

Mekong Forum 2024

Terrain 4 - Inclusive Digital Societies:
Engaging Women and Youth in Accelerating DIT Adoption in the GMS

Inclusive digital societies: Empowering women and youth through ICT

31 July 2024

Rury Demsey, Junior Project Officer
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



ITU is the United Nations **specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs)**



Our sectors

*Each sector has a **separate mandate**, but all work towards **connecting the world***

ITU Radiocommunication

Coordinating radio-frequency spectrum and assigning orbital slots for satellites

ITU Standardization

Establishing international standards

ITU Development

Bridging the digital divide

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Jakarta (Area office)
New Delhi (Area office)



ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025

Asia and the Pacific

ASP1

Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries

ASP2

Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies

ASP3

Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected

ASP4

Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation

ASP5

Contributing to a secure and resilient ICT environment

Learn more at
www.itu.int/AsiaPacific



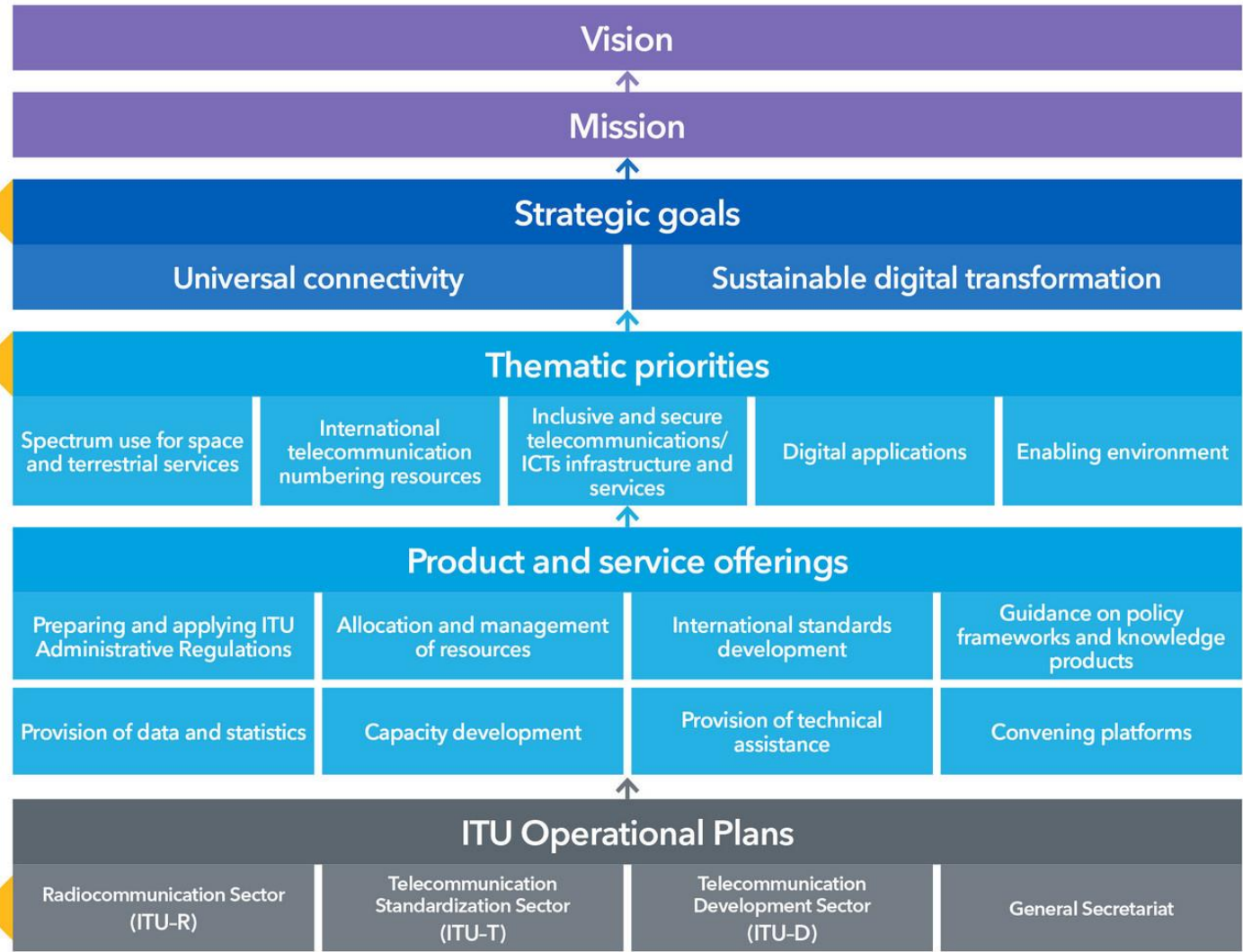
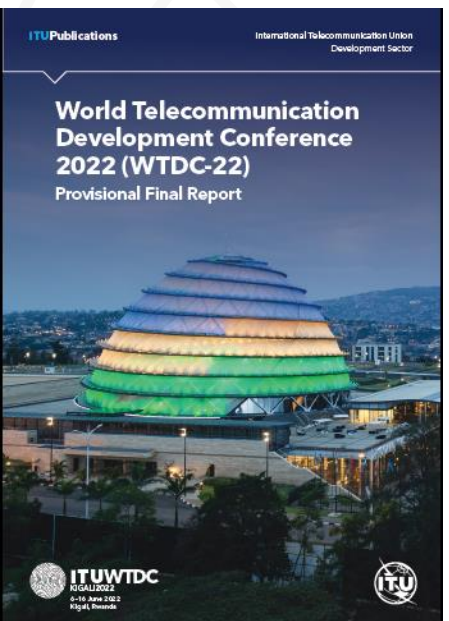
ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Strategic framework



