



WSIS Gender Caucus Research Programme Announcement

November 25, 2003

The WSIS Gender Caucus (WSIS-GC) is a multi-stakeholder group of women and men from national governments, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the United Nations system. The WSIS-GC is committed to creating 'a space [spaces] where women scholars and advocates are encouraged to share their intellectual and conceptual perspectives in shaping and transforming the Information Society...'

The WSIS-GC is pleased to announce that with support from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; NORAD; SIDA; UNIFEM and the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs a global research programme on gender and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) will start in the first quarter of 2004. The groundwork will be laid in Geneva in December 2003 during the first phase of the WSIS. The WSIS-GC is adopting a two-pronged strategy of advocacy and research to support and guarantee success for its core objective of integrating gender equality and women's rights into WSIS - its process, documents and outcomes. The WSIS-GC hopes that its research programme will help to ensure that men and women equally will acquire ICT research related skills and achieve ownership and control over the new ICTs.

The objectives of the research programme are to:

- Conduct research to produce specific data and improve overall understanding of women's participation in the Information Society worldwide.
- Systematically collect, analyse, document and disseminate research results.
- Generate new perspectives, frameworks and tools to support the integration of women into the Information Society and to advance the field.
- Strengthen research capacities in this new field, especially for women.
- Identify and use new research paradigms and patterns emerging from the field and associated research.
- Illuminate gendered realities in respect of the use, deployment, control, etc. of new technologies, drawing on the tools and frameworks of older and better researched fields, especially feminist theory.

This research programme will be launched within the critical dialogue series consisting of 10 panel discussions and 3 Roundtables being hosted by the WSIS Gender Caucus 8-13 December in Palexpo, Geneva (please see <http://www.genderwsis.org/criticaldialogue.html>).

This call is for ALL those interested in this effort as researchers, funders or supporters to join this effort by sending an email to erathgeber@genderwsis.org with the word 'Research' as the subject and include in the body of the message details of desired involvement.