



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2019/SOM2/PPWE/005**

Agenda Item: 4

## **Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy Workplan 2019**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: PPWE Chair



**First Policy Partnership on Women and the  
Economy Meeting  
Viña del Mar, Chile  
8-10 May 2019**

## PPWE Work Plan for 2019

### Introduction

Greater inclusion of women is a worthy investment for the future that is crucial in expanding prosperity in the region. Women's active participation in all levels of economic activities - including decision-making, leadership, and governance - will result in favorable and inclusive business and economic environment, which are essentials in achieving sustainable growth. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), increasing the employability of women can be one of the most important factors in reducing poverty.

Today, women account for almost half of the world's population with similar statistics in the Asia-Pacific region - and according to a recent study of the United Nations - limiting women's participation in the workforce is costing our region an estimated USD 89 billion every year, having approximately 600 million women in the labor force, with over 60 per cent of them engaged in the formal sector. Hence, achieving greater participation of women in the economy is a priority issue, still recognizing that there are challenges in achieving women's economic empowerment, gender diversity and gender inclusion that we must actively pursue.

As endorsed by Senior Officials in Big Sky, Montana, in 2011, the APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) provides a streamlined and effective mechanism to integrate gender equality and women and the economy considerations and elevate the influence of women's economic issues in APEC. The PPWE advances the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC based on the principle that gender equality is a cross-cutting issue within APEC. The PPWE, in conjunction with APEC processes, will provide the vehicle for SOM to continue work on issues that affect the economic empowerment of women in the APEC region. To that end, the PPWE, will continue to advance on its five pillars:

- Access to capital and assets;
- Access to markets;
- Skills, capacity building, and health;
- Leadership, voice, and agency; and
- Innovation and technology.

In addition, the PPWE will work to create avenues for women to equally participate and integrate into the digital economy by building and improving the appropriate infrastructure (physical and regulatory), expanding access to such infrastructure, and building capacity and skills of women and girls to utilize information and communications technology (ICT) to advance their businesses and education.

Under its theme "Connecting people, building the future", APEC 2019 will have a special focus on "Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth". This is the first time in APEC history that women and the economy has featured as a host economy priority, which will provide an important opportunity to elevate this issue and share efforts and develop strategies at a regional level. Attached, as Annex A, is a Background Paper which sets out the specific deliverables that Chile is proposing as part of their "Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth" priority.

PPWE will have a key role to play in developing and supporting Chile’s “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth” priority, including supporting the achievement of key deliverables, including on: (i) increasing the participation of women in non-traditional sectors; (ii) bridging the digital literacy gender gap; (iii) advancing women’s economic empowerment through data. The PPWE will have a leading role in coordinating across all APEC fora and committees to socialize, develop and secure endorsement of Chile’s signature deliverable in this priority area, (iv) the Women and Inclusive Growth Roadmap.

Additionally, the PPWE will continue to contribute to and support various on-going activities and initiatives, including:

- Continuing sectorial conversations with key APEC fora on economic empowerment for women in the areas of Transportation, Tourism, STEAM, Agriculture, Health, Mining, Labor, Education, Energy and MSMEs.
- Encouraging and supporting emerging ideas and initiatives in APEC fora to strengthen women’s economic participation, such as through anti-corruption, trade, and others.
- Continuing and strengthening engagement with APEC’s Economic Committee on structural reform and gender, including advocating for a 2020 APEC Economic Policy Report on Gender and Structural Reform. Producing a strong WEF Statement in 2019 to further progress on women’s empowerment.
- Further engaging with ABAC’s work to pursue collaboration, including through identifying key ABAC gender contact point/s to further enhance coordination between PPWE and ABAC, and with the broader private sector.
- Working with other relevant stakeholders to identify and pursue best practices, policies, programs and structural reforms to increase women’s economic empowerment, build upon relevant work taking place in APEC.

