Report on the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the Priority Theme of the Sixty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"

8-9 February 2023, Bangkok

Contents

I. Organization of the Meeting

A. Background

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority theme of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) was jointly convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) from 8 to 9 February 2023. The session was held in a hybrid format, i.e., in-person at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok (Conference Room 3) with the option for online participation via the Zoom platform.

2. The priority theme was considered within the context of relevant international frameworks including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (the 2019 Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The consultation provided an opportunity for both state and non-state actors to take stock of key trends, needs, gaps in policy responses, and good practices, as well as to consider possible areas for joint interventions (policy, programmatic or otherwise), to address innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age, towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The expected outcome was a set of recommendations to inform membership contributions to the Agreed Conclusions of CSW67.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following Governments attended the Consultation:

- Members of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women from the Asia-Pacific region: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Philippines.
- Other Governments from the Asia-Pacific region: Cambodia; Cook Islands; Fiji; Georgia; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Laos (Peoples Democratic Republic of); Macao, China; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated Sates of); Nauru; Nepal; New Zealand; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu; and Vietnam.
- Other Governments: Sweden.

5. Representatives from the following inter-governmental organisations attended the Consultation: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Pacific Community (SPC); and Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

6. Representatives from the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities attended the Consultation: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); International Telecommunications Union; United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

7. Representatives of the following civil society organisations, and other entities attended the Consultation: Access Now; ActionAid Bangladesh; Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration; Afrihealth Optonet Association; ASEAN Feminist LBQ Network; Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development; Asia-Pacific Resources and Research Centre for Women; Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development; Association of Children and Youth for the Peace in the Deep South; Association of Progressive Communications (Pakistan); Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE); Atal Incubation Centre (ALEAP); Baithak - Challenging Taboo; Belun Timor-Leste; Beyond Beijing Committee; Body and Data; Cambodia Center for Human Rights; Cambodia/Gender and Development for Cambodia; China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO); China/Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center; China/Jiangsu AI Association; Chrysalis, Sri Lanka; Code.org; Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South; Digital Empowerment Foundation; Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan; Duryog Nivaran; E.T Jackson and Associates; Feminist Approach to Technology; Feminist Leadership Lab; Feminist Manch; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Fòs Feminista; Foundation for Media Alternatives; Free and Equal Rights, Indonesia; Gender and Development for Cambodia; Gender Security Project, India; Gerakan Perempuan Peduli Indonesia (GPPI/Indonesian Women Awareness Movement); Global Digital Inclusion Partnership; Graduate Institute Geneva; GSMA; Hashtag Generation; Huarou Commission; Institute of Law and Democracy of Turkmenistan; International Council of Women; International Planned Parenthood Federation East Southeast Asia And Oceania Region; IT For Change, India; Jakarta State University; King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand; Lao Women's Union; Mageo Consulting, Philippines; National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal; National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan); National Rural Women Coalition (the Philippines); Oxford Policy Management; PA Women's Organization Alga; Pacific Disability Forum; Pak Alliance for Maths and Science; Papua New Guinea Digital ICT Cluster; Participatory Development Action Program; Philippine Business Coalition for Women; Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (Pinsan); PLAN International; PricewaterhouseCoopers; PurpleCode

Collective, Indonesia; Rentique; Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice; Renmin University, China; Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia; Rozan; Sarvodaya Fusion, Sri Lanka; Safetipin, India; Sasawaka Peace Foundation; SISILISM; She Loves Tech; Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation, Bangladesh; Solidarity of Oppressed Filipino People; South Asian Women's Development Forum (Pakistan Chapter); South Asia Network for Disaster Risk Reduction; South Asia Women's Development Forum; Sustainable Economic & Livelihood Development Organization (SELDO); TrustIn; UNICEF Young People's Action Team (YPAT); United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth; University of Abu Dhabi; University of Exeter; University of New South Wales; Vice Presidency for Women and Family; Vital Voices Global Partnership, United States; Vietnet ICT ; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights; Women's Health Foundation (Indonesia); Women in Tech, Maldives; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights; Women's League of Burma; Women's Legal Bureau, Philippines; Women's Union for Turkmenistan; Women4Biodiversity; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; Young Advocates for Sexual Reproductive Health; Young Feminists Collective, Philippines and Rights; YUWA Nepal.

