Enhancing Women's Global Leadership through Information Technology

Parallel event

of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as organizing the four world conferences since 1975

This meeting has had a strong focus on women and leadership or women in decision-making in relation to information technology, in keeping with the theme of the Commission. You have had the opportunity to consider some critical issues:

Using ICT to improve information and exchange and decision-making;
Women's employment in high-level positions in the private sector;
Improving health, education and employment opportunities;
Creating business opportunities;
Corporate responsibility and gender equality;
Overcoming gender stereotypes and encouraging women to pursue science and technology.

In the Division for the Advancement of Women, as I mentioned yesterday, we are working on the issue of ICT, in particular working to increase the access, use and benefits from ICT for national mechanisms for the advancement of women in Africa, such as women's ministries. These national ministries and other bodies are, in turn, committed to working to improve the access, use and benefit of ICT for women and girls in their countries.

Our work so far has indicated the complexity of gender perspectives on ICT – including issues of

Access – going beyond technological aspects to l6TD 0 Ta imprat hacictsrolother b09.5 -13.5

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ICT". (Copies have been made available in the back of the room and it is also available on the Division's website: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw). The publication provides an analysis of the linkages between gender equality and ICT and of the achievements and challenges in bringing attention to gender equality in ICT polices and programmes. Strategies for increasing women's access and use of technologies, strengthening their influence on infrastructure, regulations and resources, and enhancing access to benefits, including employment and income generating opportunities, are discussed in the publication.

The value of establishing new partnerships - for example with the private sector and academic institutions - to bridge the gender digital divide is highlighted. The potential role of donors in supporting innovative projects as highlighted, including for example, the production or repackaging of content particularly relevant to the interests and concerns of women; supporting ighteparticularly reaj 0 -13.th the privncerns ofand coritritritrie46 T4.5-0