



## Gender & Science, Technology and Innovation Initiatives

United Nations Interagency  
Task Team on STI for SDGs



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**INTRODUCTION**

This brochure showcases select initiatives within the United Nations (UN) System on gender and science, technology and innovation (STI) from 11 contributing UN entities members of the Interagency Task Team on STI for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established under the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). The initiatives aim at empowering women and girls in the field of STI through various areas of action that include capacity building, information sharing, policy setting and awareness raising. SDG 5 on Gender Equality is a cross cutting enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.



**Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)**  
 Paragraph 70 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched the TFM to support the implementation of the SDGs. The TFM facilitates multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, UN entities and other stakeholders.

The TFM has three components:

1. A UN Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT)
2. A collaborative multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)
3. An online platform as a gateway for information on existing science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programs



The IATT Group on Gender and STI

Under the Interagency Task Team (IATT), a Group on Gender and STI was formed in 2018 with the purpose of increasing synergies and collaboration among the UN, its agencies, funds and programmes on issues pertaining to STI and gender. By connecting interested entities of the IATT and allowing the sharing of information and experiences, the Group provides a timely impetus for enhanced collaboration and exploration of possible joint activities in support of UN Action on this important agenda.

Find out more

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/tfm>

United Nations Economic Commission  
for Latin America and the Caribbean  
(UN ECLAC)



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

ECLAC, which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. ECLAC promote the economic, social and environmentally sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean through international cooperation, by undertaking research, technical cooperation, as well as advisory services in support of regional development efforts. The ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs support the strengthening of Governments capacity to implement gender equality policies; to produce gender statistics, and disseminates updated information particularly through the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

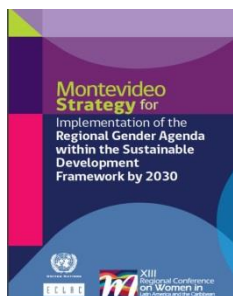
#### ECLAC Gender & STI Initiatives



Regional Conference  
on Women in  
Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Technical secretariat for Governments
  - Regional Conference on Women in LAC
  - Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in LAC
  - Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies
2. Generation of knowledge
  - Technological change from a gender perspective
  - Future of work and women's rights
  - Participation of women in STEM
3. Capacity building

**Montevideo Strategy for Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030**



Policy framework: Technology is a key implementation pillar for public policies aligned with the Regional Gender Agenda and 2030 Agenda. Agreed measures to ensure that technologies are safe and environmentally sustainable, and help eliminate gender inequality.

Policy framework: Actions to act on critical factors that condition digital development, including mainstreaming gender in achieving universal access to digital services, and advancing women's participation and leadership in public and private spaces where decisions are made on digital matters.

Find out more:

ECLAC: <https://www.cepal.org/en>

ECLAC Gender Affairs Division: <https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs>

Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the

Caribbean: <https://oig.cepal.org/en>



## International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology - ICGEB – is an intergovernmental organisation with the unique mandate of fostering research, capacity building and technology transfer in Life Sciences, with the ultimate purpose of promoting sustainable global development.

With 65 member states and over additional 20 signatory countries, the ICGEB forms an interactive network of internationally recognized scientists and state-of-the-art laboratories in its Components in Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town, and in its Affiliated Centres.

ICGEB was established within the United Nations as a special project of UNIDO in 1983, and has been an independent international organisation since 1994.

Its Headquarters are based in Trieste, Italy.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

#### ❖ ICGEB Fellowships



#### Description

The ICGEB Fellowship programmes offer long and short-term fellowships for scientists who are nationals of ICGEB Member States to perform research in Trieste, New Delhi or Cape Town. Based on the principle of full equality of men and women, a large number of female researchers receive scholarships each year.



As a result, at ICGEB Trieste women constitute 65% of the workforce: comprising 31 PhD students currently on board, 103 research scientists and staff members, representing over 20 nationalities, who have made outstanding contributions to scientific research.

#### Key Objectives

- Ensuring the rights of women scientists to participate in research activities by promoting and realizing gender equality

Find out more

<https://www.icgeb.org/activities/fellowship/>

#### ❖ Positive role models

#### Description

ICGEB is striving to reach a positive gender balance in its key scientific roles: at present 10 PIs (out of 45) are women, as are almost 1/3 of both the Scientific Council and Board of Governors. The Executive Management Team of ICGEB is composed of 3 women out of 5 members in total.



