

Women economic participation and ICT in the Mediterranean Region: Constraints and opportunities

State of play and challenges for the women participation in the ICT sector in the region

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The Arab ICT Organization – IJMA3



The Arab ICT Organization

ICT for Development "ICT4D"

Guest Members :

• American Arab Chamber of Commerce



• Arab Business Forum for ICT



• MercyCorps



• Academy for Educational Development



• Business Software Alliance



• Information Technology Association of America - ITAA



• International Relief and Development



• World Summit Award



• Microsoft



• UN ICT TF ARN



• WITSA



• Intel



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Women's participation in the ICT sector

Through IJMA3, Union of Arab ICT Associations, we see that there is much room for development for women's role in ICT:

1. Working within the ICT industry
2. Internet Governance and Policymaking
3. Using ICT as Enabler for Progress

Women's participation in the ICT sector



1. Working within the ICT industry

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that women represent around 30% of the workforce in ICT, which drops to about 9% in high management

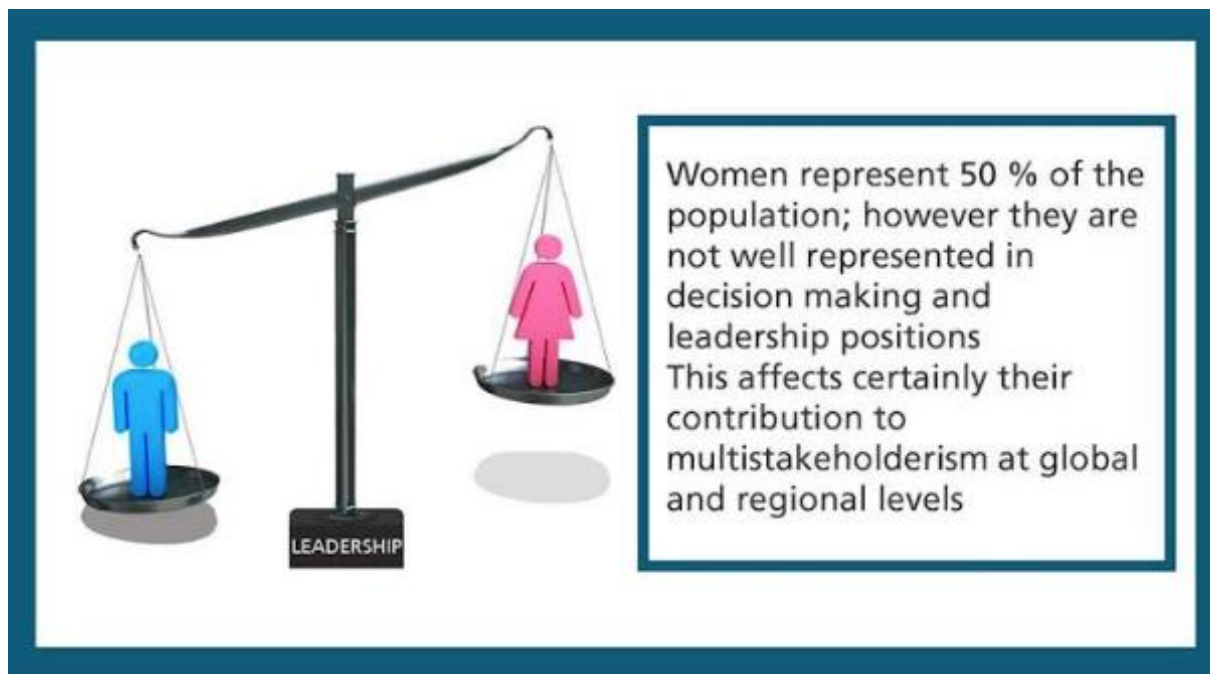
2. Internet Governance and Policymaking

- Women represent about 15% policy and decision making roles

3. Using ICT as Enabler for Progress

- Across the Arab part of the world, this has been an extreme driver as it revolutionized the way people can work and especially women, as it drop many of the obstacles. This has increased access to education and employment for women.

1. Women's Leadership Positions in ICT Sector



MENA Specific Constraints:

- Lack of awareness about women's potential as leaders
- A system that does not protect women fairly in the workforce (maternity leave, discrimination, lack of protection from sexual harassment)
- Pressure to focus on family life after marriage
- Lack of mentorship to fill new vacancies.