II. Proceedings

A. Opening of the Meeting

8. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Cai Cai, Officer in Charge a.i., Social Development Division, ESCAP; Ms. Sarah Knibbs, Regional Director a.i., UN-Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; and Ms. Villaney Remengesau, Co-Chair, Pacific Disability Forum speaking on behalf of regional civil society actors.

9. Reflecting on the priority theme for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the speakers focused on the challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region posed by the digital revolution for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in relation to innovation, technological change and education. They recognised the issues that impact women and girls, including barriers to connectivity (access to the internet and the affordability of digital tools and technologies), the role of gender norms in limiting women and girls' access to and participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers, as well as information and communications technology (ICT) facilitated gender-based violence. The speakers highlighted that mainstreaming gender equality across technology and innovation strategies, policies and programmes, including in relation to subsidizing the cost of data and devices, cybercrimes policing, and labour policies in STEM fields, will be crucial to overcoming these broad-reaching barriers. They expressed hope that if gender-responsive policies and programmes are put into place, digitalization and technology can benefit all and contribute to the realization of gender equality.

B. Session 1: Ensuring meaningful connectivity to close the gender digital divide and promoting gender transformative technology design, development and deployment.

10. Discussions in Session 1 entitled "Ensuring meaningful connectivity to close the gender digital divide and promoting gender transformative technology design, development and deployment" were facilitated by Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Ms. Koh Miyaoi, Asia-Pacific Gender Advisor/Gender Team Leader, UNDP Regional Bureau Asia Pacific. The introductory presentation was delivered by Ms. Anju Mangal, Head of Asia Pacific, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership. A panel consisting of Mr. John Jack Deputy, Chief Information Officer, OGCIO, Government of Vanuatu; Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhary, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology, and Telecommunication Pakistan; and Dr. Genius Umar, Mayor of Pariaman City, West Sumatera, Indonesia informed the discussions.

11. Within the context of ICT development and digital connectivity that will support efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, the panel stressed the importance of gender-responsive planning and budgeting and proposed key focus areas for action. Affordable internet access and meaningful connectivity are key in this

regard, as is the meaningful consultation between governments, regulators, telecommunication companies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. In addition to expanding access, the panel noted the necessity of vocational training related to digital literacy for marginalized groups, in order to support digital facilities and infrastructure in all communities.

12. The panel shared examples of the efforts of governments to mainstream the issues of gender equality and the participation of women into public policymaking related to technology. Examples included governments using Fintech to make social security policies more inclusive as well as initiatives that collect disaggregated data which is used to inform gender-responsive technology related public policy. The panel also noted the potential of app-based social services to transform and develop cities and empower women through better access to information on issues such as health care as well as provide effective tools to report gender-based violence for effective response.

13. Following the panel discussions, government representatives shared examples of programmes they have implemented to reduce the gender digital divide. They noted the lack of access and digital skills among women and girls in rural areas in relation to mobile phones. Representatives highlighted the dramatic shift to online interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to transform some traditional markets into digital markets and provided examples including a skill development programme implemented in partnership with the private sector.

14. Civil society representatives highlighted that to bridge the gender digital divide, it is imperative to address the root causes of the lack of access. Meaningful connectivity can only be achieved if the ever-widening development divide between the north and south, between rural and urban populations, and between men and women is closed. Civil society representatives recommended ensuring accessible, affordable and adequate internet access to high quality digital tools and resources for everyone by developing autonomous and community-based infrastructure. They also emphasized the importance of education innovations and interventions to increase digital literacy, enhance skills and capacity, and accelerate the empowerment of women, girls, indigenous people and other marginalized groups.

C. **Session 2: Fostering inclusive education in the digital age and promoting women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.**

15. Session 2 entitled "Fostering inclusive education in the digital age and promoting women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers" was moderated by Shreyasi Jha, Regional Gender Advisor, UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific. The opening of the session remarks were provided by Upala Devi, Regional Gender Advisor, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office, followed by an overview presentation by Ms. Veronica Kamanga

Njikho, Regional Gender Advisor, UNICEF South Asia Regional Office. The session included a panel discussion with the following panellists: Ms. Khwanchanok Paka-Akaralerdkul (JiaJia), High school student and member of UNICEF's Young People's Action Team (YPAT); Ms. Yosephine Stella, Digital Sexuality Educator, DSE Asia-Pacific Community; Ms. Shubha Sarma, Women and Child Development (WCD) commissioner cum Secretary, Government of Odisha, India; and Ms. Aiesha Adnan, Co-Founder of Women in Tech Maldives.

