

14-18 April 2019

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization



Conference B

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Committee Staff

Director	Ben Wrigley
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Agenda

- I. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship
- II. The Role of Information and Communications Technology in Industrial Development
- III. Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNIDO/1/1	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	36 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions
UNIDO/1/2	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	34 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 1 abstentions
UNIDO/1/3	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	Adopted without a vote
UNIDO/1/4	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	33 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 1 abstentions
UNIDO/1/5	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	34 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions
UNIDO/1/6	Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The United Nation Industrial Development Committee (UNIDO) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. The Role of Information and Communications Technology in Industrial Development
- II. Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption
- III. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

The session was attended by representatives of 37 Member States and 0 Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II, beginning discussion on the topic of "Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship." By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 7 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including gender mainstreaming, inclusive industrial development, and providing opportunities for further entrepreneurial endeavors. Additional analysis of the topic sparked debate as to what was to be done with the public-private partnerships for entrepreneurship; ensuring secure access to necessities; protecting the well-being of all in working environments. The atmosphere in the committee was one of collaboration and by the end of the session on Tuesday evening, one working paper merged along complementary and similar themes.

On Wednesday, 6 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, 1 of which had a friendly amendment. The committee adopted 6 resolutions following voting procedure, 3 of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including educational initiatives, micro-financing proposals, assessing and improving public perception of women entrepreneurs, improving international entrepreneurial engagement and global databases, and promoting entrepreneurship through agro-business. The overall work of the body over the course of the week was conducive of an atmosphere of cooperation and diplomacy.



Code: UNIDO/1/1

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

- 1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*
2
3 *Welcoming* the adoption of Inclusive Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) as stated within the
4 mandate of the United Nations Development Organization (UNIDO) and the role that empowering women
5 through entrepreneurship has in fulfilling that mandate,
6
7 *Bearing in mind* the obligation of UNIDO to maintain a Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
8 (GEEW) strategy as required by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of
9 Women's (UN Women) System Wide Action Policy (UN SWAP),
10
11 *Guided by* the minimum requirements that the GEEW must be up to date and include gender
12 mainstreaming methods, equal representation of women, and implement policies and plans,
13
14 *Expressing with concern* the termination of the current period of the GEEW Strategy, come December
15 2019, and the need for the adoption of an updated GEEW Strategy,
16
17 *Recognizing* the accomplishments thus far of UNIDO's Office of Gender Equality and Women's
18 Empowerment (Gender Office) in coordinating the efforts of UNIDO's various departments and regional
19 offices to ensure gender equality and gender mainstreaming,
20
21 *Being aware of* the significance of sex-disaggregated data, data collected and analyzed separately for
22 males and females, as a method for measuring the impact of UNIDO's work at the country level, area
23 level and regional level through the knowledge this data reveals regarding the position of women in
24 individual labor markets,
25
26 *Reflecting upon* the recommendations made in the Director-General's mid-term review of the GEEW
27 Strategy 2016-2019 along with the findings that the Gender Office is overworked, and resource
28 constrained, that there is a pronounced lack of gender parity in UNIDO at senior levels and that more
29 efficient programs from UNIDO require more extensive sex-disaggregated data collection,
30
31 1. *Invites* the Gender Office to release a report informing the General Conference of how it may help
32 relieve resource scarcity by including:
33
34 a. Clear boundaries and lines of accountability to allocate responsibility and ownership of
35 priority areas to appropriate departments and regional offices;
36
37 b. The offices within UNIDO whose projects further industrialization and connect with the three
38 thematic priority areas of the GEEW Strategy:
39
40 i. Creating shared prosperity that includes projects related to agriculture-based value
41 chain development, gender related constraints in the formal-informal transition,
42 strengthening women's access to tech, advocacy, networks and skills training and
43 integrating gender dimensions in post-crisis and human security interventions;
44 ii. Advancing economic competitiveness that includes national and subnational policies
45 and legal frameworks focused on gender and age response, promotion of female
46 investors, strengthening women's role in science, innovation and tech and increasing
47 choice outside of norms;

