

Thematic Dialogue

Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, Challenges and Opportunities evolving from the COVID-19 context.

29 March 2021, Generation Equality Forum, Mexico

25 years ago, only 4% of the world's population could benefit from the internet. Nowadays, **approximately half of the world's population is connected** and a whole generation has grown in the digital age, in close contact with the internet through computers, tablets or mobile phones.

In 2020, the UN Secretary General listed technology and innovation as one of the five areas in which achieving gender equality can transform our world. By singling out innovation and technology as one of the six Action Coalition themes, the Generation Equality Forum's conveners were urging the world to focus on harnessing technology to advance gender equality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extreme stimulator towards the rapid digitalization of work, school and social life and has made digital tools a lifeline for millions of people. However, the pandemic has also exposed the digital divide and shown that the population excluded from the digital world, which include many women and girls, are the most at risk of being left behind by this crisis.

The year 2021 and the Generation Equality Forum will represent a critical moment for engagement, the opportunity to hear the voices of a new generation of gender equality advocates and to be united towards bold, collective solutions that spark a world lean towards a gender-diverse digital evolution.

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