## 1. Expected outcomes/deliverables 2019

Meetings	Expected outcomes/deliverables
SOM 1 and SCE-COW  (February 23th –March 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of PPWE Workplan 2019.</li> <li>- Presentation of the 2019 – 2021 PPWE Strategic Plan.</li> <li>- Presentation of the year’s main deliverables, cross fora work and initiatives that require SOM endorsement and/or AMM consideration.</li> <li>- Seek an updated report on progress of gender mainstreaming into APEC’s fora to be included as an agenda item at the SCE-COW.</li> <li>- Presentation and socialization of Chile’s women and inclusive growth priority to SOM, SCE, CTI, EC, SFOM and relevant APEC working groups meeting at SOM1, including introduction of the preliminary concepts for the Roadmap.</li> </ul>
PPWE’s first Meeting Valparaíso, Chile (May 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated report on progress of PPWE’s activities towards gender inclusion in APEC fora and working groups, including as appropriate the application of the APEC Gender Inclusion Guidelines.</li> <li>- Review new PPWE Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2021.</li> <li>- Discuss and confirm side-events to be held during the WEF and agree deadline to receive further proposals to hold the side events.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on cross-collaboration with other fora, including other fora's projects with strong gender elements (including those funded through the Women and the Economy Sub-fund).</li> <li>- Updates on PPWE projects in implementation by relevant members.</li> <li>- Draft proposal of the Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth will be circulated and discussed by PPWE.</li> <li>- First draft Statement of the WEF 2019 will be circulated and discussed by PPWE (with dates and deadlines moving forward agreed).</li> <li>- Chile to introduce theme, events and priority topics for the 2019 WEF for member feedback.</li> <li>- Hold a policy discussion, potentially on: "Work on New Skills for the Digital Integration of Women".</li> <li>- Update on progress with the 2019 version of the Women and the Economy Dashboard.</li> </ul>
SOM2, Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workshop on Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment through Data: Importance on producing and collecting data to give perspective on challenges women face in the marketplace and international markets.</li> </ul>
[First] PPWE Management Council Meeting, Chile (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss progress of implementation of key women and inclusive growth deliverables for 2019.</li> </ul>
SOM3, Chile (17 to 30 August)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PPWE Chair/Chile to further engage with relevant APEC fora and SOM to progress key 2019 deliverables.</li> </ul>
PPWE's second Meeting La Serena, Chile (September 30 <sup>th</sup> – October 1 <sup>st</sup> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status of gender mainstreaming into APEC fora and progress on PPWE cross-fora collaboration will be discussed.</li> <li>- Draft Statement of the WEF 2019 will be finalized and endorsed by PPWE members.</li> <li>- Updates on PPWE projects in implementation will be provided by relevant members.</li> <li>- Review progress with APEC Women and the Economy Sub-Fund</li> <li>- The 2019 PPWE fora report will be finalized and endorsed.</li> <li>- Having a session of debate/seminar among member economies and invited speakers. Possible topics/areas of focus to be shared with PPWE members for feedback in advance.</li> <li>- All members that have submitted Individual Action Plans for 2019 will present the highlights and progress towards their goals.</li> <li>- Review and endorsement of the proposal on the Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth.</li> </ul>
Public-Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy (PPDWE), La Serena, Chile (October 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreed actions and recommendations for submission to Ministers.</li> <li>- Strengthened partnership, coordination between public sector, private sector and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
High Level Policy Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopt WEF's Statement for 2019.</li> </ul>

on Women and the Economy (HLPD) – Ministerial Level Meeting, La Serena, Chile (October 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> )	- Launch 2019 version of the Women and the Economy Dashboard - Adopt Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth.
WEF week side events	- 2019 BEST Award – an annual initiative designed to build the profile of, and encourage, women-led MSMEs in the APEC region, led by Russia as part of PPWE 01 2018S. - Workshop on “Promoting Gender Inclusion in Smart Agriculture”, led by Chinese Taipei as part of PPWE 01 2018 (TBC). - The three “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” Research Prize finalists will share their research (during the official program or at a side event).
[Second] PPWE Management Council Meeting La Serena, Chile (October 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	- Agree on the next steps for PPWE. - Malaysia as host economy for 2020 to present their hosting plan. - Identify PPWE Co-Chair for 2020 from New Zealand.
Leaders week	- Awarding of the “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” Research Prize at the CEO Summit.

