent and to proactively support it, empowering girls to lead the tech revolution. Therefore we have to close the gender gap and create a world where women are empowered to not just participate but to thrive, and lead them into an equal, more sustainable Europe and rest of the world.

Their innovative, enriching and engaging to digital age, technology and innovation blends high-level discussions to future women's leaders. Technology has changed women by equipping them with the skills they can use to lead in the digital age.

Women are role models and it allows them to network and to express their ideas and visions in a safe and inspiring environment. Through digital technology and studies, female talent is immersed in the digital world, learning from a wide variety of experts across many different fields. With their guidance, they gain a better understanding of the European and the worlds current digital landscape, and discuss potential ways forward. They learn about career opportunities available in areas including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data privacy. They are also taught leadership skills that help them thrive in these professions, and empower them to take their rightful place in the tech revolution.

In some countries organisations are working on women's empowerment and gender equality, recognising the potential of integrating innovation and technologies into programs and policies, and aiming to identify applications of big data that could lead to impactful solutions. Therefore, it is natural for these organisations to collaborate to ensure that the data revolution for sustainable development responds to women's needs and issues of data inclusion. Girls, young women and LGBT people, are encouraged to pursue their studies and work in science, engineering, math and technology and to ignore negative and stagnating reactions.

Women's under-representation today means women's exclusion in a surely predominantly digital future. This has enormous implications, socially and economically in terms of lost growth, whilst the demand for skilled Information Technology (IT) professionals is growing. Women comprise approximately half the population, yet they are starkly under-represented in the digital economy. The gender digital gap is mirrored in low and decreasing numbers of girls taking up science, technology, engineering, mathematics studies, of women choosing IT-related professions, of women's under-representation in management in the IT industry and of the few women-led and women-founded tech companies.

Providing girls and young women with advanced digital skills early on and encouraging them to take higher education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics fields, design of new data strategies and technologies for and with women will not only advance them individually, it will bring particularly high economic returns in the digital and technologic age. The acquisition of digital skills by girls and women is a prerequisite for female empowerment and inclusive and equitable access to digital economy gains and social protection systems. The technical career opportunities should be better highlighted to female students at all levels, starting early on. Organisations and businesses have a role to play too. Attracting women into digital roles should be a key focus for all businesses not only to improve diversity of teams but to ensure the future sustainability of that rapidly growing industry.

This statement provides an outlook of where women stand in digital age, innovation and technologies after more than a decade in the COVID-19 pandemic. It confirms that women's key roles are too often 'invisible', they remain underrepresented in all levels of management not recognised, and women continue to face greater difficulties, compared to men, at accessing and maintaining stable employment and taking part in decision-making processes.

They are the women of tomorrow with the skills needed to be at the forefront of the digital transformation and the keys to accessing funding and ensuring business sustainability exploring the potential that the latest innovations offer for a developing future. Furthermore women are very innovative and they are enriching and engaging. This concept blends high-level discussions with dedicated mentoring.

International Network of Liberal Women is convinced that female leadership in the digital age is the future. We promote women leadership by addressing global trends, new ways of politics, challenges and technologies and better use of digital age for teaching. It stresses the need for young women and girls around the world to learn basic algorithms and computational thinking to become active creators and leaders. We want to close the gender gap and create a world where women are empowered to not just participate but to thrive and lead them into an equal, more sustainable world.

Therefore International Network of Liberal Women calls the United Nations UN Women:

- To promote the filling of gender gaps in “traditional” digital age and data, including areas where women's activities, women's needs, women's interests, and threats women face are largely invisible, to get a richer, more nuanced understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment issues;
- To encourage innovative and enriching, inspiring and engaging women leadership by an opportunity to share ideas, brainstorm and debate with global thought-leaders, policymakers, journalists, and business leaders.
- To facilitate real-time situational monitoring of gender indicators and progress on gender equality across the SDGs;
- To convince all Governments, businesses to recruit and invest in diversity because research shows that the collective intelligence of a team outperforms individual abilities and the number of women on the team enhances collective capabilities of the team;
- To adopt an ideal platform to streamline women- in- technologies in all relevant activities and platforms to make them more inclusive of women for example the outreach campaign for technology, digital opportunities, Social Protection Systems and pilots in Europe;

- To ensure and give women in digital transformation and technology their voice and visibility by providing an equal playing field and advancing women positioned at the intersection of technology, politics and economics.
-