2030 TARGETS

2027 OUTCOMES



ICTs = Information and communication technologies

New global connectivity data shows growth, but divides persist

ITU's flagship Facts and Figures tracks global connectivity with estimates on key indicators: **infrastructure**, **affordability**, **gender**, and **location**.

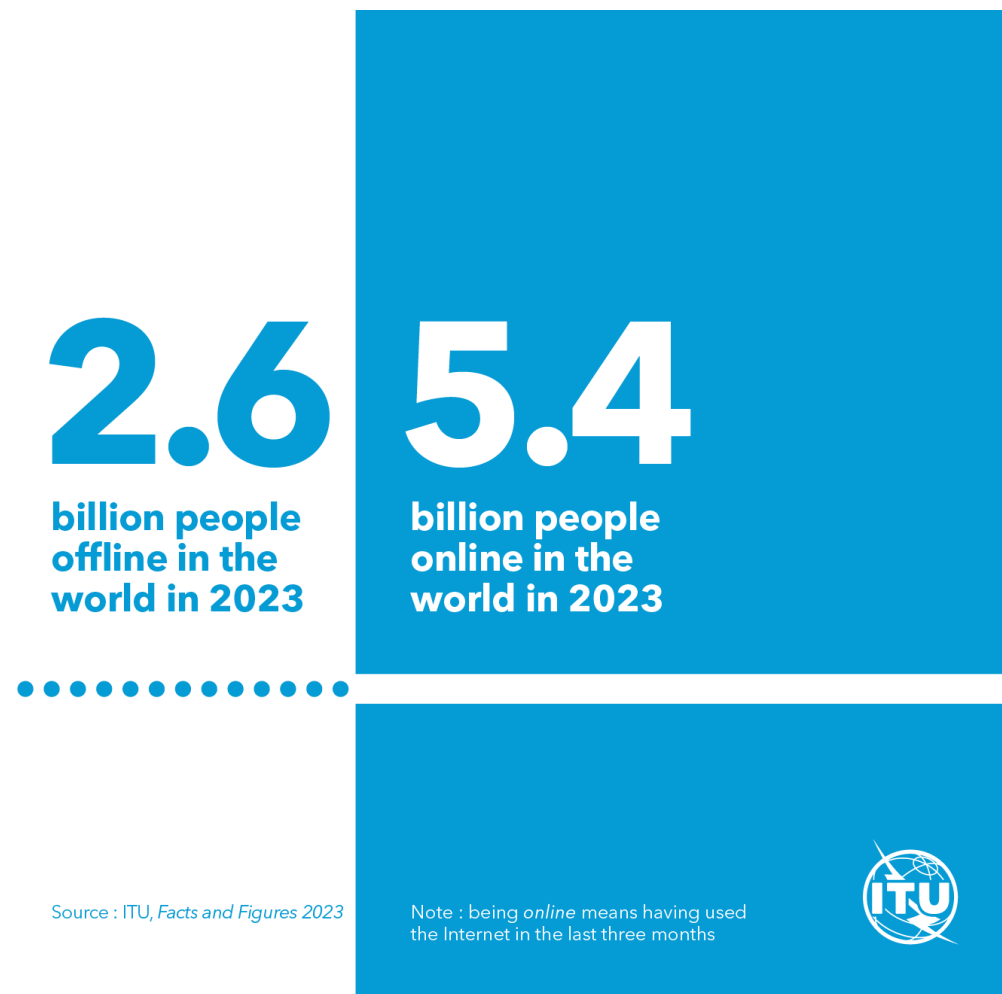
The gender digital divide persists

Globally, **70 per cent of men are using the Internet, compared with 65 per cent of women**—but **women account for a disproportionate share of the global offline population, outnumbering male non-users by 17 per cent**.

