

# 14<sup>th</sup> APEC Women Leaders' Network

## Recommendations to APEC Leaders

Singapore, 4-5 August 2009

The 14<sup>th</sup> Women Leaders' Network (WLN) Meeting, comprising more than 600 women leaders from the business, government, academia and civil society, met in Singapore on 4-5 August 2009. Discussions were framed around the theme of Women and Sustainable Development and covered issues pertinent to women in business, the knowledge economy, work-life harmony and social enterprise.

WLN recognises the great strides that women in APEC have made in expanding their capabilities and furthering their contributions to local and global economies. WLN also recognises that there remain structures and systems that pose inherent risks to women's economic contributions, limit their economic opportunities and increase their vulnerabilities especially in the current global economic crisis. This is particularly so given women's high representation in informal and vulnerable employment.

***WLN calls upon APEC Leaders to maximise economic opportunities for women through investing in policies and programmes that promote gender equality and women's economic security:***

- 1. Strengthen capacity building programmes, including education and vocational skills training for women***
- 2. Promote employment generation programmes to level-up women particularly those in informal and vulnerable sectors***
- 3. Ensure access to financing especially for micro and small enterprises***
- 4. Secure social safety nets for women***
- 5. Simplify business registration and operational processes***
- 6. Promote the use of science and technology as an enabler and leveller for women***
- 7. Facilitate access to information communication technology (ICT) especially for rural and indigenous women, through the provision of services, equipment and technological literacy training***
- 8. Encourage public-private partnerships, including civil society, as a viable approach in furthering the contributions of women to the economy***
- 9. Support social enterprise as a business model for women and sustainable development***
- 10. Recognise the economic and social value of supporting, investing and promoting programmes and measures relating to environmental issues such as climate change, and work-life initiatives such as childcare and caregiver support***

## **Conclusion**

WLN acknowledges the complementary role of the GFPN and its work to support integration of gender in APEC. In particular, we are pleased to note the redevelopment of the Guide on Gender Criteria for APEC Project Proposals in 2008, the establishment of the Project Assessment Standing Committee (PASC) in 2008, and recent GFPN sponsored projects to support women. With a view to strengthening WLN and GFPN collaboration, WLN would like to request that, from 2010, GFPN members give special consideration to the focus of WLN Recommendations when compiling annual reports on implementation of the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC.

This information can then be passed to the WLN Chair for inclusion in a report on implementation of the WLN recommendations to encourage the sharing and learning from regional best practice models.

WLN looks forward to convening its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in Japan in September 2010.

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