- 48 iii. Safeguarding the environment that includes projects relating to women's access to
49 clean energy, role in green industry as entrepreneurs or employers, engagement and
50 leadership through awareness raising, networking and peer support and gender
51 mainstreaming in environmental regulations;
52
- 53 c. How UNIDO GEEW reporting mechanisms within offices may be strengthened to relieve
54 pressure on the Gender Office and ensure ownership is properly allocated;
55
- 56 2. *Encourages* the Gender Office to present to the General Conference its reasoning for the potential
57 shift of measuring gender inclusivity from the project output level to the project content level and to
58 explain how this would allow for more accurate financial resource tracking on projects related to
59 GEEW, particularly with regard to how:
60
- 61 a. Tracking individual aspects of a project instead of the results of the project may enhance
62 accountability and ownership of projects;
63
- 64 b. This shift fits the results-based funding scheme favored by the Secretary-General's reform
65 proposals for the broader United Nations system;
66
- 67 c. This shift would allow for more accurate tracking of gender inclusivity specifically with regard
68 to UNIDO's industrial programs and projects;
69
- 70 3. *Requests* the formulation of a Gender Parity Action Plan to address gender equity within the
71 Secretariat and at all staff levels, in accordance with the Director-General's mid-term review of the
72 GEEW Strategy (2016-2019) and UN Women's UN SWAP requirements, for all industrial programs
73 by the Program Support and General Management Division in collaboration with the Gender Office for
74 review by the General Conference;
75
- 76 4. *Further requests* a report created by the Gender Office and the Research and Program Development
77 and Technical Cooperation Division, in collaboration with the Program Support and General
78 Management Division, on the implication of the creation of the 5-Year Gender and ISID research
79 agenda, proposed by the Director-General in the mid-term review of UNIDO's GEEW Strategy (2016-
80 2019), for review by the Program and Budgetary Committee including details on:
81
- 82 a. The budgetary ramifications of this agenda;
83
- 84 b. The specific administrative requirements of the agenda beyond the involvement of the
85 Gender Office and the Research and Program Development and Technical Cooperation
86 departments;
87
- 88 c. The projected results of the agenda including:
89
- 90 i. How the collection of this data would identify gaps in information and build capacity
91 for gender responsive technical activities;
92 ii. Outlining data collection methods relating to the collection of sex-disaggregated data
93 not related to employment or industry;
94 iii. Perceived gaps in efficiency created by relying solely on employment and industry
95 related sex-disaggregated data and how introduction of new data would aid in
96 achieving UNIDO's mission of ISID;
97
- 98 5. *Further calls* for the Director-General to clarify the details of the recommended "communications
99 strategy and capacity building mechanisms," intended to promote GEEW as a key pillar of ISID and
100 encourages a communication strategy that includes:
101
- 102 a. A compelling public outreach campaign through social media engagement;
103

104
105
106

- b. The appointment of prominent female entrepreneurs as outreach ambassadors;
- c. Outreach efforts focused on public institutions, policy makers, and think-tanks.