16. The panel discussed the challenges and solutions for girls participating in STEM education and careers in the Asia-Pacific region. While increased technology usage in education to develop digital skills is essential in the 21st century, traditional teaching methods often do not cultivate students' interest in STEM. The panel also noted that gender biases still persist in these fields and posited that showcasing female figures in STEM as role models and introducing STEM in a gender-neutral way can help girls overcome these challenges. By normalising women in STEM and providing them with the right education and support, the panel emphasised that more women and girls will be inspired to pursue careers in this field and can make a significant contribution to society.

17. The panel stressed that employment in STEM is in high demand in the 21st century. STEM education fosters various skill sets, including creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and other soft and hard skills. These skills, combined with knowledge gained from STEM, can contribute to society and help address community issues. To increase female participation in STEM, it is important to make STEM education fun and engaging for students, switch to a student-centred and globally competent teaching approach, and provide gender-transformative opportunities.

18. The panel noted that education in the digital space, including sexual and reproductive health education, offers opportunities to reach a wider target audience. Digital sexuality education content creators should be part of a gender-transformative approach to promote accessible services and empower women and girls by using their platforms to promote important (and often sensitive) messages on sexual health and gender equality.

19. Following the panel discussion, government representatives highlighted that women's participation in the digital economy continues to lag behind men's participation. Women and girls face barriers, including stereotypes, that stop them from accessing technologies and impede them from becoming leaders in the technology industry. To bridge the digital gender gap, it is necessary to create an environment where women can have equal access and opportunities to use technologies and play an active role in digital technology and STEM issues. Representatives from governments recommended building inclusive curricula and programmes that can improve women and girls' skills; building an inclusive digital environment for women and promoting women's leadership in the technology industry; and providing training and scholarships for women to improve their ICT skills.

20. Representatives of civil society and private sector organizations made recommendations to urge member States to adopt an intersectional approach to STEM, considering other identities such as race, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, age and various social economic classes, and to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all their diversity across all aspects and levels of the education system. They stressed the need to include parents and broader communities in STEM education and improve their understanding of STEM and its benefits for women and girls. Civil society representatives emphasized that Governments need to allocate adequate budgets and work with the private and civil society sector to integrate gender-responsive STEM education and career opportunities, not only in the education and ICT sectors but also into national development plans. Reformulating basic education to include STEM education holistically, enhancing basic STEM literacies to integrate digital and cognitive social and emotional skills, and addressing social and gender norms by implementing comprehensive sexuality education emphasizing bodily autonomy were recommended. They noted the importance of enhancing the accessibility and affordability of technologies and ensuring indigenous communities in rural areas are not left behind when it comes to inclusive education, basic infrastructure and teacher capacities.

D. Session 3: Implementing economic, labour and social policies that ensure that women are not left behind in the digital age and leveraging financing for inclusive digital development and gender transformative innovation.

21. Session 3 entitled "Implementing economic, labour and social policies that ensure that women are not left behind in the digital age and leveraging financing for inclusive digital development and gender transformative innovation" was facilitated by Ms. Channe Lindstrøm Oguzhan, Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP. The session included introductory remarks from H.E. Mr. Leota Laki Lamositele, Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa and a panel discussion with Mr. Nazeem Hassan Satter, General Manager, Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation, Bangladesh; Ms. Carolyn Chin-Parry, Digital Innovation Leader, PwC Singapore; Ms. Aurora Geotina-Garcia, President Mageo Consulting Inc., Philippines; and Ms. Sarai Tevita, President of Samoa ICT Association and ICT Director for the National University of Samoa. Ms. Trinh Thi Huong, Deputy Director General, Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam served as a discussant.