1. Women's Leadership positions in ICT Sector

WAVE (the Women's Alliance for Virtual Exchange) has launched a campaign to help women break the glass ceiling in the ICT sector.

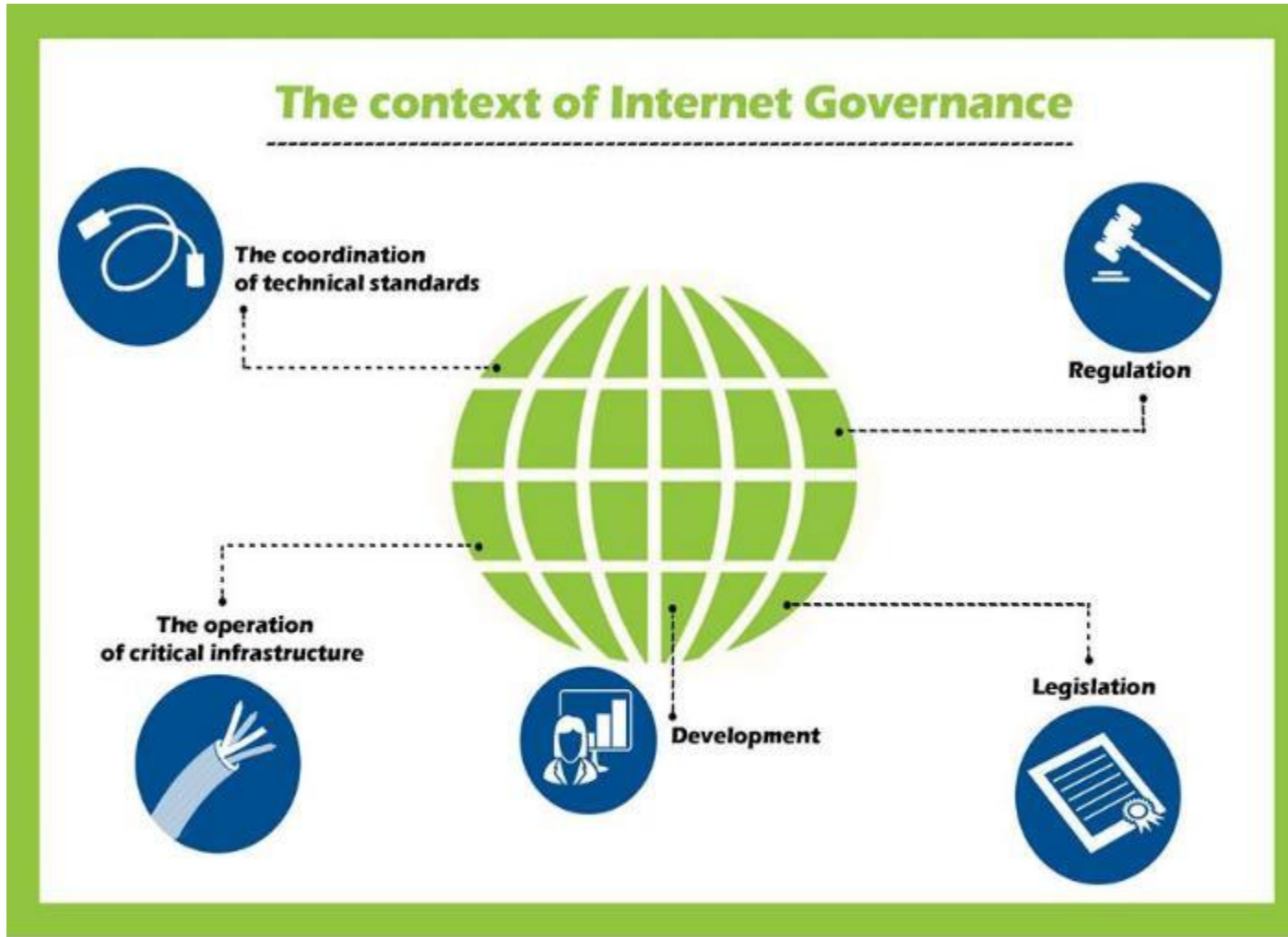


Click here:

<http://waveprogram.org/ViewVideos.aspx?ID=13>

2. This year campaign, gender balance within multistakeholderism. Why?

2. Voice in Internet Governance (IG)



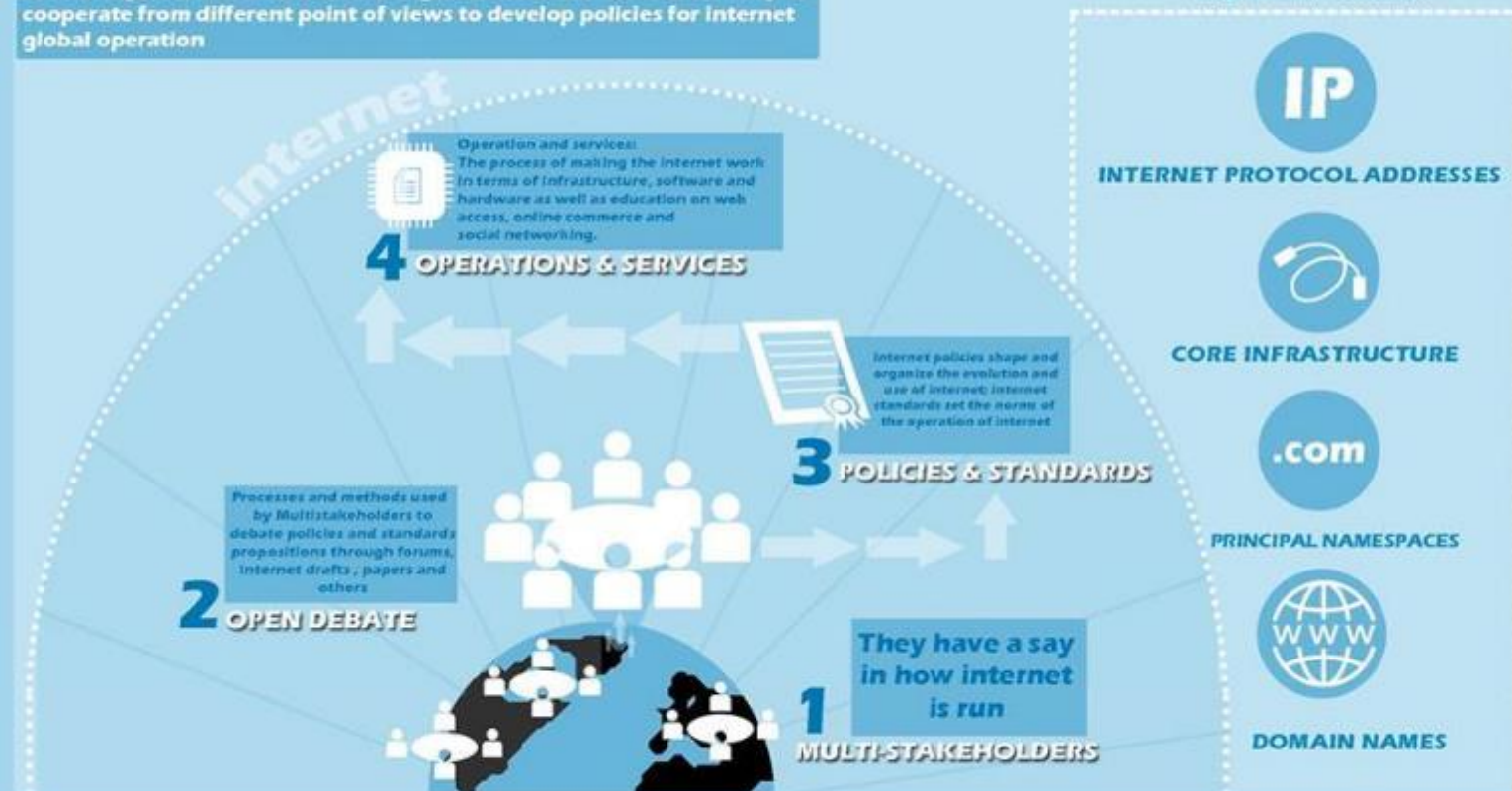
Campaign on gender balance within this multi-stakeholderism in internet governance

2. IG: Why? What is it?

WHO GOVERNS THE INTERNET?