Code: UNIDO/1/2

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*
2
3 *Welcoming* the collaborative nature of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, “Achieve Gender Equality
4 and Empower All Women and Girls,” especially target 5.5 and target 5.A, those that ensure women’s full
5 participation in decision-making in political, economic, and public life and focus on reforms to give women
6 access to ownership and control over land and inheritance in accordance with national laws,
7
8 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/288 on “The future we want” and acknowledging the increasing
9 necessity of the participation of women in order to aid the local agricultural and global economy,
10 especially with the consideration that women represent roughly 80% of the agricultural and food
11 production workforce in most developing Member States,
12
13 *Keeping in mind* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s (UNIDO) mandate, that
14 promotes “industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization, and environmental
15 sustainability,” while emphasizing the importance of allowing for the full contribution of both men and
16 women through entrepreneurship in all sectors of industry to allow for the attainment of this objective,
17
18 *Expressing deep concern* about the financial, social, and educational circumstances such as limited
19 access to ownership of assets and educational opportunities that limit the empowerment of women in
20 entrepreneurship, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as stated in the International Labour
21 Organization’s (ILO) report, titled *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends for Women 2018: Global*
22 *Snapshot,*
23
24 *Cognizant of* the gaps in the attainment of education and networking opportunities for men and women as
25 reported in the World Economic Forum’s 2018 *Global Gender Gap Report,* along with exclusion from
26 access to patrimonial assets, which has been addressed in the past with the efforts of Productive
27 Patrimonial Assets Building and Citizenship Programme for Women in Extreme Poverty, which ensures
28 women’s ownership of patrimonial land in accordance with the implementing nation’s laws, thus furthering
29 women’s capabilities to be independent entrepreneurs in the industry,
30
31 *Fully aware* of ILO’s finding that 90% of informal laborers work in agriculture and that more than 740
32 million women are involved in the informal sector,
33
34 *Further aware* of the impact that working in the informal sector has on accelerating societal
35 marginalization, exploitation and the plight of the working poor,
36
37 *Noting with concern* that 43% of women from developing countries, according to UN Women Watch, need
38 sufficient support in rural sectors due to their marginalization in international production networks which
39 hinders their ability to tap into markets,
40
41 *Recognizing* the Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO) guiding framework for developing gender-
42 sensitive value chains in facilitating the systematic integration of gender equality dimensions into the
43 development of value chain programs and projects to improve rural women’s agricultural productivity,
44
45 *Observing* the success that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of
46 Women (UN Women) has had in training women from various cooperatives through the improvement in
47 their production facilities and better access to resources that allow for them to meet mainstream
48 competitive standards,
49

50 *Recognizing* General Assembly resolutions 58/142 on “Women and political participation” and 58/145 on
51 “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,” and the “Plan para la
52 Promoción de las mujeres del medio rural” that seek to facilitate, protect and promote the right of women
53 to associate, express and participate with their ideas at all levels of industry within the political and
54 economic sector,

55
56 *Realizing* the need for an efficient system of funding to appropriately meet the financial expectations of
57 organizations, particularly on information and communications technology for development (ICT4D), to
58 provide development in the field of information and communication technologies that are working towards
59 aiding women in rural entrepreneurship, and recognizing the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative
60 established during the 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit that aims to help female entrepreneurs access capital,
61 financing and managerial support in the developing world,

62
63 *Guided by* General Assembly resolutions 73/129 on the “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural
64 dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” and 70/219 on “Women in development”, and the
65 Beijing Platform for Action,

66
67 *Guided further by* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and
68 Development, which addresses the need for intercultural dialogue and the adaptation of socio-economic
69 policies to promote inclusive sustained economic growth,

70
71 *Recalling* the Political Position Document and Plan of the Action of the Conference of the World’s
72 Indigenous Women that took place in Peru in 2013, which called for the use of information and
73 communications technologies (ICTs) in empowering indigenous women,

74
75 *Recognizing* the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
76 in developing ICT education initiatives and the work done in assisting Member States to develop national
77 ICT in education policies and master plans,

78
79 *Appreciating* the impacts of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in providing ICTs
80 infrastructure in rural areas and the “Digital Tech Fund” initiative, which provides financial capital to
81 support ICT start-ups through aid in LDCs,

82
83 *Acknowledging* the success of micro-financing programs, particularly in providing women living in poverty,
84 with adequate funding to become financially independent and resilient to better their living conditions as
85 demonstrated in General Assembly resolution 63/230 on the “Second United Nations Decade for the
86 Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017),”

87
88 *Further acknowledging* micro-banking initiatives such as Women Organizing Resources Together
89 (WORTH), that empower women to lift themselves and each other out of poverty by helping them save
90 money, access credit and start small businesses,

91
92 *Further recognizing* the “Malta Microfinance Solidarity Group” investment services in providing solidarity
93 lending opportunities to women and migrants in finding adequate financial support for their business ideas
94 or capital needs, while also helping them create thousands of employment opportunities,

95
96 *Seeking* the need for cybersecurity within funding so that currency and information sharing is completed
97 through protocols that prevent information and financial theft, so the resources can be transferred as
98 safely as possible to women entrepreneurs in all sectors,

