

International Expert-Conference on Human Rights of older Persons

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Human Rights, lifelong learning, digitalisation and education

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Key points

- What the right to education and lifelong learning means in later life
- Putting digitalisation and lifelong learning into context globally
- Some normative lessons

“Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realising other human rights. As an empowerment right, education is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalised adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities.”

Economic and Social Council General Comment No. 13
E/C.12/1999/8 December 1999

“The importance of education is not just practical: a well-educated, enlightened and active mind, able to wander freely and widely, is one of the joys and rewards of human existence.”

Economic and Social Council General Comment No. 13
E/C.12/1999/8 December 1999

“Fundamental education includes the elements of availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability which are common to education in all its forms and at all levels.”

Economic and Social Council General Comment No. 13
E/C.12/1999 8 December 1999

“Enjoyment of the right to fundamental education is not limited by age or gender; it extends to children, youth and adults, including older persons.”

Economic and Social Council General Comment No. 13
E/C.12/1999/8 December 1999

“Lifelong learning is rooted in the integration of learning and living, covering learning activities for people of all ages in all life-wide contexts through a variety of modalities (formal, non-formal and informal) that together meet a wide range of learning needs and demands.”

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education
Right to education, Note by the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly
A/71/358
29 August 2016

Divides persist between and within countries—in access and capability



6 BILLION without BROADBAND



4 BILLION without INTERNET



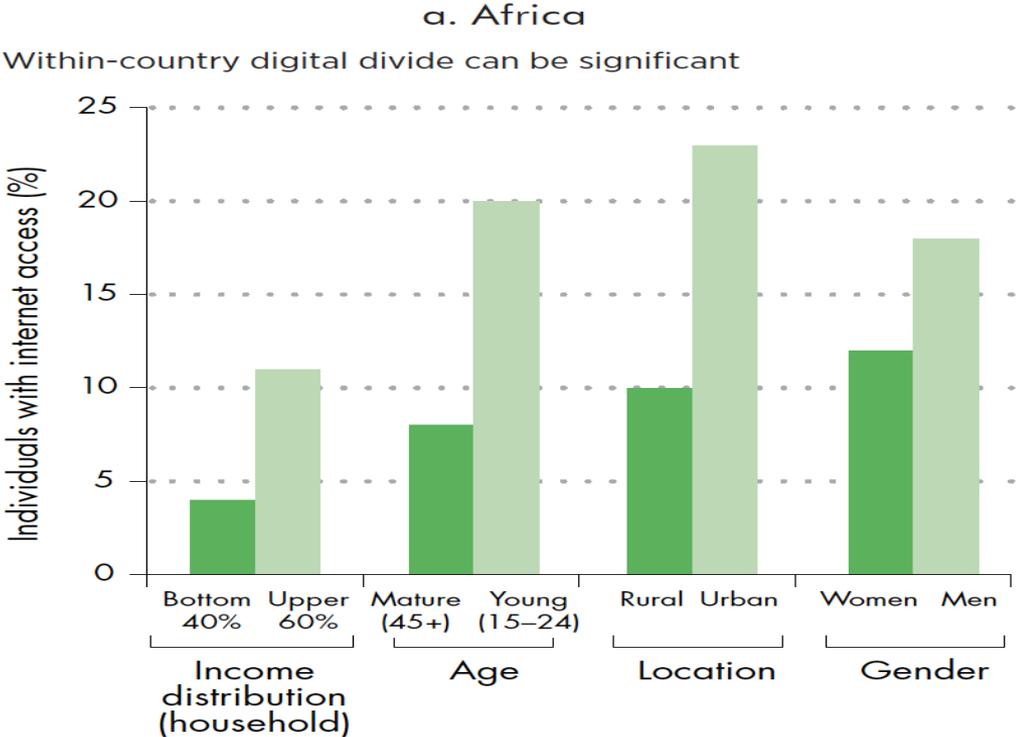
2 BILLION without MOBILE PHONES



0.4 BILLION without A DIGITAL SIGNAL

SOURCE: WDR 2016 team based on Research ICT Africa and ITU data

 **Federal Ministry**
Labour, Social Affairs, Health
and Consumer Protection



Sources: WDR 2016 team, based on data from Research ICT Africa (various years), ITU, and Eurostat (EC, various years)

Normative Content of Article 13 – Right to Education – Right to Digitalisation?

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Acceptability
- Adaptability

Economic and Social Council General Comment No. 13
E/C.12/1999 8 December 1999

In conclusion

- Digitalisation has the power to marginalise as well as empower
- Clarity in human rights standards is necessary
- Technology must be underpinned by human rights fundamentals

Thank you

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