Overcoming Barriers and Seizing Opportunities to Fight Corruption Through Women’s Economic Empowerment

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How does corruption uniquely impact women? What are the economic effects?

**Women and Corruption**
- Corruption **exacerbates gender gaps**.
- Corruption is **cyclical** and limits women’s economic potential.
- Women experience corruption directly and indirectly (explicit limitation of rights vs. lack of transparency and access to information).
- Rooting out corruption can reduce unpaid or underpaid work in sectors where women are traditionally employed.

**Economic Opportunity**
- Closing gender gaps by advancing women’s equality could add **$12 trillion to global GDP** by 2025.
- **$1 trillion USD** could be available globally each year if economies around the world took more effective actions against corruption.
How does ACTWG’s emphasis on gender connect with other APEC priorities?

- Limits on women’s participation in the workforce cost the Asia-Pacific region an estimated $89 billion USD every year.

- The ACTWG is advancing many of the same principles as the La Serena Roadmap:
  - Structural reforms
  - Women’s transition to the formal economy
  - Closing the gender pay gap
  - Improving the gender balance in leadership positions
  - Transparency in data collection/gender-disaggregated data

- Institutionalized corruption leading to systemic discrimination – a violation of human rights?
  - Women’s access to credit
  - Anti-corruption approaches can reduce discrimination and level the playing field for women investors and entrepreneurs.
Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP): Launched in February 2019, the United States aims to economically empower 50 million women globally by 2025.

W-GDP Pillars:

1. Women Prospering in the Workforce
2. Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs
3. Women Enabled in the Economy

Pillar III of the W-GDP emphasizes legal and regulatory barriers, employer practices, and social and cultural norms that restrict women’s economic empowerment – including corruption.

Having strong regulatory regimes can protect against corruption to the benefit of all society.
Recommendations from the 2018 Research Summit on Women in Policing

- Supporting female mentorship in police forces
- Creating flexible, family-oriented policies
- Identifying male champions
- Reframing stereotypes
- Looking to positive examples for lessons learned
- Investing in partnerships for future research and outreach
What role can women play in the fight against corruption?

- Women must be a central part of the solution in the fight against corruption.
- Women should be empowered to report abuse. Public information campaigns can help to educate women of the law and their rights.
- Women should be encouraged and supported in pursuing leadership positions across all sectors.
- Women’s political participation is critical to ensure that policies are influenced by female voices that can speak to gender discrimination and corrupt practices in roles traditionally held by women.
- Women should play a key role in data collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data.
Thank you!

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