22. The panel emphasized the need for an "all hands on deck" approach, with collaborative partnerships between public, private and civil society organizations to scale up the provision of accessible and affordable digital devices to women and girls. The panel particularly stressed the role of telecommunication companies in providing high-speed internet to remote locations and repurposing used or unsold devices to give to those in need.

23. The panel also highlighted the need to involve more women in science and technology fields and to promote women-led innovation. They called for greater support for boardroom representation in science and tech companies to enhance women's visibility, promote female role models and redress stereotypes. The panel further underscored the importance of educational initiatives which enhance the digital literacy of women and girls as well as school curricula, scholarships and training programmes which encourage girls to pursue STEM as a career.

24. Several further actions highlighted by the panel included securing women's access to digital and financial support to encourage women's innovation and entrepreneurship as well as the need for inclusive labour and social protection policies, such as extended parental leave, equal pay and childcare facilities to encourage more women to embark and advance their careers in ICT and STEM-related fields.

25. Government representatives echoed the points raised during the panel discussion, reaffirming their commitment to support women's inclusion and participation in the digital age across the region, as well as showcasing some of their countries' policies and initiatives. They underscored the need to invest in building the digital capacity of women and bringing them to the forefront of policy discussions. The importance of addressing technology availability and affordability issues was underlined by representatives, noting technology giants, telecommunications companies and other private sector entities should take the necessary steps to support the scaling-up of access to digital technologies for women and girls.

26. Civil society representatives stressed that the digital transformation needs to be assessed from a gender perspective and benefits reaped from access to technology need to be equitably shared. They echoed the call made by the panel for inclusive labour and social protection policies which facilitate women's participation and protection in the digital labour market. Civil Society Organizations also raised the issue of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and called for the protection of women and girls against all forms of harassment and gender-based violence, including in digital spaces.

E. Session 4: Addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination and protecting the rights of women and girls online.

27. Session 4 entitled "Addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination and protecting the rights of women and girls online" was facilitated by Ms. Melissa Alvarado, Ending Violence against Women Regional Programme Manager, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Ms. Galanne Deressa, Regional Programme Adviser a.i, UNFPA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The session included an overview presentation and panel discussion from Ms. Julie Inman Grant, e-Safety Commissioner of the Government of Australia. Additional panellists included: Mr. Towhidul Islam, Special Superintendent of Police for Cyber Crime under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Bangladesh; Ms. Nighat

Dad, the founder and Executive Director of Digital Rights Foundation in Pakistan; and Ms. Dhyta Caturani, the founder of the PurpleCode Collective in Indonesia.

28. The panel emphasized the need for comprehensive definitions, regulatory guidelines, frameworks and legislations on online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.. Panellists illustrated the wide range of forms of online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence that may occur using various platforms from social media to dating platforms. They highlighted the connection between online and offline violence, noting that technology- facilitated violence often does not remain online, but causes harm offline as well. They underscored the necessity to invest in gender-transformative prevention measures to eliminate online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. They also highlighted the importance of disaggregated data as well as monitoring and evaluation to generate evidence on what works to prevent and respond to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The panel noted the responsibility of technology companies and platforms to ensure the safety of users, thus protecting, empowering and supporting women and girls. To do so, private sector actors were urged to adopt a gender transformative and safe-by-design approach, which embeds safety into the conceptualization, development and implementation of digital technologies and related policies. The speakers highlighted the importance of holding technology companies accountable for the episodes of violence happening through their platforms. The panel mentioned the importance of creating inclusive, survivor-centred, and rights-based complaints mechanisms that safeguard women's and girls' bodily autonomy, anonymity and confidentiality of women and girls.

29. The panel further stressed the necessity of a multisectoral and regional approach to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and of increased coordination between governments and among different government departments, civil society organizations, media actors, the private sector and other stakeholders. The importance of strengthened collaboration with media actors for more gender-sensitive reporting on gender-based violence, including online and technology-facilitated violence, was highlighted by the panel. Specialized and trauma-informed police officers, as well as an increased number of female officers were discussed as critical to responding to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The panel moreover highlighted the relevance of an intersectional, survivor-centred, trauma-sensitive and gender-transformative approach to addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. It recognized the need to develop capacities of all frontline service providers, including law enforcement and justice officials on how to address online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and to have clear codes of conduct in place for this to be achieved. The need to look beyond simple models of criminalization and to have a more holistic approach with solutions and access to justice which are tailored to survivors' individual situations and needs was stressed by the panel.

