Gender and internet governance

Key areas that need attention

- Meaningful access

- Safety

- Representation and participation in tech development and policy making on digital issues

Key areas that need attention

Meaningful Access

- What is women's meaningful access to the Internet?
- What are some of the Barriers for accessing the Internet identification of the needs and challenges of diverse women's groups with respect to Internet access
- What is the impact of Community Networks on women's Internet access
- The opportunities and challenges that women face to get the necessary skills to benefit from the future of work
- An inclusive approach that combines access (availability of affordable connectivity and devices), adoption and ability to use (digital skills and readiness), uses driven by content and applications (e.g., education, economic development, health, agriculture), and equity/diversity (e.g., gender, race, language, disability, geographic location, ownership, and control) is essential

Key areas that need attention

- **Safety**

- Online and offline continuum
- Women are more target
- Women face differentiated risks and impacts
- Compounding effects of identity issues
- Recognition of TF GBV as a real problem
- Understanding emerging manifestations (ex. gendered disinfo)

Key areas that need attention

- **Representation and participation in tech development and policy making on digital issues**
  - Women in STEM
    28 per cent of engineering graduates, 22 per cent of artificial intelligence workers and less than one third of tech sector employees globally
  - Gender issues in internet governance
    - Protectionist approach v. agency and autonomy
    - IGF => BPF at IGF, MAG, IGF agenda
    - GDC => ?

In groups:

 ⬜ How have these challenges materialized in your work / research?

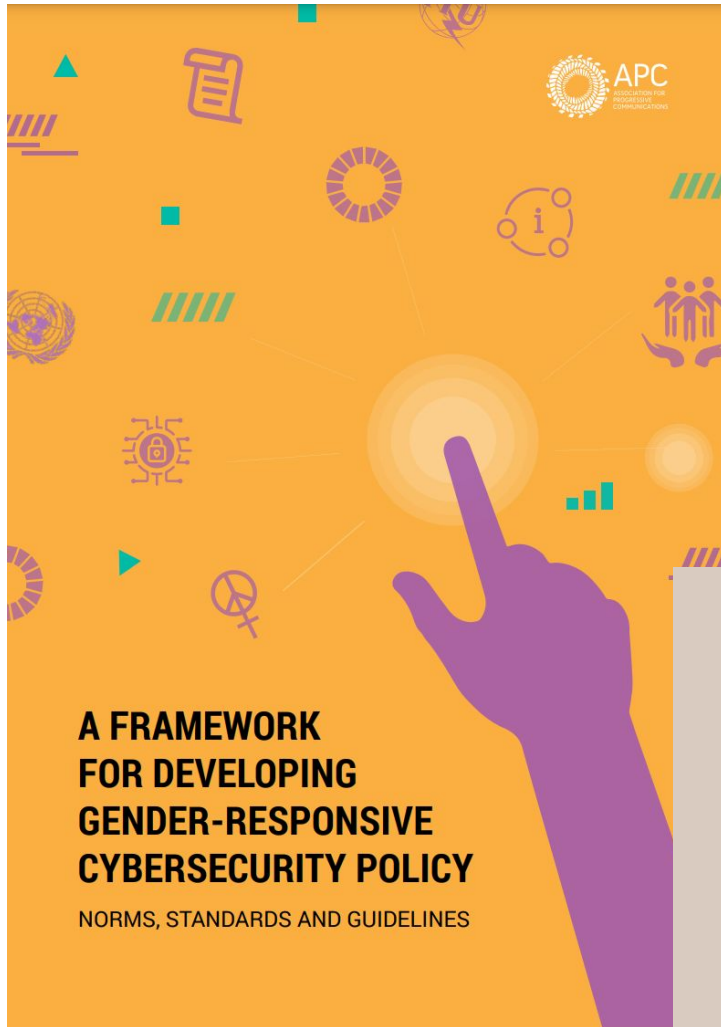 ⬜ What role can internet governance play in addressing these challenges?

An example: Integrating a Gender Perspective to Cybersecurity

Our focus was on providing guidance to policymakers and CS to develop gender-responsive cybersecurity policy.

To achieve this goal, in consultation with cybersecurity and gender specialists and activists, APC has developed a framework to support policy makers and civil society in developing gender-responsive cybersecurity policy at the national level that could also inform multilateral cybersecurity forums and discussions.

APC

**A FRAMEWORK
FOR DEVELOPING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
CYBERSECURITY POLICY**

NORMS, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

APC

**A FRAMEWORK
FOR DEVELOPING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
CYBERSECURITY POLICY**

LITERATURE REVIEW

**A FRAMEWORK FOR
DEVELOPING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
CYBERSECURITY POLICY:
ASSESSMENT TOOL**

GENDER IN NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

What do we mean by stages of maturity? While it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where policy processes are in terms of providing a comprehensive and meaningful response to cybersecurity needs for all, we talk generally of "stages of maturity". The current stage of the policy development process in your country might actually be a mix of different stages.

Start-up stage
To raise awareness among stakeholders of the importance of the gender approach to cybersecurity.

Formative stage
To include the gender approach in the various strategic aspects of the cybersecurity policy and its action plan.

Established stage
To actively participate in evaluating the results of the policy and to participate in national and international cooperation to strengthen the gender approach to cybersecurity

How to Develop Gender Responsive Cybersecurity Policy

Understanding National Cybersecurity Risks and Threats
- Collect evidence, case studies, and reports from organizations working on gender and cybersecurity.
- Analyze legal frameworks and policies that can address gender needs and challenges.

Integration of Gender Perspective in Cybersecurity Policy
- Ensure participatory mechanisms in developing cybersecurity policies and action plans.
- Conduct national risk assessments to identify intersectional risks.
- Establish inclusive consultation processes, considering power dynamics.
- Incorporate specific policy texts on gender and cybersecurity, aligning with regional and international commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals.

How to Develop Gender Responsive Cybersecurity Policy

Evaluation and International Cooperation
- Actively participate in evaluating policy results and cooperate in national and international instances with a gender perspective.
- Evaluate implementation actions and propose necessary follow-up mechanisms.
- Foster cross-sectoral cooperation, aligning cybersecurity strategy with broader objectives such as digital inclusion, human rights, equality, diversity, and combating disinformation.
- Engage with stakeholders in international forums to build a common front.