

# MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

## PREAMBLE

The Government of Ghana is committed to pursuing an ICT for Accelerated Development (ICT4AD) Vision aimed at improving the quality of life of the people of Ghana by significantly enriching their social, economic and cultural well-being through the rapid development and modernisation of the economy and society using information and communication technologies as the main engine for accelerated and sustainable economic and social development.

The main mission of the Ghana ICT4AD Vision is: to transform Ghana into an information-rich knowledge based and technology-driven high income economic and society. Some of the key sub-missions of the vision are:

- (i) To develop Ghana's information and knowledge-based society and economy through the widespread development, deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the society and economy;
- (ii) To develop an export-oriented ICT products and services industry;
- (iii) (ii) promote local and foreign direct investment drive in ICTs;
- (iv) To develop Ghana's research and development (R&D) capacity and capabilities with the potential to conduct and engage in advanced and cutting edge R&D work required for supporting the development of a globally competitive information, knowledge-based and high tech export industry and services

The Ministry of Women and Children (MOWAC) responsible for the welfare of women and children and more importantly, Ghana is a member of and serving on

several UN agencies, namely, the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the UN Children's Summit etc. Being the machinery responsible for women and children, the deployment and exploitation of ICTs will greatly influence the work of the Ministry in achieving its mandate and relationship with the international organisations.

This ICT Policy Statement is designed to guide the process of the deployment and exploitation of ICTs within the MOWAC.

## **VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Create a society of equity and equality among men and women in which the survival, development and protection of the child is assured.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote gender equality and equity, the survival, protection and development of children to ensure increased participation of both women and children in the development process of the country.

## **STRATEGIES FOR ATTAINING THE STATED MISSIONS**

To achieve its vision and mission, the Ministry shall pursue the strategies presented below:

- Mainstream children and women into the development processes of the country through the formulation and coordination of gender and child specific development policies.
- Issue guidelines, advocacy tools, strategies and plans for implementation by MDAs, District Assemblies, Private Sector Agencies, NGOs, Civil Society Groups and other Development Partners
- Monitor and evaluate both the process and impact on women and children of plans and programmes being implemented at all levels
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and institutions to promote gender equality and equity
- Enhance the capacity of the Ministry and its departments for efficient service delivery

- Commission research towards identifying gaps and making recommendations towards improving the well being of women and children
- Comply with Ghana's international obligations with regards to the survival and protection of children as well as the advancement of women
- Collaborate with development partners towards achieving the survival and protection of children as well as assuring the development and advancement of women

### **ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION POLICY GOALS**

The Ministry is committed to achieving its mission and vision, and therefore will implement the following ICTs policy goals:

- Create and develop a Website to disseminate information to stakeholders of gender issues, the general public and serve as a feedback system.
- To use ICT facilities to establish linkages with international organisations in other countries to exchange ideas and programmes on gender issues.
- To use ICTs to bring about efficiency and ensure timely transfer and disbursement of funds; retrieval, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's programmes.
- To collaborate with the relevant MDAs to ensure increased access of children to educational and vocational training programmes that exploit the use of ICTs.
- To work with the appropriate institutions to ensure that every child especially the girl child is equipped with the ability to use ICT facilities in every field of endeavour in the new information and technological world
- To collaborate with the relevant agencies to bridge the gender gap with regards to access and utilisation of ICTs in the country
- To work with and strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions to promote gender equality and ensure equity through the use and deployment of ICTs
- To use ICTs to enhance the capacity of the Ministry and its departments for effective and efficient service delivery.

## **ICT DEPLOYMENT AND EXPLOITATION COMMITMENTS**

The Ministry, in implementing its stated ICT strategies in line with its goal of ensuring that children have the ability to use ICTs, is committed to:

- Ensuring that out-of-school children have access to ICTs in its proposed children centres.
- Ensuring that girls and women exploit their innovative capacity to create, design and use ICT products by ensuring that the implementation of the ICT policy addresses these gender issues
- Ensuring that women have access to ICT for the purposes of decision making, business and sustainable learning through the provision of computers in its proposed women centres for women to access
- As part of its mandate to advocate and create awareness, create a website to promote the rights of men, women and children and also highlight issues affecting them.
- establish ICT connectivity to link up with other MDAs to generate information for policy making to positively influence the lives of women and children

## **THE FOCUS OF THE ICT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY**

- The Ministry in collaboration with relevant MDAs is committed to the implementation of programmes and initiatives aimed at ensuring that its mission of ensuring the development of children as a resource of the country is attained through the ability to use ICT in every field of endeavour
- The Ministry will collaborate with relevant stakeholders in the implementation of programmes and initiatives aimed at achieving its mission of ensuring that women and children have increased participation in deployment and exploitation of ICTs.
- In line with its vision of a society in which equality and equity among men and women are guaranteed, it is committed to work with appropriate institutions to ensure that the implementation of the ICT policy bridges the digital divide between men and women in the country

- The Ministry as part of the on-going government-wide initiative to improve Government administration and service delivery to the public through the use of ICTs is committed to implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at the deployment and exploitations of ICTs to facilitate and improve its administrative operations and activities as well as its service delivery to the public at large.