Internet usage among young people grows

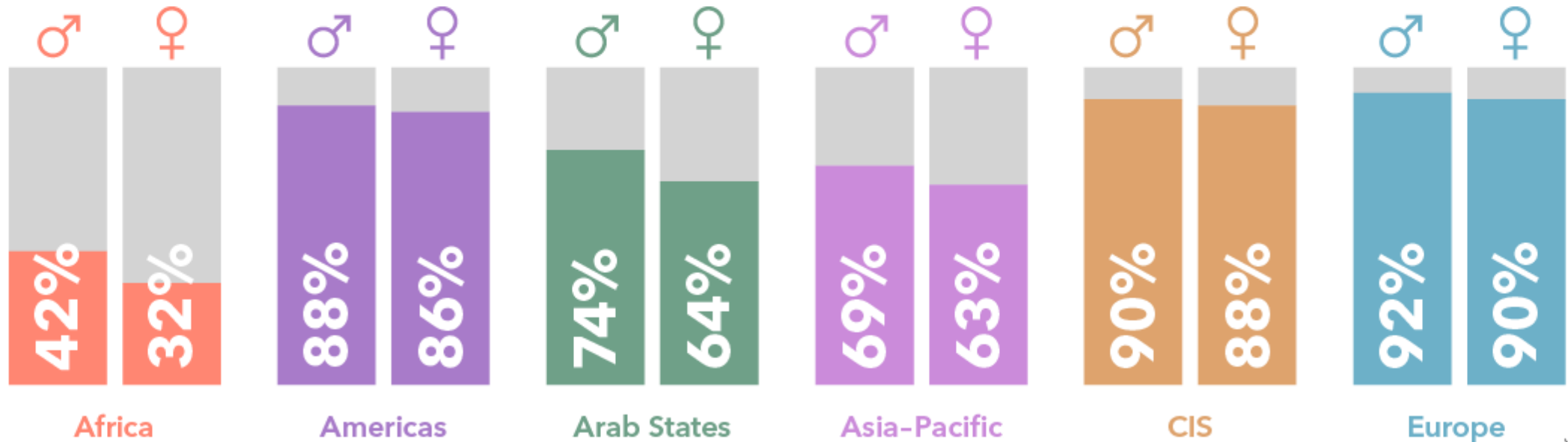
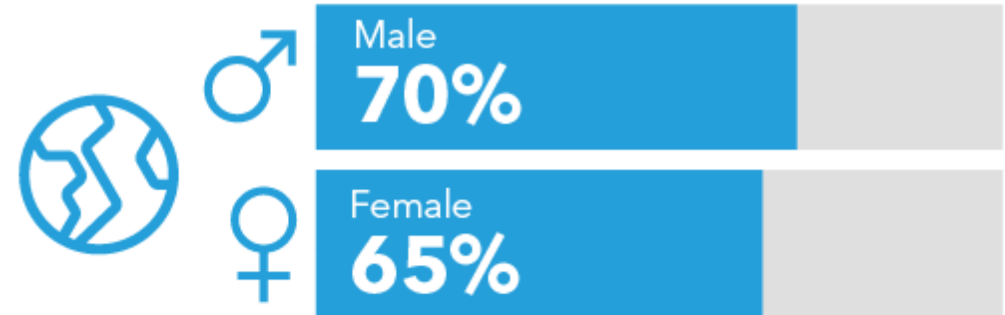
In all regions, **young people are more connected than the rest of the population**. Worldwide, **79 per cent of people aged between 15 and 24 use the Internet in 2023, 14 percentage points more than the rest of the population**.

Source: ITU, 2023: <https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/PR-2023-11-27-facts-and-figures-measuring-digital-development.aspx>



