



The Commonwealth



65th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Driving Digital Gender Equality through Mobile Technology Across the Commonwealth

Friday, 19 March 2021, 1000 – 1200 (EDT), 1400 – 1600 (GMT)
BlueJeans Events Virtual Platform

Despite advances in digital technologies, the gender digital divide in the Commonwealth continues to present a significant challenge. Addressing the inequalities that exist in the digital world, from access to digital technologies to participation in digital economy is key to ensuring that women can both benefit from and contribute to enhancing the opportunities that ICTs bring to society. Against this background, The Commonwealth Secretariat, GSMA and Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network will bring together key stakeholders from across the Commonwealth and the mobile industry to discuss the link between digital gender equality and women's full and effective participation and leadership in the digital future, which COVID-19 has made more urgent.

Welcome Remarks (5 min)

Belinda Exelby, Head of International Relations, GSMA; Chair of EQUALS Steering Committee

Keynote Address (10 min)

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

Opening Remarks (10 min)

Moderator: Claire Sibthorpe, Head, Connected Women, Connected Society and Assistive Tech, GSMA

Fireside chat (30 min)

- Hon Thesele Maseribane, Minister of Small Business, Development and Marketing, Lesotho
- Teresa Wankin, Secretary-General, Caribbean Association of Network and Telecommunication Organisations (CANTO)

Panel Discussion (45 min)

- Rose Maghas, CEO, Rova Digital
- Vishakha Saigal, Vice President & Head-Strategic Initiatives, Jio
- Milena Harito, Advisor-Sherpa of the Chairman and CEO, Orange
- Ruth Badoo, Senior Manager MFS Operations & Service, MTN Ghana

Closing Remarks (5 min)

Arif Zaman, Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network

The Panel will discuss:

- o Key barriers to addressing the digital gender divide in the Commonwealth
- o Opportunities to leverage the power of mobile technologies to drive digital gender equality
- o Specific and concrete actions that Commonwealth governments can take to accelerate progress towards bridging the digital gender gap

To attend, please register at: <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/register/hghcktet>

For more information, please contact Kemi Ogunsanya (k.ogunsanya@commonwealth.int) at the Commonwealth Secretariat or Tamara Dancheva (TDancheva@gsma.com) at GSMA