

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
AMERICAS



In honor of the observance of International Women's Day 2023

“DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”.

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C.)

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2023 (IWD 2023) is, **“DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”**. This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), **“Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”**.

The United Nations Observance of IWD recognizes and celebrates the women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. IWD 2023 will explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities. The event will also spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT-facilitated gender-based violence.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategy on Digital Health, adopted in 2020 by the World Health Assembly, presents a roadmap to link the latest developments in innovation and digital health, and put these tools to action in order to improve health outcomes. Part of WHO's strategic vision is for digital health to be supportive of equitable and universal access to quality health services. Digital health can help make health systems more efficient and sustainable, enabling them to deliver good quality, affordable and equitable care.

Additionally, under PAHO's leadership, the Region of the Americas was the first region to approve the Resolution [CD59/6 - Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas](#) to accelerate the processes of digital transformation of the health sector in all countries and territories of the continent, and since 2020 has been promoting the positioning of women leaders in digital health. These high ideals are challenging to attain, especially for women and girls. Being a woman has a significant impact on health, as a result of both biological and gender-related differences. The health of women and girls is of particular concern because, in many societies, they are disadvantaged by discrimination rooted in sociocultural factors.

The purpose of WHO's Global Strategy on Digital Health is to support countries in strengthening their health systems through the application of digital health technologies and achieve the vision of health for all. The strategy is designed to be fit for purpose and for use by all Member States, including those with limited access to digital technologies, goods and services.

¹ Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas

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With the aim of mainstreaming equity, gender, and cultural diversity considerations and approaches in all aspects of PAHO's work, the Organization support the countries of the Region of the Americas by strengthening capacities and developing methodologies and tools to integrate equity in all aspects of health policies, plans, and programs in countries and at regional level, focusing on generating evidence and analysis to inform policy to advance equity and equality in health. In addition, PAHO has a [toolkit](#) to support the digital transformation of the health sector with emphasis on strengthening health information systems.

A gender-responsive approach to innovation, technology and digital education can increase the awareness of women and girls regarding their rights and civic engagement. Advancements in digital technology offer immense opportunities to address development and humanitarian challenges, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

Technological development and innovation present new opportunities as well as new challenges to women and girls. Nevertheless, it does not automatically benefit all alike making it extremely important to discuss practices around innovation that could accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment into the health sector.

Considering all the work that has been developed and in honor of the observance of International Women's Day 2022, PAHO will host a virtual event entitled: **DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**".



Agenda

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C.)

Moderators: Jessie Schutt-Aine / Sebastian Garcia Saiso

Time	Panelist
11:00 a.m.– 11:10 a.m.	Jarbas Barbosa, PAHO Director
11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Ana Estela Haddad, Secretary of Information and Digital Health of the Ministry of Health in Brazil
11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Jennifer Nelson, Interamerican Development Bank specialist for Digital Health
11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Antonia Benito, Network of Indigenous Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean
11:40 – 11:50 a.m.	Marcelo D'Agostino Call to action: Regional DigitALL Network for supporting Innovation and technology for gender equality
11:50 a.m.	Mary Lou Valdez, Deputy Director, PAHO