IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	An "Internet of Women" by 2020: WSIS Vision into Reality
Date	6 December 2016
Time	9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Session Organizer	Barbara Wanner, U.S. Council for International Business
Chair/Moderator	Barbara Wanner, U.S. Council for International Business
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Lori Schulman, International Trademark Association (INTA)
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	• Doreen Bogdan-Martin, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) • Noelle Francesca de Guzman, Internet Society • Nancy Hafkin, Women in Global Science & Technology • Hibah Kamal-Grayson, Google • Marie-Laure Lemineur, ECPAT • Evelyn Namara, ISOC Ambassador to the IGF • Carolyn Nguyen, Microsoft • Jacquelynn Ruff, Verizon • Claire Sibthorpe, GSMA
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	1. It is important to continue to develop our understanding of the gender digital divide by disaggregating relevant data. 2. Building capacity and digital literacy are key factors in narrowing the gender digital divide. 3. Mentoring (by men and women) in the Internet economy is an important tool for bridging gaps and creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and empowerment. 4. Fear is a factor that inhibits the engagement of women and girls online. Therefore, creating a safe online environment for women and girls is an issue of top priority. 5. Fostering a future of "Internet of Women" requires a holistic approach as one size does not fit all.
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	**Claire Sibthorpe, GSMA** (Provided highlights of a GSMA report, Bridging the Gender Gap) -- Studies have shown that women feel much safer with mobile applications than desktop/laptop solutions. Studies have also found that the barriers to online engagement are not necessarily gender related and that there not a "silver bullet" that can fix all issues. The problems need to be tackled with a holistic approach. More data should be collected specifically about women. There is a call to action for mobile operators through the Connected Women initiative which teaches women about mobile internet, mobile apps and mobile money. **Nancy Hafkin, Women in Global Science and Technology** (Provided a PowerPoint highlighting Africa-based research)– There are women specific barriers in the knowledge society; it is not just a matter of technology. The problems are most acute in LDC's with the largest gender gap in Africa. These gaps are caused by poor health (TB, AIDS), primary education or less, speaking/reading no international languages, the barriers presented by a living in patriarchal society or

	embedded in customary law. These concepts include "men first", "women to be guarded". The results of these systems and customs leave woman without a voice, with a limited competency for science/technology, unequal pay, little or no/leisure time, little or no access to internet, no electricity and lack of gender awareness in science and technology. In the area of Internet policy, there is a lack of implementation of gender aspects of policy - even in jurisdictions there is good policy. Let's look at Ethiopia as a good example. The last 8-10 years have seen a boom in their economy with many policy advances guaranteeing equal rights to women. These include affirmative action, increasing numbers of women in office, FGM outlawed and dropping, strong government policy on gender and ICT. However, over empowered religious groups and adherence to custom has thwarted these objectives and eviscerated the progress.
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	The panel discussed how to promote cooperation for all of the efforts to bridge the digital gap. We see lots of action but we don't see the impact of those actions. This is because the problems and solutions are very context specific with complex social reasons behind them. Also there is a need for more granular data as the root causes for the gap are not necessarily technology related. It is crucial to focus on communities and well as to bring national plans together. This includes education and telecommunications plans as well as other areas of government. National success stories occur when there are cross sectorial plans and accountability metrics. The solutions are top down and bottom up with mentorship a key component. Three questions were fielded from the audience: 1. Does increased access result in real empowerment? Do the business interventions look at rural vs. urban and generations of women? How is the data disaggregated? 2. Is a 2020 goal of gender equality online feasible? Three years seems too short a period of time to fix these inequalities. 3. How do patriarchy and religion inhibit access? There was agreement that we need disaggregated data on gender. Qualitative studies on dynamics and social norms. One outcome showed that when women get harassing calls from men, their husbands and fathers think that they have invited it. The second most popular app in Kenya is a call blocking app. In India there were studies on the impact of downloaded pornography. Women were uncomfortable visiting Internet centers because they did not want to be exposed to the upsetting content downloaded by men. Social attitudes change at a snail's pace while technological change is rocketing forward. There is a need to talk about a woman's right to be part of the knowledge society rather than shield her from it. Internet culture is not unified nor uniform. The feasibility of the 2020 goals needs more research to answer. Families will prioritize educating boys

	over girls and we need a country by country perspective. The answer is to encourage women as change makers
Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)	1. Approaching the problem holistically by taking into account economic, social and cultural norms as well as technology. 2. Collecting more disaggregated data – quantitative and qualitative. 3. Coordinating national and regional policies. 4. Bringing non-technical organizations into the fold to conquer economic, social and cultural barriers.