#### Key Objectives

- To provide positive role models for young girls wishing to pursue a career in science or science diplomacy.

## International Trade Centre (ITC)

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. It is the only development agency that is fully dedicated to supporting the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This means that the agency enables SMEs in developing and transition economies to become more competitive and connect to international markets for trade and investment, thus raising incomes and creating job opportunities, especially for women, young people, and poor communities.

## Gender & STI Initiatives

### ❖ International Gender Champions/ Trade Impact Group

#### Description

The International Gender Champions network brings together decision makers to break down gender barriers and consists of several thematic impact groups including one on trade, which is co-chaired by ITC, Sierra Leone, and Iceland.

The Trade Impact Group (TIG) galvanizes the world community on issues related to trade, gender, and empowerment of women, focusing on issues including mainstreaming of gender in technical assistance strategy, including gender-related issues in trade policy reviews, and highlighting the link between trade and gender (for example, through the Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment that received support from 120 + WTO Members and Observers).



**Key Objectives:**

- Promoting gender-responsive trade policies; Encouraging sharing of information/data and best practices to support increased participation of women in trade

Find out more  
<https://genderchampions.com/>



## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

### Description

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs) committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

#### ❖ EQUALS Global Partnership



### Description

EQUALS is a ground-breaking global network of over 55 partners who have committed to work together to improve women's access to technology, build relevant digital and STEM skills, and promote female leadership in the tech sector. Established by ITU, UN Women, the International Trade Centre, GSMA and the United Nations University, EQUALS provides a holistic, data-driven approach to achieving gender equality in tech.

### Key Objectives

- Advance Digital Gender Equality
- Each year, the EQUALS in Tech Awards recognize the great efforts around the world to empower women in the world of ICTs

### ❖ African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI)

#### Description

ITU and UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, launched the African Girls Can CODE Initiative to equip girls and young women in Africa with digital literacy skills. The AGCCI is a four-year programme that aims to train and empower girls and young women aged 17 to 20 years old across Africa to become computer programmers, creators and designers – and in so doing, enable more girls and young women to take up studies and careers in the ICT sector.



### Key Objectives

- Promote ICT's for girls. Digital skills for young women and girls
- Encourage African countries to mainstream ICT studies, including coding, into their national curricula to provide girls and young women with more opportunities to learn digital skills
- establish a network of women in ICT who will act as role-models; and create an online community platform through which girls can connect and share their coding experiences.

Find out more

<https://www.equals.org/>



## United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)

ESCWA provides a framework for the formulation and harmonization of sectoral policies for member countries, a platform for congress and coordination, a home for expertise and knowledge, and an information observatory.

ESCWA activities are coordinated with the divisions and main offices of the Headquarters of the United Nations, specialized agencies, and international and regional organizations, including the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

- ❖ Harnessing Technology for Combating Violence against Women (VAW) and Creating Safe Cities

#### Description

This policy brief analyses the linkage between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Plan and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

### Key Objectives

- Exploring VAW in urban public spaces and highlights the role of ICTs in addressing it through good practices from the international and regional levels.

- ❖ Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region: A Fact or Illusion? (Study and Expert Group Meeting – 2018-2019)

### Description

This study acknowledges the central role of technology in fostering women empowerment and gender equality. It builds on good practices tackling the different targets of Goal 5 drawn from international experiences and analyses their potential customization to the Arab regional context. It concludes with a set of policy recommendations for government and non-government stakeholders on how to harness technology to redress gender inequalities in the region. The study and its recommendations will be discussed in a meeting of international and regional experts on the issue.



### Key Objectives

- Highlighting the potential of technology in achieving gender equality in the Arab region and providing related recommendations to Governments, private sector, Academia and civil society.

Find out more

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/technology-renewed-hope-gender-equality-arab-region-fact-or-illusion>



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD is the United Nations body responsible for dealing with economic and sustainable development issues with a focus on trade, finance, investment and technology. It helps developing countries to participate equitably in the global economy. UNCTAD carries out economic research, produces innovative analyses and makes policy recommendations to support government decision-making. UNCTAD is a forum where representatives of all countries can freely engage in dialogue, share experiences and tackle critical issues affecting the global economy. It promotes consensus at the multilateral level.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