99
100 1. *Calls for* the further implementation and communication between organizations such as the
101 Patrimonial Assets Building and Citizenship Programme for Women in Extreme Poverty Programme
102 and the FAO to act as the guiding framework for developing gender-sensitive value chains by:

- 103
104 a. Strengthening FAO-UNIDO partnerships to encompass the improvement of rural women’s
105 agricultural productivity by focusing on increasing female farmers’ and smallholders’ access

- 106 to:
107
108 i. Production resources including assets such as labor-saving equipment and
109 machinery that improve their economic resilience and reduce the burden of manual
110 labor;
111 ii. Agricultural services that focus on fostering capacity-building in areas of agriculture-
112 related technology and training and information that can lead to substantial yield
113 increases;
114
115 b. Encourages Member States to focus on improving the agency of women in rural areas, thus
116 allowing for the enhancement of their overall work environment by encouraging:
117
118 i. The replication and expansion of programs within the agricultural and industrial
119 sectors at a local level to further allow for resources and funding to be provided to
120 women in rural areas in order to sustain agriculturally based businesses;
121 ii. Public and private industries to push for the representation of rural women on
122 corporate boards that utilize their labor;
123
124 2. *Invites* Member States to consider the extension of the roles in their national bodies that deal with
125 agriculture, rural development, and women's affairs, and consider how they play in the empowerment
126 of women entrepreneurs, and further invites them to respond to UNIDO's mandate of sustainable and
127 inclusive industrial development through:
128
129 a. Local level events to provide opportunities for women entrepreneurs in agribusiness to share
130 ideas with one another in different regions and to forge links with different financial institutions
131 that could help them obtain the financing they need to grow their business;
132
133 b. An entrepreneurial network that would be based on gatherings in order for women to take
134 advantage of these opportunities to network and win markets including:
135
136 i. A mix of guest speakers on practical business topics;
137 ii. Hands-on workshops and member-led discussions;
138 iii. Exchanges of ideas, achievements and experiences;
139
140 c. Access to networking meetings hosted remotely with the use of ICTs for those who are
141 geographically immobile:
142
143 i. And have access to technology that would allow these remote meetings to occur;
144 ii. And do not have access to technologies that would allow these meetings to occur, by
145 having national networks for women's entrepreneurship obtain funding within their
146 mandates to acquire these facilities via national or international assistance;
147
148 3. *Supports* the consideration of expansion of the scope of the "Plan para la Promoción de las mujeres
149 del medio rural" (Rural Women Promotion Program) within another willing Member States with a
150 focus on the development and support of women in agriculture, stockbreeding and fishing by:
151
152 a. Providing financial support for female heads of agrarian businesses with the use of grants
153 and subsidies;
154
155 b. Creating educational advising programs aimed at tutoring women in rural areas about the
156 management of agro-businesses and other entrepreneurial activities;
157
158 c. Promoting the professionalization of activities that are traditionally carried out by women in
159 certain regions through education and training;
160