30. Following the panel discussion, government representatives shared their plans and progress achieved in addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based

violence and discrimination, and in protecting the rights of women and girls online, including creating digital safe spaces that can identify violence and provide resources to survivors of online and offline gender based violence. Furthermore, government representatives shared their efforts to implement laws, policies and capacity building to address all forms of gender-based violence, including online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

31. Government representatives recognised that services must be widely accessible, affordable and have a survivor-centred approach. Representatives acknowledged that women and girls with limited digital literacy are at a higher risk and therefore, digital education programmes have been and must further be implemented. Governments noted that educational institutions should include curricula on online safety and abuse, including information on addressing harmful social norms and how those can be replicated online.

32. Representatives of academia and civil society organizations highlighted the importance of continuous data collection and analysis and strengthened monitoring and evaluation of the impact of implemented initiatives that tackle online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, to inform effective programming. Representatives further called for the review and revision of existing laws to ensure gender-transformative practices. They emphasized that companies assume more responsibility and proactively address online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence on their platforms. They stressed the importance of inclusion in dialogues about online spaces, gender-based violence and the responses to it to effectively protect and support all women and girls in all their diversity. Representatives also emphasized that users' rights to data privacy are unclear and that action against perpetrators of violence is not taken seriously enough. Representatives called for accessible, gender-inclusive and trauma-sensitive services and information. They also highlighted the connection between online and offline violence and the importance of ensuring access to digital information on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as a way to enhance the prevention of offline and online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Finally, representatives emphasized that everyone must have the right to express themselves freely online and offline without perpetrating abuse and while respecting the safety of others, and that rights-based, gender-transformative, trauma-sensitive and survivor-centred approaches to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence are crucial.

33. A representative from OHCHR stated that the advancement of technology and digital spaces has brought opportunities for everyone, but also many risks. The representative stressed the need for everyone to have the right to express themselves freely and without fear of retaliation, for states to expand the open digital space while ensuring users' protection and for women and girls to fully participate in discussions around digital spaces.

F. Closing of the Meeting

34. Ms. Cai Cai, Officer in Charge a.i., Social Development Division, ESCAP, and Ms. Sarah Knibbs, Regional Director a.i., UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific delivered the closing remarks.

35. They expressed appreciation to member States and all stakeholders for their active participation. They further expressed hope that governments will use the ideas shared in the consultation to further integrate the rights, needs and priorities of all women into digital strategies, policies and programmes, and to inform their contributions to CSW67.

III. Recommendations

36. Based upon the discussion and taking into consideration the importance of achieving gender equality and promoting the empowerment of women and girls, the participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation identified the following recommendations on the priority theme of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women:

A. Ensure meaningful connectivity to close the gender digital divide and promote gender-transformative technology design, development and deployment

Strengthen multilateral cooperation, including at regional and sub-regional levels, in the development of inclusive digital technologies to advance universally, sustainable, meaningful, enriching, productive and empowering online experiences for women and girls.
1. Ensure and monitor the inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting in the development of new technologies, in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
2. Promote gender analysis as an integral part of technological investment, research and design.
3. Guarantee that new technologies are developed within a regulatory framework that promotes and respects women's rights according to the 2030 Agenda.
4. Enhance the role of multilateral cooperation to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17.
5. Improve the availability of granular data to monitor the access to and utilization of digital technologies among girls and women, in all their diversity.
6. Recommend appropriate measures by private sector companies and raise awareness among policymakers concerning cyberbullying, cybercrime, as well as the societal costs of inappropriate online behaviour, including sexist hate speech

Enhance meaningful connectivity that is safe, accessible and affordable for all.