## 2. Itemized Work Plan for 2019

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate	ECOTECH Priorities or Host Year	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
<b><i>Bridging the digital literacy gender gap</i></b>				
Santiago Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth (Chile)	Support the delivery of Chile’s proposed Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth		Part of Chile’s “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth” priority	SOM, SCE, CTI, EC, SFOM, PPWE and other relevant groups to be determined based on content of Roadmap
Bridging the digital literacy gender gap (Chile)	Carry out a Report on “Understanding and bridging the digital literacy gender gap in APEC economies”, to		Part of Chile’s “Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth” priority	PPWE, ECSG, TEL, PPSTI, HRDWG

	ensure continued progress on addressing the digital divide which prevents women from fully participating in trade.			
PPWE 02 2018A Advancing Inclusion through Enhancing Women and Girls' Digital Literacy and Skills in the Context of Industry 4.0 (Viet Nam)	Hold a Workshop on "Advancing Inclusion through Enhancing Women and Girls' Digital Literacy and Skills in the Context of Industry 4.0" on 11 and 12 April in Ha Long City, Viet Nam.  Produce a report and set of policy recommendations on best practice in APEC economies.		Chile's "Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth" priority.	PPWE, PPSTI, HRDWG and TEL
PPWE 02 2018S APEC Women Connect Capacity Building Program (China)				In collaboration with ABAC and relevant APEC groups
<b><i>Advancing women's economic empowerment through data</i></b>				
Advancing women's economic empowerment through data (Chile)	Hold workshop on the importance and challenges of producing and/or collecting data to give perspective on the market entry barriers for women at SOM2/PPWE1.			PPWE and other relevant Fora based on the Report's content

	Prepare “Good Practices Assessment Report”, to be submitted to the WEF, with recommendations on data collection in the region.			
Release 2019 version of the APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard  (to be led by APEC’s Policy Support Unit (PSU))	Release an upgraded and updated version of the Dashboard, with an accompanying comprehensive report on progress made since the last Dashboard was released in 2017.  Engage with APEC groups to raise awareness of the Dashboard and to highlight findings of relevance to particular groups.	Supportive of the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2019-2021.	APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.	PPWE, PSU and relevant APEC groups
“Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” Research Prize (USA-Chile initiative)	Launch an annual prize sponsored by Merck KGaA <sup>1</sup> recognizing research that enables APEC policy makers, business leaders and others to determine and implement measures to improve women’s health so women can join, thrive, and rise in the workforce.		Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.	PPWE, HWG, HRDWG and ABAC

<sup>1</sup> A leading science and technology company in healthcare, life science and performance materials and the founding HWHE private sector partner.

<b><i>Increasing the participation of women in non-traditional and specific sectors</i></b>				
<p>Increasing the labor force participation of women in non-traditional sectors  (Chile)</p>	<p>Hold a TPTWG/PPWE workshop on women in transportation during the 47<sup>th</sup> Transportation Working Group Meeting (March 23-26, Vancouver) - TBC</p> <p>Hold an EWG/PPWE workshop on women in energy during Energy Week (May 20-21, Philippines) - TBC</p> <p>Develop an Action Strategies Toolkit to assist economies in the development and implementation of effective gender diversity strategies.</p>			<p>PPWE, EWG, TPTWG, MTF, HRDWG</p>
<p>PPWE 03 2018-APEC Women’s Participation in the Mining Industry.  (Chile-Canada)</p>	<p>This project will involve a Workshop in June 2019 in Antofagasta, as well as the development of Policy Recommendations and Best Practices Report, which will be presented to PPWE in consultation with relevant APEC working groups (September 2019) before being disseminated to public and private sector stakeholders.</p>	<p>This project aligns with the 2018 GPA funding priority of promoting sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth, and with the PPWE 2018 work plan goal of advancing sectoral discussions on gender inclusion, women’s leadership, and private sector support for women’s empowerment.</p>	<p>This project is aligned with the APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.</p>	<p>PPWE, MTF</p>