- 161 d. Allowing for women's voices to be heard in the creation of development policies related to
162 poverty reduction, inclusivity and environmental sustainability, specifically in agricultural
163 industries by:
164
- 165 i. Boosting the collaboration between local commissions and industries to address
166 equality, responsibility and gender violence matters in the workforce;
 - 167 ii. Taking into consideration the necessities of rural women within the drafting and
168 execution of public infrastructures which will conduct studies and projects of facilities;
169
- 170 4. *Proposes* that willing and able Member States:
171
- 172 a. Consider incentives, where economically feasible for Member States, such as subsidy
173 schemes and/or regional funds that ease financial burdens on women entrepreneurs such as,
174 but not limited to, the following:
175
 - 176 i. Reduction of value added tax, purchase tax and/or tax on ICT infrastructure
177 specifically for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and business incubators;
 - 178 ii. Reduction of annual registration tax on women-owned SMEs and business
179 incubators;
 - 180 iii. Engagement with organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-
181 American Development Bank, African Development Bank, and others;
182 - 183 b. Highlight the importance of women, and especially women residing in LDCs, to gain access
184 to financial resources by:
185
 - 186 i. Supporting the implementation of programs like the Women Entrepreneurs
187 Development program in incubators;
 - 188 ii. Encouraging Member State's financial institutions such as the Development Bank of
189 Ethiopia to link private companies with incubators, especially in rural regions to allow
190 women entrepreneurs to apply for small loans and to utilize the partnerships
191 encouraged as stated in the Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and the
192 widespread access to micro-financing institutions;
193
- 194 5. *Highlights* Member States which have established regional business Multipurpose Community
195 Telecenters, such as the Al-Salam Incubator and Fit4start Program, that combine physical spaces
196 and virtual spaces to support women entrepreneurs by providing business equipment, financing,
197 mentoring, and research, modeled upon successful existing programs:
198
- 199 a. Invites Member States to inform and facilitate the inclusion of women in facilitated information
200 sharing projects such as Global Entrepreneurship Network's GEW Women program that
201 exposes new businesses to joint projects and networking and financial opportunities;
202
 - 203 b. Encourages the thousands of individual incubator programs worldwide to cooperate with the
204 InfoDev Toolkit online program, an arm of the World Bank, to provide connections for
205 telecenters in rural and urban areas;
206
 - 207 c. Further encourages Member States to work with UNIDO to foster relationships with the
208 United Nation bodies, public-private partnerships (PPPs) and non-governmental
209 organizations (NGOs) to redistribute current resources to aid telecenters to flourish;
210
 - 211 d. Recommends that the selection process for funding recipients be adapted to the region's
212 social, economic and political context, with the input of existing local incubators and with joint
213 oversight provided by the Secretariat of UNIDO and the World Bank;
214
 - 215 e. Establish a single point-of-contact system that is designated to handle regional cases;
216

- 217 6. *Encourages* national policies that inspire the further development of trade unions like the Self-
218 Employed Women's Association micro-banking initiatives like WORTH that unite women in the
219 informal economy to:
220
- 221 a. Formalize their sectors and create micro and small enterprises by providing access to, but
222 not limited to, marketing services and technological advancements;
223
 - 224 b. Develop their micro and small enterprises by providing training to achieve work, income, food
225 and social security through interconnected:
226
 - 227 i. Labor unions for organized power and networking benefits;
 - 228 ii. Cooperatives which allow for the sharing of raw materials and the trade of goods;
 - 229 iii. Self-employed women created institutions which provide health and child care, food,
230 shelter and small scale financial aid;
- 231
- 232 7. *Requests* that participating Member States and regional micro-financing and ICT distribution
233 organizations work to expand such as the ICT4D organizations which include United Villages Inc., the
234 Sarvodaya-Fusion and the Zidisha P2P Microfinance provide access to business-oriented tools for
235 indigenous women, those living in rural areas and difficult to reach communities, and women living in
236 LDCs to these incubation spaces through the use of ICTs by:
237
- 238 a. Encouraging Member States to expand and improve existing ICTs infrastructure to provide
239 coverage to the previous mentioned groups;
 - 240
 - 241 b. Suggesting Member States to collaborate with NGOs on expanding ICT coverage and
242 competency;
 - 243
 - 244 c. Suggesting Member States collaborate with UNESCO and United Nations Development
245 Programme in the further implementation on programs such as the "flipped classroom"
246 model;
- 247
- 248 8. *Calls upon* Member States to promote the participation of non-governmental and civil society groups
249 to broaden the range of various initiatives while encouraging the development of "Weber Economy
250 eG Berlin" by allowing women to connect with different agencies and support services through:
251
- 252 a. Creation of social and formal local networking opportunities wherein women are exposed to
253 different individuals and groups which helps solidify their presence in the market;
 - 254
 - 255 b. Facilitation of more female entrepreneurship centers wherein women in all phases of their
256 start-ups can come together that also offers subsidized working spaces to women who need
257 it most;
 - 258
 - 259 c. Recommending a more comprehensive approach in fostering the development initiatives of
260 women from rural areas in the field of entrepreneurship that considers their life circumstances
261 which then encourages women to enter the labor market;
- 262
- 263 9. *Encourages* both private and public financial institutions, when willing and able, to consider the further
264 development of programs similar to the "Solidarity Micro-Financing Program" that allows women to
265 create economic opportunities by empowering and supporting each other through solidarity group
266 loans in which small groups of women can collectively borrow start-up capital and encourage one
267 another to repay it, by:
268
- 269 a. Implementing a several-liability system in which each party or solidarity group member is only
270 liable for her respective share;
- 271