Global gender gap

Percentage of individuals using the Internet in 2023



Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2023*

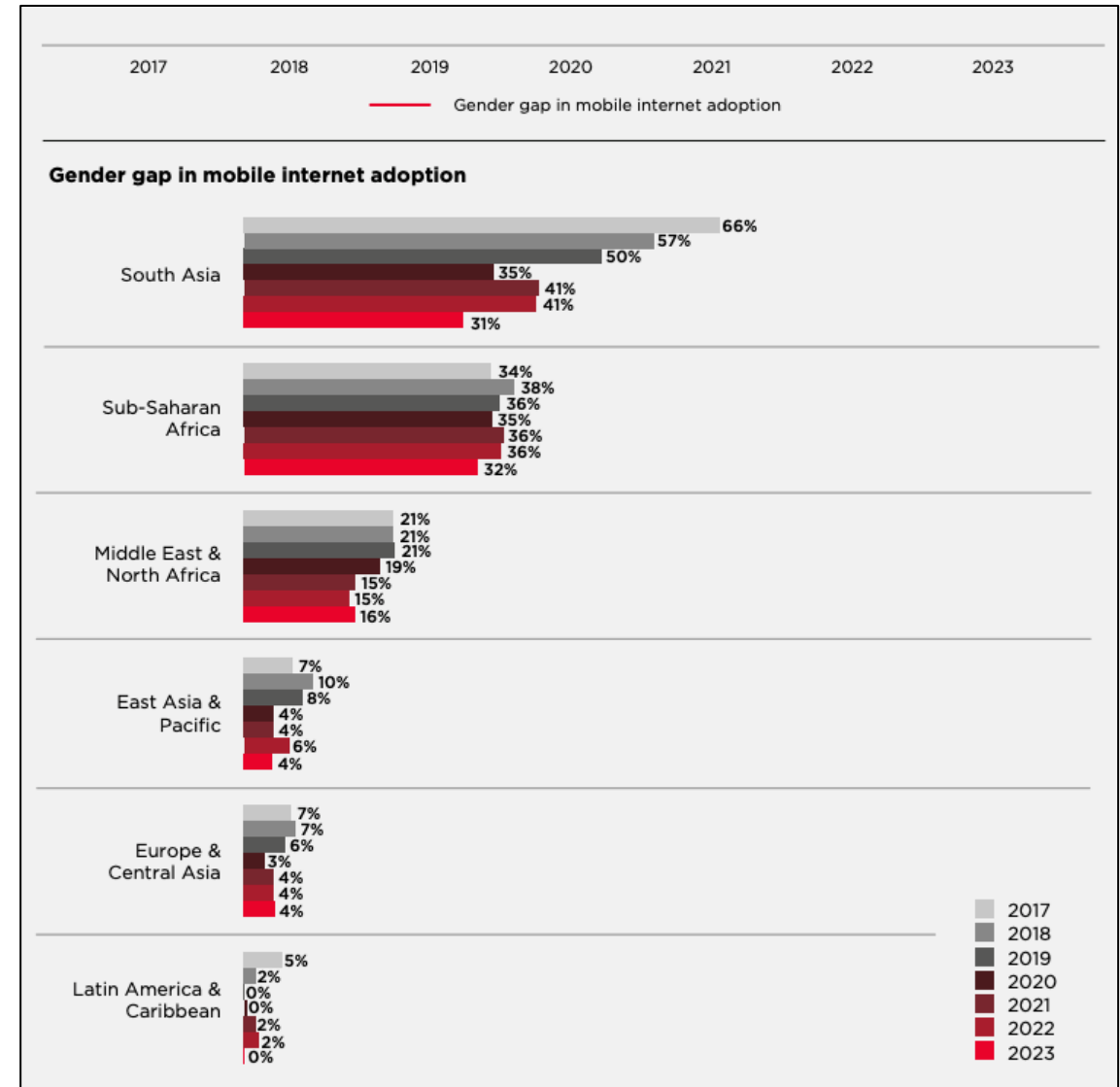
Note: ITU-D regions



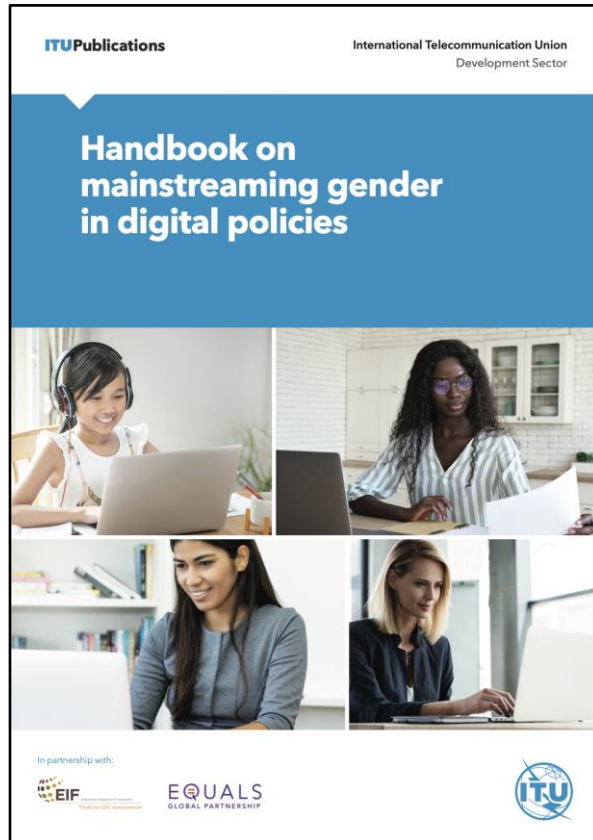
Gender gap in mobile internet adoption

- **Women's rate of mobile internet adoption increased over the past year across low and middle-income countries. There are now more women using mobile internet in these countries than ever before: 66% (1.5 billion).** By comparison, 78% of men now use mobile internet, but their rate of adoption slowed in 2023.
- **Women are now 15% less likely than men to use mobile internet across low- and middle income countries.** This translates to around 265 million fewer women than men.

Source: GSMA, 2023: https://www.gsma.com/r/gender-gap/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=gender-gap-2023



Digital inclusion: Gender



**ITU Handbook on
mainstreaming gender in digital policies**

Available now at:
<https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-hdb-gender-2023-01/>



Network of Women in ITU-D

Visit the website at
itu.int/NOW4WTDC



EQUALS Global Partnerships

Visit the website at
equalsintech.org

www.itu.int

Digital inclusion: Gender

Girls in ICT Day 2024: “Leadership”



**Girls in ICT
Leadership**
25 April 2024



Girls in ICT Networking event by Forum Global
at the 10th Asia-Pacific Spectrum Management Conference,
Indonesia 24 April 2024.

