



BPW International

Report from UN / EWL / COE representatives

Name of Representative:	Elisabeth Clément-Arnold
UN Agency, EWL, or COE	UNCTAD
For the period of:	November 7-8 th 2019
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Meetings, Activities, Contribution (e.g. statement / workshop) during the reported period:	
UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development: Inter-sessional Panel on harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development.	
<p>The panel has examined issues related to the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. Findings and recommendations of the panel are expected to be considered at the twenty-third session of the Commission, to be held in March 2020.</p> <p>New technologies bring development and progress even to the poorest, providing that they have access to electricity: electricity changes their lives; they can watch TV, connect to the internet and internet services, study in the evenings, and nowadays earth observation and artificial intelligence opens up a great number of activities.</p> <p>New technologies can make (remove ‘the’) agricultural production more sustainable and have a positive influence on yields – which is of great importance for the huge number of poor in rural areas. They can save limited resources by putting in place systems for recycling and for the circular economy. We face now a new challenge comparable to that of the industrial revolutions – industry 4.0 - where jobs are destroyed and new ones created. Robots replace humans in tedious repetitive jobs and the demand for leisure products may increase, both types of product created by specialised and more skilled human beings. The culture of constant learning should be part of any industrial company. STI policies have to be aware of the social implications, as the technological gaps between producers and users of new technologies, and people who are not trained to use them (women!) and are left behind: new technologies should reduce inequalities and be designed in such a way to ensure their accessibility to all (remove ‘the’) consumers.</p> <p>The case of “Mobihealth International” (https://mobihealthinternational.com/) active in Nigeria, a poor country of 200 million inhabitants, and presented by its founder, Ms. Adewara, is an impressive example: only 0.38 physicians for 1000 inhabitants are available, mainly in cities. In addition, Nigeria faces a massive exodus of trained physicians, trying to establish themselves abroad. Rural areas have no access to medical care, and no health insurance either. The company created a basic medical service providing digital health care, available to people who have no insurance and with a limited number of doctors. For 10 years, doctors speaking local languages have been flying to medical centers with 20 local aircraft (MTM). But its main successes are video consultations, telehealth units, diagnosis and care with tele-applications, such as for eye-examination on screen or malaria diagnosis from finger prints, with low costs of testing. As a result visits to hospitals can be avoided - 60% of the people go to the hospital unnecessarily. In addition, health education, prevention and early detection of diseases are provided. 25 to 30 thousand applications are available. As usual, the lack of internet connection and of other basic services, especially for women, are a major obstacle to the extension and the development of the services.</p>	
Finding resources or opportunities that can benefit BPW members: BPW members should	

encourage their daughters to train in mathematics, science and engineering, as the gender gap is still great in those promising fields of activity.

Other comments : in Switzerland, where the population claims for non-controlled costs of health, services like Mobihealth International should be considered by health insurance providers.