- 272 b. Providing training sessions and micro-financing workshops for the solidarity group on
273 borrowing and saving;
274
- 275 c. Assigning a solidarity microfinance mentor, from the aforementioned institutions, that assists
276 the solidarity group in the program;
277
- 278 10. *Encourages* cooperation between Member States, UNIDO, and the ITU to implement infrastructural
279 programs to:
280
- 281 a. Provide financial support to build infrastructure for ICTs in rural or isolated areas;
282
- 283 b. Further provide research on challenges that Member States encounter when implementing
284 ICT based measures;
285
- 286 c. Adopt regional initiatives to address these state specific concerns;
287
- 288 11. *Welcomes* resources and financial support to assist in the process of incorporating women in
289 entrepreneurship, especially in LDCs, from:
290
- 291 a. PPPs for mentoring and supporting women entrepreneurs in SMEs;
292
- 293 b. International NGOs and NGOs;
294
- 295 12. *Reaffirms* the principle of Inclusive and Sustainable Development in UNIDO's mandate by striving for
296 the empowerment and inclusion of women entrepreneurs by removing barriers to their success
297 including the following:
298
- 299 a. gender-based discrimination;
300
- 301 b. cultural mindsets and stereotypes of women;
302
- 303 c. the lack of laws surrounding sexual harassment in legal frameworks;
304
- 305 13. *Calls for* the reduction or elimination of barriers that limit the access and possible impact women
306 could have in the working force such as:
307
- 308 a. Political and economic sanctions imposed by Member States on other Member States that
309 adversely impact women;
310
- 311 b. Socio-cultural barriers, including barriers on the basis of education, gender, race, and
312 religion, physical and mental disabled that prevent women from participating actively in the
313 global, regional, and local economies;
314
- 315 14. *Invites* the UN Development Fund for Women, subsidiary of UN Women, to provide resources and
316 structural support to the organizations as well as their administrative unit of the operations, thus
317 facilitating an increase in access to resources to further maximize the potential of women in rural
318 areas;
319
- 320 15. *Urges* Member States to adapt an international framework upholding international security through
321 blockchain networks based upon the Cyber Security Competence Network in order to prevent
322 information and financial theft when investing into women-led businesses;
323
- 324 16. *Suggests* through the monitoring of the Joint Inspection Unit in which it facilitates the overseeing,
325 evaluations, and inspections of United Nations systems that have been mandated on women in
326 industrial development;
327

- 328 17. *Recommending* the use of the Integrated Results and Performance Framework within UNIDO to
329 expand the annual reports in order to evaluate the progress of funding recipients that would receive
330 the micro-funds and coordination of the incubators which would report back to UNIDO;
331
- 332 18. *Solemnly affirms* the efforts made so far by Member States to further promote the inclusion of women
333 in matters such as poverty reduction, inclusive globalization, and environmental sustainability.