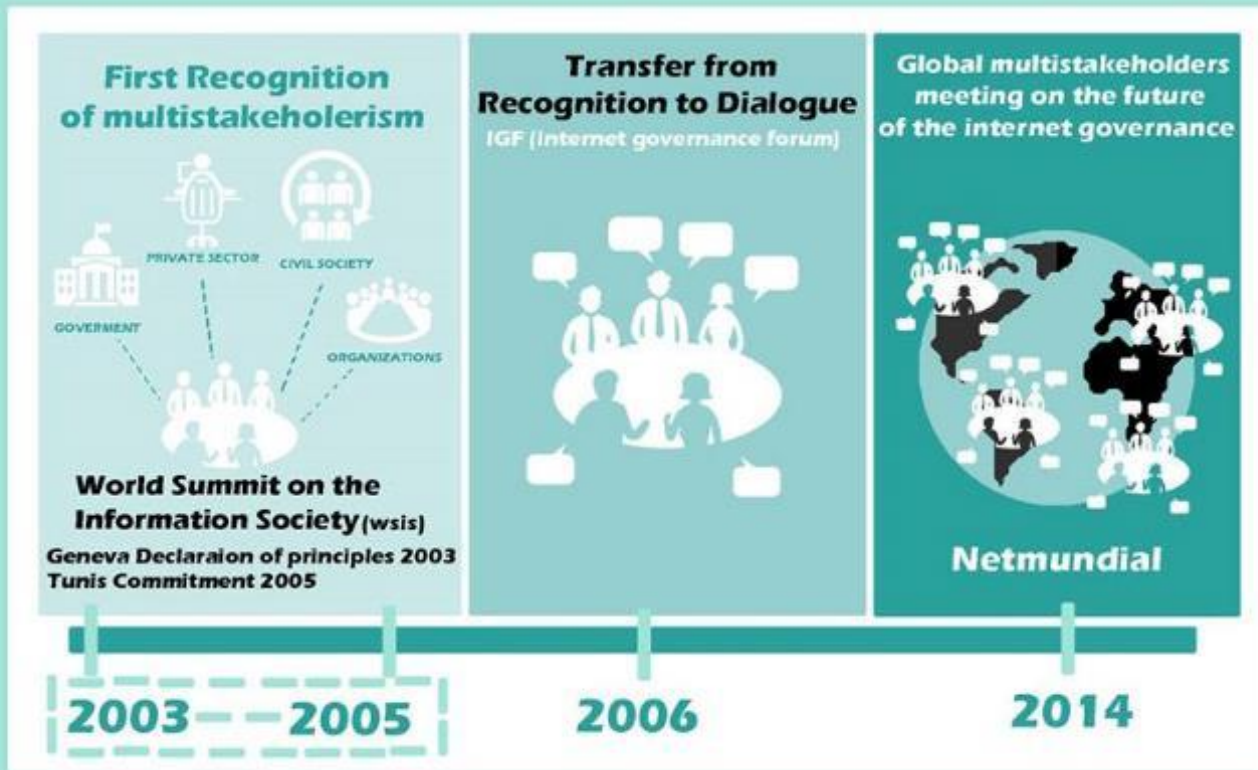
Internet is not governed by a single individual, sector, or government; Internet governance includes stakeholders from government, private sector, regional and international organizations and academics. They all cooperate from different point of views to develop policies for internet global operation

ICANN
the Internet Corporation for
Assigned Names and Numbers



2. Multistakeholdersim in IG

THE EVOLUTION OF MULTISTAKEHOLDERISM CONCEPT



2. Womens Participation in IG

Why Women should be interested to engage in Internet Governance

41%

of women have increased income and professional opportunities once they joined the world wide web



85%

of women feeling more independent because of their internet access



93%

of women feeling safer after joining the internet world



Women in rural areas and lower income groups stand to benefit the most from closing the gender gap in internet access



Campaign on gender balance within this multi-stakeholderism in internet governance

3. Benefits from ICTs

Despite challenges, ICTs offer a myriad of opportunities for women in the Euro-Mediterranean:

- Access to Education for Girls in parts of the region where travel outside the home is unsafe or restricted.
- Communication and Voice to Women and Girls; decreases isolationism and raises awareness on range of issues
- Tool for self-employment

Conclusion



- Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this great endeavor.
- We can now have a brief Question and Answer period.