7. Develop and/or update adequate data protection regulations and laws to ensure that access to digital technologies is safe and secure for women and girls, according to national contexts.
8. In the context of widening gender gaps, promote and secure accessible prices for devices and services by reducing consumer taxes on them and, if needed, providing targeted subsidies or support to girls and women, especially those from marginalized communities, to access digital services and devices.
9. Encourage the sharing of digital infrastructure to reduce costs for operators.
10. Encourage public-private partnerships between governments and companies to speed up the delivery of accessible and reliable connectivity.
11. Improve the digital infrastructure for women and girls in remote/rural areas by developing targeted interventions to enable electricity, connectivity, high-speed internet and mobile broadband networks.
12. Promote a cross-cutting, multi-sector, whole-of-government approach including Smart Villages and Smart Islands as well as Smart City initiatives to deliver connectivity while leveraging multi-functionality and reuse of ICT infrastructure. The approach should be holistic and inclusive for digital transformation towards achieving the SDGs in remote and underserved communities
13. Raise awareness of the benefits of digital inclusion for women to help address social norms that restrict women from accessing technological devices.

Include gender equality in the development of new technologies
14. Guarantee that new technologies are developed within a regulatory framework that protects and promotes women's rights and safety and ensures a balanced environmental footprint.
15. Ensure and monitor that the government's social and economic digital inclusion plans include gender-responsive budgeting and accountability in developing new technologies.
16. Support local internet entrepreneurs and private sector technology innovations targeted at rural communities.
17. Promote the development of new technologies created for women and by women that include a gender lens in their development and scale innovations that provide sustainable solutions to meet the needs of women and girls, in all their diversity.

B. Foster inclusive education in the digital age, and promote women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and careers

Address and redress the digital divide through monitoring and improving digital literacy
18. Establish national and local frameworks for mapping and tracking targeted groups' digital skills and competencies.

19. Establish high-quality and accessible public digital learning platforms to empower teachers, learners and families with different digital skills, including interventions that address the cultural and social perceptions of girls accessing digital platforms.
20. Incorporate digital skills into educational curricula as early as primary school to provide digital opportunities for all and develop special initiatives to reach out of school children and marginalized communities.
21. Promote Indigenous communities context-specific technology or digital solutions, taking into account the lived realities of such communities, for instance, a lack of appropriate infrastructure, inadequate schools, and teachers with limited or low digital skills.
22. Promote initiatives between universities and local women's organizations to train women and girls in rural areas in basic digital skills customised for low-skilled and low-literate users.
23. Support programmes for teachers and educators to use more digital tools in schools and other institutions including ongoing training support with gender-sensitive and safe content.
24. Promote training opportunities for women and girls to learn digital skills, in accessible facilities or online platforms.
25. Expand partnerships with government, private sector and other non-traditional partners- to scale up accessibility and affordability of digital solutions for women and girls.
26. Support and promote the central role of national women's machineries to coordinate and ensure gender-responsive budgeting measures are implemented to benefit women and girls in the digital age.

Take steps to involve more women and girls in science and technology fields
27. Support and enhance women's STEM education through scholarships, internships and training programs and consider gender quotas for admission into education programs.
28. Encourage girls to pursue STEM subjects and education by fostering female role models and mentors in STEM in schools, universities and other educational institutions.
29. Promote school curricula that redress bias and gender stereotypes related to STEM fields.

C. **Implement appropriate economic, labour and social policies that ensure that women are not left behind in the digital age and leverage financing for inclusive digital development and gender-transformative innovation**

 Boost gender equality in the labour force through digital inclusion.
30. Address the gender dimensions of digital inequality and its effects on women's participation in the labour market at all levels, including in the gig economy. Invest in the promotion of equal access to critical digital infrastructure, professional training and educational programmes to support women and promote gender balance in the labour force.

31. Promote the development of national and subregional intergovernmental strategies as well as collaborative partnerships with the private sector that enhance women entrepreneurs' managerial and innovative digital skills in the region.
32. Support national efforts for digital and financial inclusion to increase women entrepreneurs' access to digital financial services and empower women in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including through small grants programmes to digital entrepreneurs and/or promoting Crowdfunding platforms for financing start-ups.
33. Empower women farmers through digital innovation and farming techniques to transition to sustainable smart agriculture.
34. Support regulatory and legislative reforms and improvements in digital infrastructure that enable women to actively participate and run their businesses in the new digital entrepreneurship ecosystem.
35. Expand data collection and gender-disaggregated data on digital inclusion. Promote collaboration between women's ministries, women's organizations and the private sector to share data collection responsibility.