<p>PPWE 01 2018 APEC GIFTS A+: Promoting Gender Inclusion in Smart Agriculture Project  (Chinese Taipei)</p>	<p>Develop a policy toolkit to identify how best to support women in smart farming and digital networks as well as promote women’s participation in inclusive and innovative green economy.</p> <p>This year’s tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- make the film “Role Models of Female famers in Smart Agriculture”</li> <li>- Develop a policy toolkit with trilingual version, English, Spanish and Chinese.</li> <li>- With Chile during the 2019 Women and Economic Forum (WEF), hold a workshop to launch the policy toolkit.</li> </ul>	<p>APEC Leaders Statement in 2017 on advancing economic, financial and social inclusion in the APEC region and enhance food security and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>APEC Leaders Statement in 2016 on promoting women's career development, strengthen women and girls' access to STEM education and careers.</p> <p>Supportive of the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2019-2021.</p>	<p>Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth. Also, this project is aligned with the APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.</p>	<p>PPWE, PPSTI, ATCWG, PPFS, HRDWG</p>
<p><b>Structural reform and gender</b></p>				
<p>Structural Reform and Gender  (New Zealand and Japan)</p>	<p>Take forward NZ’s initiative on structural reform and gender, the intention of which is to begin a long-running work stream on structural reform and gender issues.</p>	<p>Supportive of the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2019-2021.</p>	<p>This project is aligned with the APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.</p>	<p>EC, PPWE and PSU</p>

	As part of this, Japan will fund PSU to complete a EC/PPWE Policy study in 2019 on gender and structural reform.			
PPWE 04 2017A on “Gender Smart Workplaces – Building and Promoting Workplace Health, Safety and Inclusivity to Enhance Women’s Economic Participation and Productivity”  (PNG)	Release of the PPWE Gender Smart Workplaces Prototype, to be used as a voluntary benchmarking tool by APEC economies – June 2019.			PPWE HRDWG
<b>Increasing the number of women in leadership roles</b>				
PPWE 01 2016 Individual Action Plan for the Enhancement of the Ratio of Women’s Representation in Leadership (Japan)	PPWE members to complete annual “Individual Action Plans” (IAP) for 2019, sharing details of: (i) the current ratio of women’s representation in leadership in their public and private sector; and (ii) voluntary goals which that economy commits to work toward by the end of 2020.  Japan to begin preparing for the planned 2020 review of progress in the	To promote women’s participation in the economy particularly focusing on leadership, decision making, and management, while taking into account the individual economic and social circumstances of each economy.  In response to 2014,2015, and 2017 APEC Leaders’ Declaration; 2015, 2016 and 2017 APEC Ministerial Meeting Statement; APEC 2014-2018 WEF Statements that	Human Capital Development SME’s Inclusive Growth. APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.	PPWE in collaboration with HRDWG

	ratio of women's representation in leadership in APEC.	reaffirmed the importance of promoting women's representation in leadership.		
<b>Supporting women-led SMEs</b>				
PPWE 01 2018S  The 4 <sup>th</sup> APEC BEST AWARD (contest for women entrepreneurs across the APEC region) (Russia)	Russia will again host the APEC BEST Award as part of the WEF in September/October 2019. Interested economies will be invited to nominate women entrepreneurs from SMEs to join the contest. A panel will be selected to give scores based on candidates' presentations. The award will be in the form of APEC's certificates. As a result, the Catalogue with best practices of women entrepreneurship will be published.	Supportive of the APEC PPWE Strategic Plan 2019-2021. APEC Leaders Statement in 2018 on recognizing the women's vital contribution to economic and social development and supporting women's entrepreneurship.	SMEs Inclusive Growth. APEC 2019 priority: Women, SMEs, and Inclusive Growth.	PPWE in collaboration with SMEWG