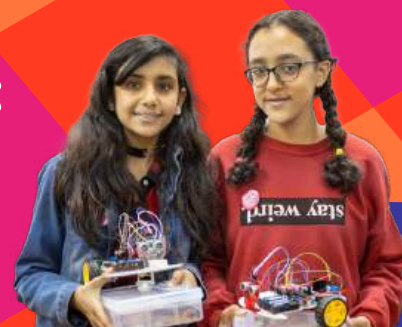


UN Women Action Agenda 1: A Digital Revolution



A DIGITAL REVOLUTION

Ensure women and girls can reap the economic benefits of the digital revolution, accessing new skills, opportunities and services, by bridging the digital gender gap & providing equal access to technology

I. Introduction

Digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming a cornerstone of modern economies and societies, yet their benefits and opportunities are not equally distributed. The digital transformation of our societies has not bridged existing gender gaps; it has instead led to the emergence of a gender digital divide, exacerbating existing disparities and creating new challenges for women and girls. Women account for only one in three science, technology and mathematics (STEM) graduates globally, and only 31.5 per cent of researchers are female. This share has barely increased since 2011. Globally, women are 14 per cent less likely than men to own a mobile phone, and 25 per cent less likely to use the internet.¹ This digital divide is stark across many aspects, including access to the internet and digital tools, and representation in digital decision-making spaces. It limits women's opportunities for education, decent work and political participation, especially

for those in low-income, rural or marginalized communities. The effects of digitalization are particularly detrimental to women in the least developed countries, where, despite 76 per cent mobile broadband coverage, only 25 per cent are online, with men 52 per cent more likely to be online than women.² Deepfake pornography, prevalent in 98 per cent of deepfake videos online, targets women and girls 99 per cent of the time.³ In the current AI architecture, benefits and risks are not equitably distributed, with power concentrated in the hands of a few corporations, States and individuals, who control talent, data and computer resources. There is also no mechanism for looking at broader considerations, such as new or exacerbated forms of gender and social vulnerability generated by AI, the disruption of industries and labour markets, the propensity of AI to be used for oppression, or the impact of AI on current and future generations.⁴ As digital technologies and AI increasingly shape our world, it is crucial to ensure that women and girls can fully engage with and benefit from these technologies.

1. UN Women, Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024 (New York, UN Women, 2024), <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot>.
2. A. Moore Aoki, "How to close the digital gender divide and empower women", World Economic Forum, 8 March 2022, <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2022/03/how-to-close-digital-gender-divide/#:~:text=Men%20are%2052%25%20more%20likely,this%20likelihood%20rises%20to%2052%25>.
3. Security Hero, 2023 State Of Deepfakes: Realities, Threats, And Impact (Security Hero, 2023), <https://www.securityhero.io/state-of-deepfakes/#key-findings>.
4. UN Women, "Artificial Intelligence and gender equality", 28 June 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2024/05/artificial-intelligence-and-gender-equality#:~:text=UN%20Women%20position%20paper%20on,equitable%20digital%20future%20for%20all>.

II. Actions

- **Integrate** gender equality in national digital policies, services and infrastructure, ensuring that women and girls' rights, safety and access are prioritized from the outset.
- **Design** and implement comprehensive, multisectoral strategies that address the intersecting barriers women and girls face in accessing, using and benefiting from digital technologies.
- **Expand** inclusive, affordable and secure digital access for women and girls, especially those in rural, low-income, or marginalized communities.
- **Develop** gender-responsive economic and social policies that enable women's equal participation in digital economies, including through skills development, digital public infrastructure and financial inclusion.
- **Strengthen** collaboration across sectors and stakeholders—including governments, the private sector, civil society, women's organizations, and UN entities—to build inclusive, accountable and gender-just digital ecosystems.
- **Invest** in the production and use of gender data and statistics to monitor digital inclusion and inform evidence-based policymaking to close the gender digital divide.

III. Normative Roots

This Action is rooted in a history of normative frameworks and political advances, including the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). The Global Digital Compact (GDC), the 67th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide contemporary frameworks to integrate gender perspectives into the digital transformation. The year 2025 also marks the 20th anniversary of the World Summit on the Information

Society (WSIS), which provides an opportunity to integrate a stand-alone gender equality objective. UN Women is also the convenor of the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation, as part of the Generation Equality initiative. These frameworks and initiatives collectively underscore the importance of addressing the digital gender divide as critical to achieving broader gender equality and the SDGs.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

IV. Impact at scale

Addressing digital inequalities is crucial for gender equality and sustainable development. Investing in gender-responsive digital infrastructure can significantly enhance women's participation in the digital economy, leading to broader economic and social returns. Doubling the share of women in the technology sector would not only provide opportunities for high-paid decent jobs for them, but it could also increase gross domestic product (GDP) by €600 billion by 2027.⁵ Elimination of technology-facilitated violence against women is critical for achieving SDG Target 5.2: “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”.

5. S. Blumberg, M. Krawina, E. Mäkelä and H. Soller, “Women in tech: The best bet to solve Europe’s talent shortage”, McKinsey Digital, 24 January 2023, <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/mckinsey-digital/our-insights/women-in-tech-the-best-bet-to-solve-europes-talent-shortage>.

6. UN Women Africa, “Bridging the Gender Digital Gap: Rwanda’s Leadership in Technology & Innovation for Gender Equality”, 19 April 2024, <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/feature-story/2024/04/bridging-the-gender-digital-gap-rwandas-leadership-in-technology-innovation-for-gender-equality>.

V. Proof of concept

Several countries serve as models for integrating gender equality into digital policies. For instance, Rwanda's digital inclusion initiatives have significantly improved women's access to digital tools and training.⁶ Similarly, Estonia's e-governance system ensures equitable access to digital services for all citizens, including women. These examples demonstrate that targeted policies and investments can effectively bridge digital gender gaps.

VI. Existing platforms and alliances to connect to and leverage

This Action can leverage global platforms and alliances, including the GDC, the Generation Equality Action Coalitions on Technology and Innovation and on Gender-Based Violence, the EQUALS partnership and regional initiatives such as the African Girls Can Code Initiative, to amplify efforts and resources. Collaborating across these platforms will promote multi-stakeholder collaboration, mobilize collective action, increase resources and investments, and enhance knowledge-sharing towards a gender-equal digital transformation.

VII. Impact: What can we achieve by 2030?

This proposal aims to harness the transformative potential of digital technologies to advance gender equality, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age. By 2030, this Action expects to contribute to the following high-level results:

- Increased access and digital literacy for women and girls
- Inclusive and equitable digital policies, technology and infrastructures
- Enhanced participation of women in STEM and digital decision-making roles
- Reduction in technology-facilitated gender-based violence
- AI technology, governance, policy and regulatory frameworks adequately integrate a gender perspective.



Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig

THE BEIJING+30 ACTION AGENDA

This Action is part of the [Beijing+30 Action Agenda](#): a voluntary, action-oriented platform to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. Grounded in stronger financing for gender equality and better gender data, and centering adolescent girls and young women, the Action Agenda invites Member States to identify one or two national priority actions and announce these at the High-Level Meeting on Beijing+30 on 22 September 2025.