



**Asia-Pacific
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Agenda Item: 5

PPWE Strategic Plan 2019 – 2020

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: PPWE Chair



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

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE)

Strategic Plan 2019-2021

APEC members recognize that the full potential of women's economic contribution to the Asia-Pacific economy is often untapped. As a result, women's economic empowerment and the greater inclusion of women in the regional economy are high on the APEC and PPWE agendas.

The PPWE is composed of members of the public and private sector from APEC economies, which includes leaders, representatives, entrepreneurs and officials from government, businesses, academia and civil society, who work with other APEC fora, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and regional and multilateral organizations. The PPWE serves as an advisor to APEC member economies and an advocate for integrating gender across all APEC work streams.

The PPWE will advance the implementation of the Framework for the Integration of Women in the APEC agenda and promote women's economic empowerment and inclusion through the five pillars: (1) access to capital and assets; (2) access to markets; (3) skills, capacity building, and health; (4) leadership, voice, and agency; (5) and innovation and technology.

The PPWE will 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. This includes fostering current and future generations to view the digital economy as equally accessible, suitable and important for girls and women as it is for boys and men.

1. Vision

Women equally participate, contribute, succeed, advance and benefit from strong, sustainable, innovative, inter-connected, and balanced economic growth in the APEC region.

2. Mission Statement

The PPWE will mainstream, elevate, and integrate gender perspectives into APEC plans, policies, programs and activities in order to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment which is a key part of social progress and economic growth. The PPWE will take concrete actions to further promote women's full advancement as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and foster a conducive environment for women's economic empowerment. The PPWE will achieve this by engaging with key stakeholders, undertaking research and data collection, sharing best practices, building understanding and technical capacity, and undertaking cooperative actions.

3. Objectives

Objective 1:

Create and promote new gender focused policies and programs, and strengthen their integration across APEC fora

- 1.1 The PPWE will promote the use and generation of gender sensitive data and analysis across all APEC fora, supported by the APEC Women and the Economy Dashboard.
- 1.2 The PPWE will conduct multiple consultations, projects, and capacity activities jointly with other APEC fora, using the Gender Inclusion Guidelines as a resource, to supplement and strengthen women's ability to fully participate in the economy.
- 1.3 The PPWE will leverage the "Women and the Economy Sub-Fund" to promote cross-fora partnerships and initiatives to integrate gender perspectives.
- 1.4 The PPWE will strengthen and promote gender analysis tools to inform policy and programmatic gender initiatives. This involves encouraging and assisting APEC fora to account for the gendered implications of policies and programs across their own specific areas and in cross-fora activities.

Outcomes:

- 1.1 Women's increased engagement and advancement across APEC economies is tracked, measured and communicated, which will assist in identifying gaps and informing further work on advancing gender equality in APEC.
- 1.2 Increased number of APEC fora with gender-responsive policies and projects with clear, measurable goals as stated in their APEC Strategic and Work Plans, and Ministerial Statements
- 1.3 Increased high-level direction and recognition in statements (Leaders, ministerial, SOM) that focus on the integration of gender responsive policies and programs.
- 1.4 Increased awareness of progress across APEC fora that address gender issues together with associated outcomes or case studies.

Targets:

- 1.1 By AELM 2021, evidence-based gender-responsive policy recommendations are integrated into relevant APEC activities and statements, including across at least 12 APEC fora, consistent with Objective 2.
- 1.2 Each year, the PPWE conducts strategic outreach with other APEC sub-fora and committees including disseminating outcomes and follow up action from the annual Women and the Economy Forums.

Objective 2:

Advance women's economic participation through five priority pillars

The PPWE will work in collaboration with APEC fora, ABAC, the private sector and other key stakeholders to identify and pursue best practices, policies, programs, and structural and other reforms to increase women's economic empowerment, including women in both the formal and informal economies. The PPWE will ensure that these efforts build upon and are relevant to other work taking place in APEC. The PPWE will focus efforts across five priority pillars: (1) access to capital and assets; (2) access to markets; (3) skills, capacity building, and health; (4) leadership, voice, and agency; (5) and innovation and technology.

Outcomes:

2.1 Women have increased access to markets.

- Women and girls, including those most disadvantaged and vulnerable to poverty, such as women in rural and remote areas and indigenous women, are able to access markets and other economic opportunities.

2.2 Women have increased access to capital in both formal and informal economies as well as enabling the latter to transition to the formal sector.