- Participants: **30 delegates of the conference including women and young women** from Indonesia and Asia-Pacific region.



International Girls in ICT Day

Manila, Philippines, (hybrid mode), 25 April 2024

- Participants: approximately **800 girls and boys** worldwide.



Opening ceremony of the Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2024

Bangkok, Thailand, (hybrid mode), 25 April 2024

- Participants: **over 650 girls, boys, and teachers** from across the country.

Digital inclusion: Gender

Girls in ICT Day 2024 Thailand: Digital skills training programme



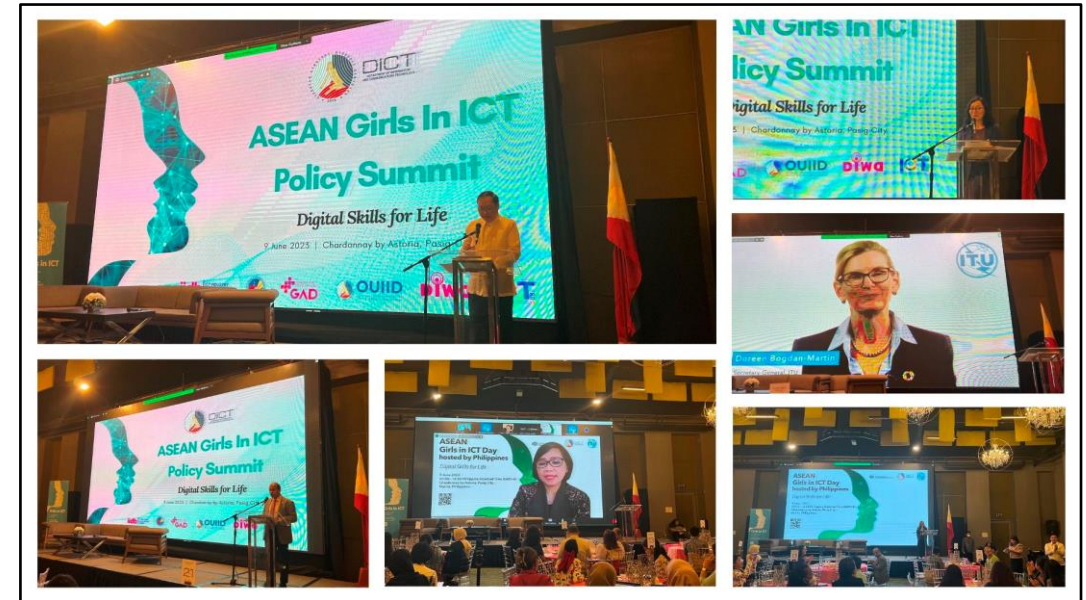
After organising **three months of training programmes**, the final session will conclude all activities and close the Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2024 celebrations. The activities were organised under **three different tracks: Leadership in digital transformation, digital skills empowerment, and experiential learning journey**, with over **700 students and teachers** participating from 25 April to 6 August 2024.

Digital inclusion: Gender

Girls in ICT Day 2023: “Digital Skills for Life!”



Girls in ICT Day **Thailand** 2023



ASEAN Girls in ICT Day 2023 Hosted by The Philippines



In 2023, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Girls in ICT co-organisers and partners organized celebrations with over 2500 girls and young women participated in the **digital skills training programme** in:

- ✓ **Thailand** on 27 April 2023
- ✓ **Philippines** on 8 June 2023
- ✓ **ASEAN** on 9 June 2023
- ✓ **Indonesia** on 21 May 2023 and 30 October 2023
- ✓ **Timor-Leste** on 11 August 2024

Digital inclusion: Gender

Girls in ICT Day 2022: “Access and Safety”



Girls in ICT Day **Cambodia** 2022



Girls in ICT Day **Thailand** 2022

In 2022, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Girls in ICT co-organisers and partners organized celebrations with over 2100 girls and young women participated in the *digital skills training programme* in:

- ✓ **Indonesia** on 21 April 2022 and 18 August 2022
- ✓ **Thailand** from 28 April to 6 July 2022
- ✓ **Cambodia** on 30 May 2022
- ✓ **Timor-Leste** on 28 July 2022



