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

Submitted by: United States



**Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming and
Women Empowerment to Fight Corruption
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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.

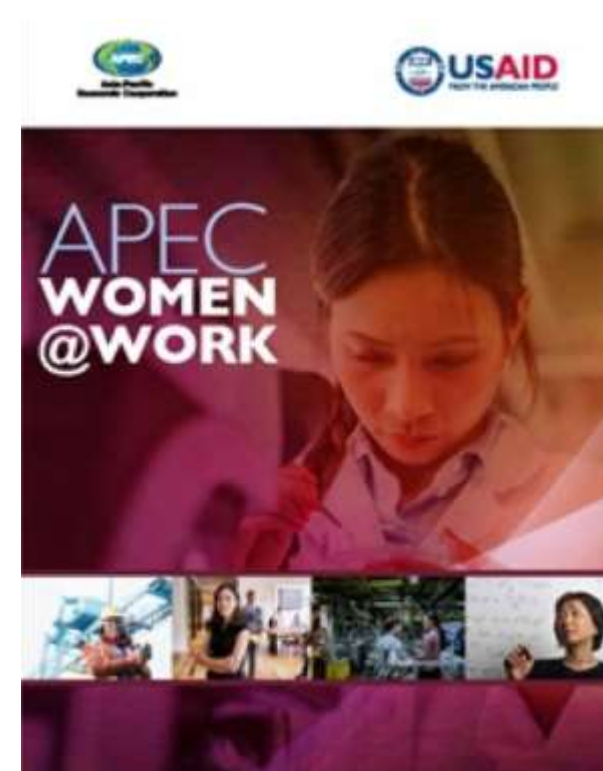
Economic Opportunity

- 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.



U.S. W-GDP Initiative Links to Anti-Corruption



- **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:**
 - I. Women Prospering in the Workforce
 - II. Women Succeeding as Entrepreneurs
 - III. **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.

Women in Law Enforcement – U.S. Perspective

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



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE SPECIAL REPORT
**WOMEN IN POLICING:
BREAKING BARRIERS
AND BLAZING A PATH**

July 2019

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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