Code: UNIDO/1/3

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*
2
3 *Recalling* Article 2 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which calls for the elimination of
4 discrimination based on gender,
5
6 *Conscious of the* United Nations Millennium Declaration which stresses on the importance of equal rights
7 and opportunities for men and women,
8
9 Further recalling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5 which call for an inclusive quality
10 education for all, and goals 9 and 17 which strive for collaboration with respect to industry, innovation,
11 and infrastructure as established in General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015) “2030 Agenda for
12 Sustainable Development,”
13
14 *Stressing on* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) that set the basic framework for
15 gender equality and women empowerment,
16
17 *Noting* the convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which
18 created a basis for women in the workforce and paved the way for women to contribute and be part of the
19 global economy,
20
21 *Focusing on* CEDAW article 14 which enjoins state parties to take a holistic approach to take into account
22 the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the
23 economic survival of their families and nation,
24
25 *Remembering* the main purpose of the Inclusive Sustainable Industrial Development approach adopted in
26 the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Cooperation (2013), which is to
27 strive for inclusivity and equitable opportunities for all,
28
29 *Noting with regret* the discrimination, marginalization and the underrepresentation of women in Science,
30 Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, which discourages women from reaching their
31 full potential as entrepreneurs and contributing to the global economy,
32
33 *Calling attention to* the International Monetary Fund Pursuing Women’s Economic Empowerment paper,
34 finding gender inequality to be correlated with higher income inequality,
35
36 *Acknowledging with gratitude* the collaborative efforts made by the International Labor Organization, the
37 United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
38 Organization (UNESCO) to promote sustainable and inclusive practices for women entrepreneurs,
39
40 *Expressing with satisfaction* the efforts of the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Program with its focus in
41 investing into learning resources and education guides,
42
43 *Expressing with deep concern* the limited accessibility of resources that allows women to be empowered
44 through entrepreneurship when the state they live in is suffering unjust socio-economic political barriers,
45
46 *Bearing in mind* the UN Global Compact and UN-Women’s Women Empowerment Principles to increase
47 leadership through education and cooperation for businesses between women communities to reduce the
48 many challenges that women might encounter as they are given entrepreneurship opportunities,
49

50 *Appreciating* awareness programs that provide women with educational resources such as the Promoting
51 Women's Entrepreneurship and Facilitating Entrepreneurial Behaviors in Women program, which
52 facilitates access to entrepreneurship and mentorship through strong communication methods,
53

54 *Ensuring the focus* on General Resolution resolution 66/288 "The Future We Want" (2012), which
55 highlights the barriers and inequalities against women and their economic development that hinder the
56 opportunity to contribute to the global economy and leadership roles,
57

58 *Noting with deep concern* the findings within the World Bank which shows that 50% of those who are
59 currently living under the state of poverty worldwide are women as they are not given opportunities to
60 maximize their capabilities due to discrimination,
61

62 *Emphasizing* that women in entrepreneurship represent 15% of a country's gross domestic product on
63 average, which would increase if women are given more opportunities to lead their own businesses,
64

65 *Deplores the fact* that over 50% of women in developing countries are not properly informed and
66 educated on the technicalities of information and communications technology (ICTs) which is an integral
67 part of education,
68

69 *Recognizing* that there are still 31 million girls and 34 million female adolescents worldwide that do not
70 have access to primary or secondary school, missing out on the chance to learn vital skills for work,
71

72 1. *Invites* Member States to promote further understanding of Women Empowerment Principles (WEP),
73 by establishing ICT training programs for women through:
74

- 75 a. Focusing on the the fourth principle of the WEP, which is to promote education, training, and
76 professional development for women;
77
- 78 b. Promoting ICT literacy and training women in e-commerce and business planning, increasing
79 entrepreneurship opportunities;
80
- 81 c. Recommending the establishment of a committee to evaluate Member State progress
82 biannually which will be comprised of women entrepreneurs from all participating Member
83 States to evaluate the program and discuss strategies concerning the implementation of
84 these policies with business leaders and government officials;
85
- 86 d. Suggesting that Member States collaborate with Women in E-commerce and The Women
87 Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) organizations to establish think tanks for sharing
88 knowledge which can empower women entrepreneurs;
89
- 90 e. Encouraging Member States to work with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and to
91 support the Toolkits program to provide ICT equipment support for women entrepreneurship
92 by:
 - 93 i. Recommending that Member States provide electronic equipment for updating
94 services with the help of IFC;
 - 95 ii. Creating women-led community e-commerce networks, to provide advice and
96 support within the community and to train new entrepreneurs;
97

98 2. *Urges* the establishment of educational centers geared towards the economic empowerment of
99 women through community-based training and mentoring programs -- in collaboration with regional
100 and international partners such as governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations
101 (NGOs), along the lines of the *Entrepreneurship Curriculum Program* (ECP) and the *Learning and
102 Knowledge Development Facility* focused on entrepreneurial skills and development by:
103