Girls in ICT Asia-Pacific Website

girlsinict-asiapacific.org

Home News Our Story Countries ▾



**Girls in ICT Day
Asia-Pacific**



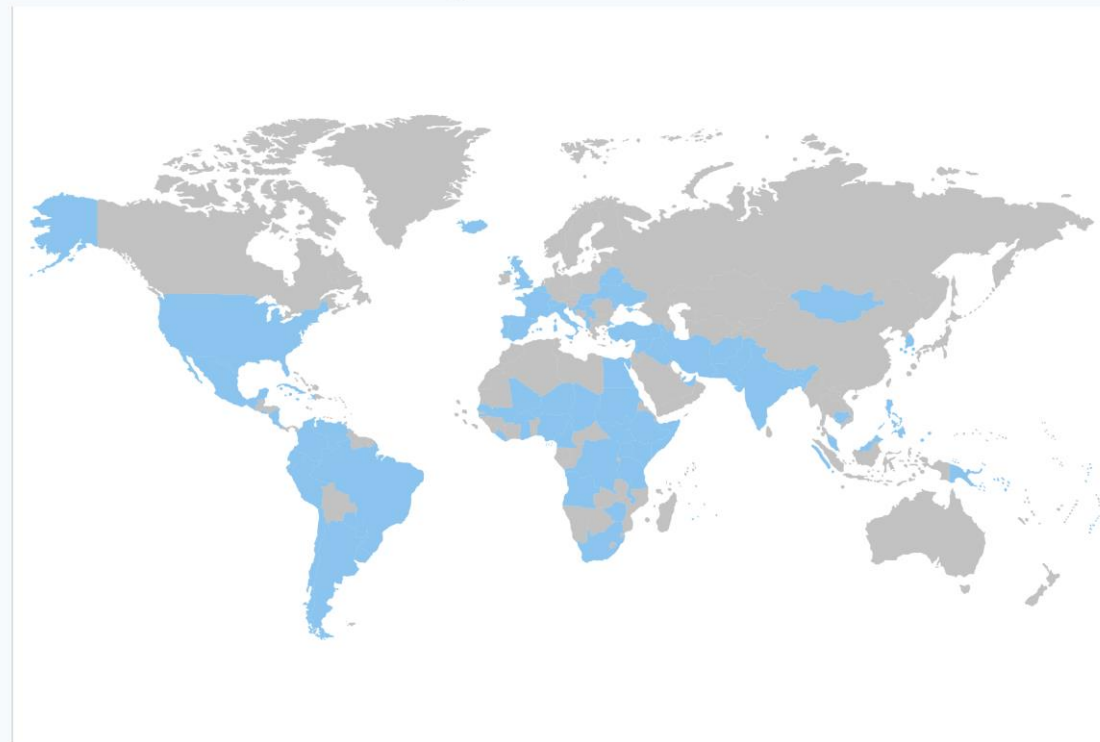
<https://girlsinict-asiapacific.org/>

ITU Girls in ICT portal

itu.int/GirlsinICT



World wide celebrations at a glance



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this [map/infographic] do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ITU and of the Secretariat of the ITU concerning the legal status of the country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Girls in ICT celebrations across the world on 25 April and throughout the year

Asia & Pacific Afghanistan	25/04/2024	Technology for Good Online Innovation Challenge
Asia & Pacific Bangladesh	24/04/2024	Luna Shamsuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration
Asia & Pacific Bangladesh	25/04/2024	Nation Wide Coding Camp on "Blockchain, Cyber Security and e-commerce"
Asia & Pacific Bangladesh	28/04/2024	Promoting Digital Skills for Life on Girls in ICT Day"
Asia & Pacific Bhutan	25/04/2024	Girls in ICT
Asia & Pacific Cambodia	20/04/2024	Girls in ICT Day 2024
Asia & Pacific India	25/04/2024	DoITBetter Bootcamp
		International Girls in ICT Day 2024 - Digital Skills for Life International Women Achiever's Award & Indian
Asia & Pacific India	25/04/2024	Women in ICT Awards along with SDG 5 - Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to recognize the achievements of women and inspire others to act for gender equality.
Asia & Pacific Iran (Islamic Republic of)	26/05/2024	Leadership role of girls in IT and ICT
Asia & Pacific Kiribati	02/05/2024	Pacific Girls in ICT 2024
Asia & Pacific Korea (Rep. of)	25/04/2024	E-mentorship for Ethical Leadership development: Decision-making Processes for Sustainable Development Projects.
Asia & Pacific Malaysia	30/03/2024	Axiata Digital Leaders Programme (ADLP) For Girls 2024
Asia & Pacific Malaysia	27/04/2024	CodeMaven 4.0: Girls2Code 2024
Asia & Pacific Mongolia	17/04/2024	Girl's Leadership event



Please **submit** and **share** your **Girls in ICT** celebration, on the event portal in the [following link](#) or **scan** the QR code at:

<https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/international-girls-in-ict-day-2024/girls-in-ict-2024-events-worldwide/>

www.itu.int



Opinion

Sarah Knibbs, Debora Comini and Atsuko Okuda

Asia's digital revolution must not leave its women and girls behind

- The digital revolution is a game changer across all spheres of development, but technological advances risk perpetuating existing inequality
- Women and girls in the Asia-Pacific need equitable internet access, online safety and educational opportunities to ensure an inclusive digital transformation

 Listen to this article ▶



Sarah Knibbs, Debora Comini and Atsuko Okuda

Published: 8:15am, 6 Mar 2023 ▼

 Why you can trust SCMP

Asia's digital revolution must not leave its women and girls behind (2023) at South China Morning Post:

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3212220/asias-digitalrevolution-must-not-leave-its-women-and-girls-behind>

Tackling the digital gender divide in Asia (2022) at <https://www.itu.int/hub/2022/05/digital-gender-divide-asia-unicef-rosa/>