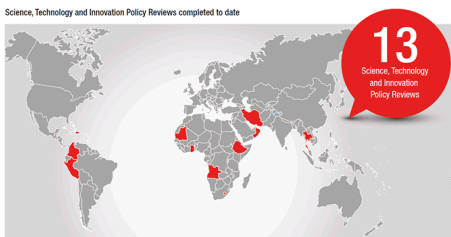
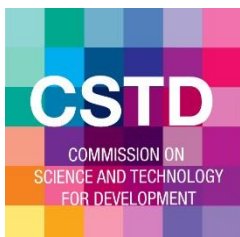
#### ❖ Commission on Science and Technology for Development

UNCTAD is servicing the ECOSOC Functional Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). The CSTD actively promotes using "gender lens" in STI policies. The aim is to encourage member states to integrate a gender perspective during the entire STI policy-making process, from assessment, through policy design, to implementation, capacity building, monitoring and follow-up so that STI empowers women in addressing their development challenges. The CSTD is the only ECOSOC Functional Commission with a gender advisory board, established in 1995.



## Key Objectives

- Promoting gender-balanced STI policies and leveraging STI for women empowerment



## ❖ Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Reviews

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Reviews aim to contribute to the development of national capacities in the field in order that national science, technology and innovation plans and programmes better contribute to development strategies and to improve the competitiveness of the productive sectors. A focus of equal opportunities for women and girls in the realm of STI are an integral part of the STIP review process and its suggestions for action.

## Key Objectives

- Promoting gender balanced STI Policies and inclusive national innovation systems in a country-by-country approach

Find out more

<https://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD.aspx>

[https://unctad.org/en/pages/publications/Science,-Technology-and-Innovation-Policy-Reviews-\(STIP-Reviews\).aspx?Do=6,5](https://unctad.org/en/pages/publications/Science,-Technology-and-Innovation-Policy-Reviews-(STIP-Reviews).aspx?Do=6,5)

## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Given its mandate in science and its work on women in science, UNESCO has a key role to play in working to overcome gender disparities in access to, influence over, and use of STI. UNESCO implements activities towards:

- Influencing cultural change and support women scientists;
- Supporting the careers of women scientists and strengthen their networks;
- Promoting gender equality in STEM education at primary and secondary levels
- Supporting monitoring and evidence-informed policy making
- Contributing to changing the underlying institutional bases of gender inequalities

## Gender & STI Initiatives

- ❖ For Women in Science Programme



Since 1998, the L'Oréal Foundation, in partnership with UNESCO, has worked to improve the representation of women in scientific careers, upholding the conviction that the world needs science, and science needs women. In its first 20 years, the For Women in Science programme supported and raised the profiles of 102 laureates and more than 3,000 talented young scientists, both doctoral and post-doctoral candidates, providing them with research fellowships, allocated annually in 117 countries.

### Key Objectives

- Recognizing women's contribution to science and the scientific agenda
- Encouraging young women to take up science careers and promote careers of promising young women researchers

Find out more

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/gender-and-science/supporting-women-scientists/for-women-in-science-programme/>

❖ STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA)

### Description

SAGA is a UNESCO global project focused on improving measurement and policies for gender equality in STI. The SAGA project offers governments and policymakers a variety of tools to set up, implement and monitor gender equality in STI policies to help reduce the current global gender gap in STI fields existing at all levels of education and research.



### Key Objectives

- improving national STI policies focused on gender;
- building capacity for the collection of data on gender in STI;
- improving the measurement and evaluation of the situation of women and girls in STI.

Find out more

<https://en.unesco.org/saga>



## The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. Today, UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

#### ❖ Girls Got IT



#### Description

An initiative that UNICEF supports in Lebanon through its Youth Innovation Lab. STEM careers are poised to be the jobs of the future, but discrimination and restrictive gender norms prevent many girls from entering those fields of study. The risk is that girls and women will remain marginalized in the global economy.

Closing the gender gap in education is not going to be enough to achieve gender equality – we also need to close the gender gap in STEM education. This is precisely the goal of Girls Got IT. It targets 15- to 17-year-old girls from marginalized and disadvantaged communities, including Syrian refugees – girls least likely to be exposed to STEM right at the time when they are planning their future careers and deciding whether to pursue higher education.

Key Objectives:

- Increase girls' access to STEM education

Find out more

<https://uniceflebanon.exposure.co/empowering-girls-in-lebanon>

❖ TechnoGirl

The TechnoGirl programme was initiated in 2005 and is based on a model of public–private partnership in which companies and organizations provide job-shadowing and mentorship opportunities for girls focusing on STEM careers. Through the TechnoGirl programme, adolescent girls (aged 15–18) in Grades 9–11 at underprivileged schools with an aptitude for mathematics and science are identified and placed in a structured job-shadowing and skills development initiative in private and public companies.

