



WSIS GENDER CAUCUS
Strengthen Gender Equality
Paragraphs in the Plan of Action
(Addendum 2 (Rev.1) to Document WSIS/PC-3/10-E 26
September of the President of the WSIS PrepCom on the
Declaration of Principles, 5 November 2003)

The WSIS Gender Caucus calls for the strengthening of the Gender Equality paragraphs in the WSIS Plan of Action, in solidarity with the call by Civil Society that gender equality is non-negotiable.

ENGENDER THE DIGITAL SOLIDARITY AGENDA

We support the proposed new text on the Digital Solidarity Agenda as we believe that this provides an opportunity for the allocation of dedicated funds for the empowerment of women and girls in the Information Society as part of an endeavour to bridge the digital divide. We appeal for explicit reference to the the promotion of gender equality in an attempt to bridge both the digital and gender divide and propose the following change in language:

Paragraph Alt 28: Existing new text distributed on 12 November 2003

“To overcome the digital divide, which deepens between the North and the South and also within thethe inclusion of every man and woman in the emerging information society....”

Proposed Amendment:

To overcome the digital and gender divide, which deepens.....information society...”

In this regard, it is recommended to put urgently into place new mechanisms aimed at firstly financing the unsolvable demand on infrastructure, equipment, capacity building and content development by also promoting dedicated programs for the advancement of women and girls.

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that it the Summit recognizes the existence of gender disparities within the digital divide where every aspect of the divide is significantly stacked against women and girls. We believe that dedicated programs to advance women and girls would be one way to promote gender inclusion in the information society.

We appeal to government delegations to support the inclusion of text to promote gender equality.

Thursday, 13 November 2003

For more information on this paragraph and additional resources, during the PrepCom 3 Resumed Session contact:Shafika Isaacs, WSIS Gender Caucus Steering Committee, Mobile: +41 76 5248230, Email: sisaacs@genderwsis.org