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Gender Responsive Standards:

A Key to Unlocking the SDGs

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Women in Standards:
The Participation Gap

- 2018 Labour Force Participation rate for women (48.5%); 26.5% below men
- Since 1990 – participation gap has narrowed by only 2%
- 10% of experts involved in standards development are women
- 2020 is a pivotal year: 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UN, New York, 9-20 March 2020) to take stock of progress on Beijing+ 25

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Standards for the SDGs

WP6 & Project Objectives

- Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP6)
- Since 1970 – develop Recommendations, capacity building, share best practice
- Standards for the SDGs Project – Objective: Support use of standards for sustainable development
- Project deliverables: High-level events, case studies, mapping deliverables

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Gender Responsive Standards: Why?

- Women widely under-represented in development and implementation
- The differential impact of standards on men and women
- E.g. ungendered product design, poses risk to women (protective clothing)

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Gender Responsive Standards Initiative

- Started in 2016, diverse working group of stakeholders with the aim to
  a. Strengthen the use of standards as tools to achieve SDG 5
  b. Integrate a gender lens
  c. Elaborate gender indicators and criteria
- The Initiative developed the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development

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The Declaration on

Gender Responsive Standards

- Standards bodies pledge to create and implement gender action plans
- Objective: support inclusive standards development processes & strengthen the gender-responsiveness of standards
- Currently 55 Signatories, including:

  Int. Standards Bodies (ISO, IEC, ITU, ASTM International, Verra), Regional Bodies (ARSO, CEN-CENELEC), 45 National Standards Bodies (i.e. India, Canada, UK, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, New Zealand, Senegal)

Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development

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Examples of

Commitments by Signatory

- Collect & present gender-disaggregated data on participation;
- Develop guidelines on gender responsive standards
- Developing a standard on equal wages
- Encourage the participation of NGOs to represent the interests of rural & marginalized women

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Upcoming gender-related UNECE Meetings

- Web-meeting of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative
  September 24th, 2019
- Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting
  29 - 30 October 2019, Geneva
- Meeting of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative
  20 November 2019, Geneva
- Twenty-Ninth Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6),
  20-22 November 2019, Geneva

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Conclusion

- Take action to address the gender gap
- Become a signatory to the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards
- Create a Gender Action Plan and support inclusive standards development
- Let's plan together on how to maximize the opportunities for visibility to decision-makers and the UN that 2020 offers!

Thank you!

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