Key Objectives:

- This corporate mentorship provides adolescent girls with exposure to the workplace in STEM-based careers and helps build their confidence and skills.



Find out more

[https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/education\\_6101.html](https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/education_6101.html)

United Nations Office for Outer  
Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



UNOOSA works to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, and in the utilization of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development. The Office assists any UN Member States to establish legal and regulatory frameworks to govern space activities and strengthens the capacity of developing countries to use space science technology and applications for development by helping to integrate space capabilities into national development programmes.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

#### ❖ Space for Women - Project



The 'Space for Women' project will facilitate the strengthening of the awareness, capacity and skills of individuals and institutions related to the importance of promoting gender equality in the space sector and its fundamental educational fields by:

- Facilitating access to the space sector education as well as the space sector itself

- Provide policy-relevant advice and awareness raising to institutions and governments on 'Space for Women' and 'Women for Space'
- Facilitating capacity-building/training of individuals on access to and use of space-technology
- Promote a mentoring platform on 'Space for Women' Champions

Key Objectives:

- Promoting gender equality in the space sector

Find out more

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/topics/spaceforwomen/index.html>

## World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. According to the WFP, it provides food assistance to an average of 80 million people in 82 countries each year, most of them in remote areas, directly serving the hungry poor.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

- ❖ H2Grow - hydroponic solutions by WFP Innovation Accelerator



#### Description

H<sub>2</sub>Grow, the expert for hydroponic solutions, adapted to the needs of development or emergency contexts is enabling vulnerable communities to grow food anywhere to improve food-security and build resilience. Since 2016, WFP has been testing hydroponic techniques in some of the world's toughest environments to understand what it takes to grow food there.



H2Grow's vision for 2020 is to help implement best fit hydroponic solutions for 1 million vulnerable people in over 10 countries. Currently active in Algeria, Peru, Jordan, Chad and Sudan. In all areas, this is actively promoted as opportunity for female empowerment, also as the women are often in charge of sourcing either the foods for their family or the fodder for livestock, in case of small herds.

The project also provides the opportunity of extra income for those involved by selling the surplus production. Current status of female involvement:

Algeria (localized low-tech animal fodder production in Sahrawi refugee camps, Sahara desert, Western Algeria): tentative 73% women - 27% men (2017)

Chad (localized low tech animal fodder production in Sudanese refugee camps, Iriba area Eastern Chad): 80% women - 20% men (2018)

Jordan (medium tech animal fodder production in urban setting for Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities, Azraq town): 50% women - 50% men (2018)

Peru (simplified DIY vegetable production in urban slums, Lima Peru): 85% women - 15% men (2016 first phase), 74% women – 25% men (2018 second phase)



#### Key Objectives:

- Active involvement of women in initiative for Improved access to fresh foods for people and livestock in extreme, harsh (climate) conditions for better food security and resilience.

Find out more

<https://innovation.wfp.org/>



## World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 191 member states.

Our mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property (IP) system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

### Gender & STI Initiatives

#### ❖ Bend the trend

##### Description

Encouraging WIPO member states to take action to bend the trend and make gender parity a reality through the participation of women representatives in WIPO meetings.



##### Key Objectives

- Make gender parity a reality in the WIPO Assemblies by 2020
- Raise women's voices in intergovernmental fora

Find out more

[https://www.wipo.int/women-and-id/en/news/2017/news\\_0008.html](https://www.wipo.int/women-and-id/en/news/2017/news_0008.html)

## ❖ IP Wave for Creative Women Leaders

### Description

WIPO and the Korea Women Inventors Association collaboratively developed and delivered this International Workshop for Women Inventors & Entrepreneurs on intellectual property rights, customized to women inventors and entrepreneurs of small- and medium-sized companies. The Workshop offers seminars on intellectual property rights and creativity, introduction of success stories and business strategies of women inventors and entrepreneurs, and training sessions for actual international business activities



### Key Objectives

- Empower women inventors and entrepreneurs through knowledge on the effective use of intellectual property
- Enhance international networks of women inventors and entrepreneurs

Find out more

[https://www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/news/2016/news\\_0005.html](https://www.wipo.int/women-and-ip/en/news/2016/news_0005.html)

