


Gender in ICT Policy and Regulation


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Presentation Overview

- ▶ Why Gender in ICT Policy & Regulation
 - ▶ Lifting the veil on ICT gender indicators in Africa
 - ▶ Can women benefit from cyberspace as a public space?
 - ▶ How gender is embedded in the national ICT policy of Malawi
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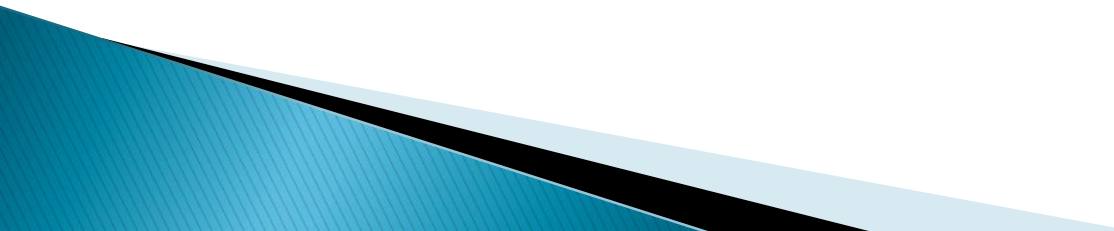
Why Gender in ICT Policy & Regulation

- ▶ ICTs can deepen or transform inequality but ICTs cannot create gender equality or end poverty (APC)
 - ▶ However, a gender digital divide exists and needs to be addressed
 - What are the key issues leading to the gender digital divide?
 - What measures can be taken to reduce/minimize/eliminate the gender digital divide?
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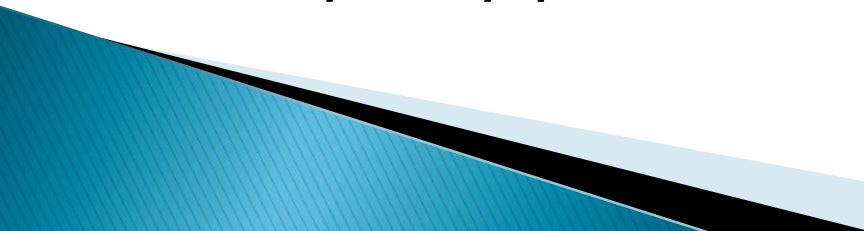
Lifting the veil on ICT gender indicators in Africa

- ▶ Focus: Masking effect on gender & ICT access/usage by factors of income and education
- ▶ Widely acknowledged the gender digital divide sits atop other gender divides
- ▶ Paper highlights relationship between lower uptake of women and lower education/income levels
- ▶ How can ICT agenda be integrated in national planning policies and programs?
 - A number of African countries have prioritised ICT as a key pillar for the economic and social development

Can women benefit from cyberspace as a public space?

- ▶ Focus: Can women benefit from cyberspace as a public space
 - ▶ ICTs are said to promote social inclusion ... enable remote participation and engagement
 - ▶ Social trust and security concerns are found to be key impediments for women's uptake of cyberspace as a public space
 - ▶ Given current focus on cyber security, what specifically needs to be done to improve social trust?
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How gender is embedded in the national ICT policy of Malawi

- ▶ Focus: Gender equality concerns in policy making and implementation among ICT policy stakeholders
 - ▶ ICT policies across Africa generally do have “mandatory” statements on gender inclusion
 - ▶ How should government be held accountable to the policy statements?
 - ▶ How can gender activists/consumer advocates be more active in embedding gender perspectives in ICT policy processes?
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Thank you for your kind attention