- Women's work in traditionally low-paid and women-dominated workforces is better recognised and valued.

2.3 Skills, capacity and health of women are strengthened to prepare them for success in the workforce, business and entrepreneurship.

- Women and girls are free from all forms of discrimination and violence.
- Women have the opportunity, skills and capacity to access all job opportunities, including those in non-traditional sectors.

2.4 Women are increasingly represented in leadership roles across both public and private sectors, and gender responsive policies are championed at all levels of leadership.

2.5 Technology and Innovation advances economic growth through women's business enterprises and women entrepreneurs, including through increased use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) assets by women.

- Women are able to equally participate in and benefit from the digital economy.
- Innovative measures further enhance women's economic empowerment.
- Women's entrepreneurship and innovation are encouraged and supported.
- Women are prepared to adapt to the changes brought on by the digital age, including the impact of new technologies and automation.

Targets:

2.1 By end 2021, have new gender responsive policies integrated into programs and activities of 12 of the APEC fora¹ with direct links to PPWE's five priority pillars.

¹ Illustrative APEC fora linked to PPWE five priority pillars include:
Access to Markets: SMEWG, CTI, MAG, SCCP, ATCWG, PPFS
Access to Capital: SMEWG, EC, FMP

- 2.2 Each year, the PPWE conducts strategic outreach with other APEC sub-fora and committees.
- 2.3 At the end of each year, the Annual SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) Sub-Fora Report, submitted to SCE, captures activities and progress for each priority pillar.

**Objective 3:
Strengthen the foundation and operating structure of the PPWE and the Women and the Economy Forum**

PPWE's communications need to continue the realization of the strategy and promote regular interaction between economies. This includes analyzing PPWE's achievements and regional progress, and conveying this information to Senior Officials for their reference in reporting to Ministers and Leaders. New and improved practices are proposed to enable PPWE to more effectively influence gender responsive programming and policies strategically across APEC fora.

Outcomes:

- 3.1 PPWE will generate and facilitate knowledge sharing, learning and expertise on gender issues and women's economic empowerment across APEC. This will occur in meetings, intersessional discussions, and through other engagements as appropriate.
- 3.2 PPWE will provide information on gender responsive programming and policies to APEC fora.
- 3.3 PPWE has effective mechanisms and practices to leverage its members' expertise, resources, and existing networks.
- 3.4 PPWE shares periodic updates and experiences in terms of implementing the PPWE strategic plan.

Targets:

- 3.1 By AELM 2021, PPWE has established an Annual Work Plan process, including reporting on progress at the conclusion of annual plans. PPWE's annual workplans will include a baseline assessment of the situation/status at the time of drafting the annual work plan, so that progress over time is visible, and a communication plan for its engagement, including external communications and delegations of responsibility.
- 3.2 Agreed PPWE annual workplans are submitted by SCE 1 meeting each year for approval, and include at least two PPWE meetings to be held each year, if necessary.

4. Critical Success Factors

The capacity of this plan to achieve the Mission Statement and Objectives depends upon:

- **Communications** - PPWE members from all member economies communicating effectively and consistently to address annual work plans and strengthen engagement via face to face meetings and video/teleconferences intersessionally.
- **Coordination** - PPWE is able to secure buy-in and commitment on gender issues through coordinated efforts with other APEC fora and APEC entities.

- **Linkages** – PPWE is able to identify and strengthen strategic links with relevant International Financial Institutions and International Organisations as appropriate to support APEC's efforts to integrate gender considerations.
- **Leadership** - APEC member economies will respond to recommendations emerging from APEC Leaders Declarations and Ministerial Statements, and agree to implement policy recommendations from them on gender.
- **Resources** – Adequate human and financial resources are made available to implement projects by PPWE and/or jointly with other APEC fora.
- **Partnership** – PPWE members collaborate with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, and community-based organisations to support PPWE objectives, activities and meetings, within the APEC framework.
- **Inclusiveness** – PPWE's activities, meetings, and outputs are inclusive of all women, including those most disadvantaged and vulnerable to poverty, such as women in rural and remote areas, indigenous women, and women with disabilities.
- **Reporting and communications** – APEC member economies report individual action plans annually on progress on agreed upon targets and indicators in the priority pillars. APEC member economies agree to track the status of women and the economy in the APEC region through robust tracking mechanisms.
- **Awareness and commitment** – PPWE is able to advance the implementation of the 1999 *Framework for the Integration of Women* and to sustain previous achievements in maintaining awareness on gender issues.