Time is right to boost ICT education for girls and fix the gender digital divide (2021) at <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3146278/time-right-boost-icteducation-girls-and-fix-gender-digital-divide>

A new “new normal” after COVID-19: Building inclusive digital futures in Asia and the Pacific <https://www.itu.int/hub/2020/11/a-new-new-normal-after-covid-19-building-inclusive-digital-futures-in-asia-and-the-pacific/>

Why Girls in ICT Day matters in Thailand – and beyond (2020) at <https://www.itu.int/hub/2020/08/why-girls-in-ict-day-matters-in-thailand-and-beyond/>

Digital generational gap

Percentage of individuals using the Internet in 2023



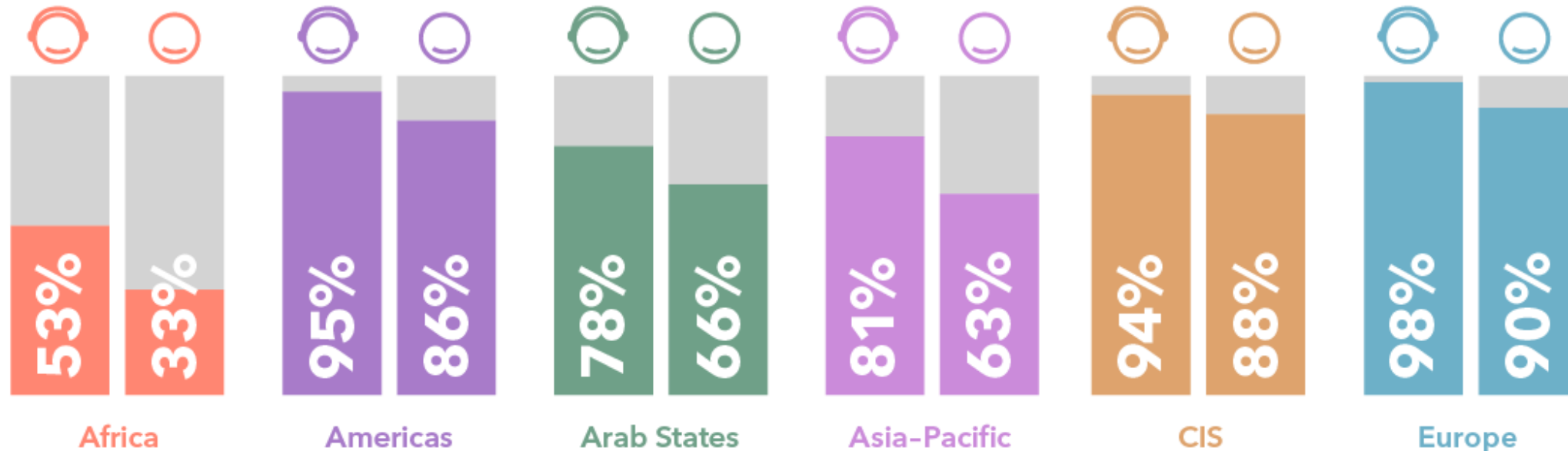
Youth (15-24 years old)

79%



Rest of the population

65%



Source : ITU, *Facts and Figures 2023*

Note: ITU-D regions



Digital inclusion: ITU Youth Strategy Generation Connect



Empower.



Our future is
just a click away



Engage.



Our future is
just a click away



Participate.



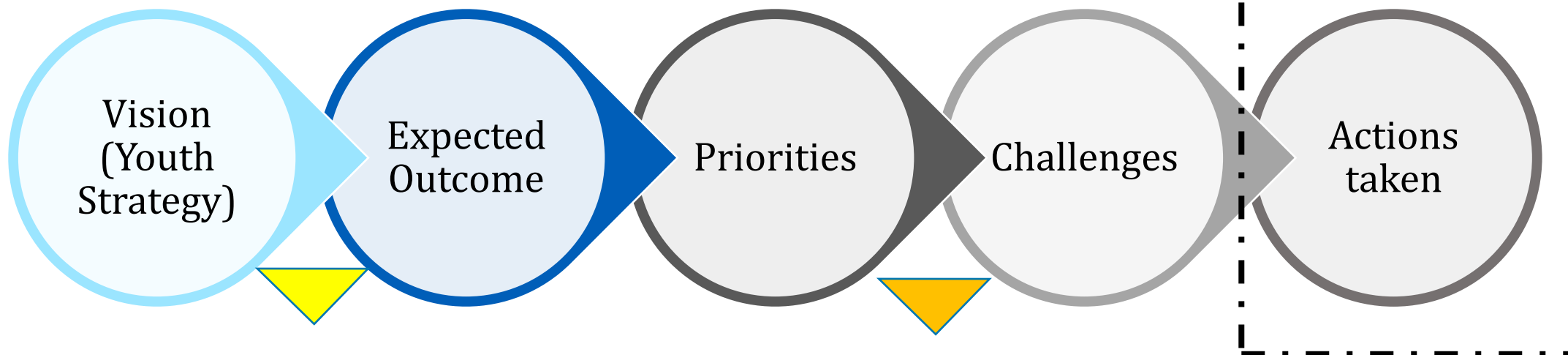
Our future is
just a click away



itu.int/generationconnect



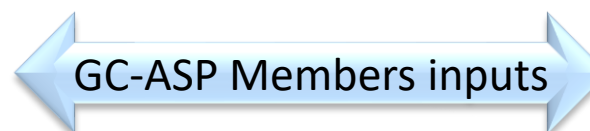
From Youth Strategy to GC-ASP Action Plan 2022-2025