Enhance social protection policies, subject to available resources and national context, to support the most vulnerable and provide them with digital financial support
36. Extend social protection coverage to cover digital devices and necessities for vulnerable populations to ensure no woman is left behind.
37. Invest in social protection programmes such as digital safety net programmes for vulnerable informal workers.
38. Promote the collaboration between governments and mobile operators to implement mobile-powered cash assistance as well as mobile money and e-wallets to accelerate the digital financial inclusion of families and underserved persons and communities.

Support inclusive digital development and innovation
39. Foster the cooperation between women's ministries, female-led startups and women's organizations to promote women's digital entrepreneurship through incubator programmes. Motivate women to explore potential ideas, techniques and business skills through these programmes in urban and rural areas.
40. Invest in female-led simulation labs and technical and high-impact initiatives that promote climate mitigation and adaptation to decrease women's vulnerabilities.
41. Implement monitoring and evaluation strategies to support effective digital development and innovative policy making.
42. Encourage and promote boardroom representation to expose women, in all their diversity, to leadership roles to enhance their visibility, promote female role models and redress gender stereotypes within the digital sphere.

D. **Address online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination and protect the rights of women and girls online**

Address online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and its consequences

43. Recognize violence against women and girls in digital contexts as a human rights violation and form of gender-based violence against women and girls, and adopt a comprehensive definition of online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls, which often manifests offline as well as online, in line with International Standards, Conventions or Regulations.

44. Have an intersectional approach to the prevention and response to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and recognize the needs of women and girls in all their diversity to leave no one behind.

45. Recognize that marginalized groups, public figures, or people with high visibility roles may be at greater risk for experiencing online and technology-facilitated violence, such as journalists and media actors, women human rights defenders and political figures.

46. Collect and publish data on the different forms of online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, income, age, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant to the national context.

47. Systematically monitor and evaluate regulations, policies and interventions to generate evidence on what works to prevent online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and determine if they are having the intended effects, thus strengthening accountability systems.

48. Recognize the importance of trauma-informed, survivor-centred approaches; take measures to include survivors in consultation processes and address their concerns during the development of appropriate policies, legislation and regulations.

49. Provide funding for support services for survivors/victims that are gender-inclusive, survivor-centred and trauma-responsive.

50. Establish safe spaces, help desks, legal counselling, psychosocial support and other support mechanisms including online peer groups to support girls and women from marginalized groups who face online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. These mechanisms should be able to offer safety planning for online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

51. Create inclusive, survivor-centred, and rights-based complaints mechanisms that safeguard bodily autonomy, anonymity and confidentiality of women and girls.

52. Encourage private sector actors to proactively address gender-based violence on their platforms, adopt gender transformative and safety by design approaches, which embed safety into the conceptualization, development and implementation of digital technologies and related policies.

53. Invest in prevention measures such as gender-transformative approaches, including through education settings and actively engaging boys and men, to promote human rights and digital safety for all and eliminate online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

54. Ensure access to digital information on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as a way to enhance the prevention of offline and online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

55. Foster regional collaboration between governments and national coordination among different government departments as well as between the private sector, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders including media to prevent and respond to online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Ensure effective implementation of appropriate legislation and policies to respond to and prevent online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence

56. Introduce effective gender-transformative legislations, policies and regulatory frameworks in line with existing international human rights instruments to address all forms of violence in digital contexts and provide survivor-centred justice, not infringing on the civil liberties of individuals.

57. Invest in gender responsive and survivor-centred legal technology and ensure online legal and information platforms are accessible for all.

58. Review existing legislation to ensure that harmful social norms are not perpetuated and ensure that legislation and policies on gender-based violence include the issue of online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and are adequately budgeted to allow their implementation.

59. Develop policies and legislation as appropriate to ensure that technology companies establish and enforce strict codes of conduct and address online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

60. Create content and awareness campaigns in diverse languages about laws and services related to gender-based violence, hate speech and discrimination.

61. According to national contexts, develop capacities of law enforcement and justice officials addressing online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence and have clear codes of conduct to offer survivor-centred and trauma-informed responses.

62. Increase the number of trained female police officers to provide services to women survivors of gender-based violence, including online and technology facilitated gender-based violence.