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
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?
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?
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?
Thank you for your kind attention