- Engage in the work of ITU-ASP
- Contribute to the decision-making processes
- Promote ICT youth-related policies within ITU Member States
- Regular dialogue and consultations
- Incorporate a youth perspective in the implementation of the ITU strategic plan

- ① Cybersecurity
- ② Digital Services and Applications
- ③ Digital Inclusion
- ④ Capacity Development

- Engagements including:
- ✓ Smart villages and smart islands
 - ✓ Girls in ICT Day
 - ✓ Child Online Protection
 - ✓ E-waste
 - ✓ EU-STREIT PNG Programme
 - ✓ WTDC, TDAG, Council, PP, GCY, RDF...



Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys: Engagement at the ITU event and conference



Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys: Engagement at the ITU event and conference





Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2021



Pacific Girls in ICT Day 2023



ASEAN Girls in ICT Day 2023



International Girls in ICT Day 2024



Girls in ICT Day Malaysia 2021



Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2022



Girls in ICT
celebrations
with
participation of
GC-ASP Youth
Envoys

GIRLS AND WOMEN TALKING TECH

In support of
Girls in ICT Day



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

GIRLS AND WOMEN TALKING TECH

In support of
Girls in ICT Day
2020 - 2022

EQUALS
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

Shradha Pandey
ITU Asia-Pacific Youth Envoy



Philomena Gnanapragasam
Chief Executive Officer
Asia-Pacific Institute for
Broadcasting Development
(AIBD)

Generation Connect Podcast

The Generation Connect podcast is fully designed by youth and for youth. It is part of the Generation Connect Initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change.



Ep. 9. Leadership in Action: Young Changemakers Making a Difference

with Abdul Gafaru Dasana Amin, Shradha Pandey, and Sophiyat Sadiq

In this episode, our guests discuss the impact of young leaders with digital tools. Join Abdul Gafaru Dasana Amin [Kofi Annan Changemaker 2021 and Generation Connect-Africa Youth Envoy], Shradha Pandey [Kofi Annan Changemaker 2022 and Generation Connect-Asia & Pacific Youth Envoy], and Sophiyat Sadiq [Kofi Annan Changemaker 2021 and Generation Connect-Africa Youth Envoy], as they share their leadership experiences and contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This dialogue aims to inspire and empower the next generation of digital leaders.

Hosted by Tong Niu

Available in the following platforms:



Disclaimer

Generation Connect Podcasts

Episode #9. Leadership in Action: Young Changemakers Making a Difference

Abdul Gafaru Dasana Amin
Kofi Annan Changemaker 2021 and Generation Connect Africa Youth Envoy

Shradha Pandey
Kofi Annan Changemaker 2022 and Generation Connect Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy

Sophiyat Sadiq
Kofi Annan Changemaker 2021 and Generation Connect Africa Youth Envoy

Tong Niu
Generation Connect Podcast Host



Generation Connect Podcasts



Ep. 1: COVID-19 and the transition to online learning for youth around the world

With Connie Man Hei Siu & Sophiyat Sadiq

In this first episode of the podcast, Connie and Sophiyat, from the Generation Connect Asia-Pacific and African Regional Youth Groups, share with us their personal stories on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their education on two opposite sides of the world, while questioning the relevance of the current educational system in the wake of a global transition to online learning.

Hosted by Arissandra Egorova

Available in the following platforms:



Disclaimer

Generation Connect Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoys 2024



Len Solinda, 20
Cambodia



HUT Chanborey, 22
Cambodia



Whatanak Kean, 21
Cambodia



Ly Saovty, 22
Cambodia



Jiameng Li, 24
China



Zhuoyong Shi, 22
China



Feng Yu'ang, 23
China



Kailai Feng, 23
China



Adita Rachmadina Sule, 22, Indonesia



Adi Supriyadi, 23
Indonesia



Bintang Maranatha Utama, 21, Indonesia



Vinia Salsabila, 23
Indonesia



Coreen Samuelu, 24
Samoa



Fareti Amosa, 24
Samoa



Coreen Samuelu, 24
Samoa



Shania Ann A. Jimenez, 22, Philippines



Zoe Angeli Uy, 18
Philippines



Sandro M. Chica, 21
Philippines



Julius Atienza Aala, 22
Philippines



Yearin Lee, 23
Republic of Korea



Tran Trung Kien, 23, Viet Nam

Thank You



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