- 104 a. Suggesting that governments of all Member States support the execution of locally tailored
105 solutions and frameworks;
106
- 107 b. Noting with strong concern the need for governmental support in executing locally tailored
108 solutions and frameworks;
109
- 110 c. Endorsing the implementation of a reporting system to track annual progress at the national,
111 regional, and international level;
112
- 113 d. Emphasizing the Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Programme approach
114 of promoting new and expanding existing enterprises that produce goods and services for
115 trade, provide employment and income to alleviate poverty, and foster overall economic
116 growth;
117
- 118 e. Recognizing the efforts made by Saudi Arabia's Effat University in university-led technical,
119 managerial, and financial research and encouraging the replication of such programs;
120
- 121 3. *Calls for* the implementation of gender mainstreaming protocols into programs influenced by the
122 *Industry Revolution 4.0* report, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship by:
123
- 124 a. Proposing the implementation of the gender mainstreaming protocols within UNIDO's ECP
125 into policies inspired by *Industry Revolution 4.0*, so as to close gender inequality gaps in
126 STEM entrepreneurship initiatives;
127
- 128 b. Requiring UNIDO partners to establish gender mainstreaming protocols for entrepreneurial
129 programs, while respecting the sovereignty and cultural values of Member States;
130
- 131 c. Utilizing the STEM skills outlined in the above report and entrepreneurial programs, so as to
132 encourage the development of women-led tech startups within nation states;
133
- 134 4. *Endorses* partnerships with NGOs to develop financial services that would focus on budget allocation
135 to support women entrepreneurship globally by cooperating with ICT firms by:
136
- 137 a. Profit-sharing with private organizations by encouraging them to direct their Corporate Social
138 Responsibility budget towards ICT workshops;
139
- 140 b. Utilizing workshops that aim to aid small and medium enterprises to manage financing in
141 order to maximize profits while conducting financial risk assessments;
142
- 143 c. Suggesting UNIDO to work in conjunction with UNESCO in order to improve research and
144 development, and to raise awareness focused on the advantages of expanding their reach
145 and gaining more markets;
146
- 147 d. Establishing a mobile payment system to incorporate ICTs through the:
148 i. Suggestion of Member States to use IFC Mobile Money Toolkits to help women
149 entrepreneurs buy communications equipment at low prices;
150 ii. Convening of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) experts for training
151 women on how to use and maintain communication base station equipment;
152
- 153 5. *Further calls for* the elimination of all barriers imposed on states which hinders the ability for women
154 to access resources and the discrimination it inflicts upon them by:
155
- 156 a. Reducing impediments that include but are not limited to, socio-economic political barriers
157 towards their respective Member States, obstacles women face when entering the workforce,

- 158 and gender inequalities in everyday life, in order to broaden equal opportunities for women in
159 entrepreneurship;
- 160
- 161 b. Re-evaluation of international economic impediments and how they harm Member States;
- 162
- 163 c. Increasing the ability to promote education initiatives to encourage women to pursue
164 entrepreneurial careers involved in ICT's;
- 165
- 166 d. Strengthening the placement and implementation of anti-discriminatory policies which grant
167 women access to markets;
- 168
- 169 6. *Proposes* fellow Member States to partner with NGOs, private sector players, and various
170 stakeholders to implement resources such as research, capital investments, and guidance that allows
171 for the sharing platform advancing women in businesses by:
- 172
- 173 a. Utilizing networking opportunities and mentorship programs such as UN-Women's HeForShe
174 Initiative and the MenEngage Social Movement;
- 175
- 176 b. Allowing for easier access to loans and financial resources through different methods, such
177 as by offering low interest credit similar to the Women Entrepreneurship Development Project
178 implemented in Ethiopia;
- 179
- 180 c. Building upon the sharing platform based on the Women Entrepreneurs Network
181 (WENglobal) and eWomenNetwork which includes:
- 182
- 183 i. Connecting women entrepreneurs by online communication and community meeting;
- 184 ii. Offering access to Business Service Providers such as lawyers, coaches, marketing
185 specialists, finance specialists, and psychological experts to provide specialized
186 assessment and consultation at different stages of their growth;
- 187 iii. Implementing training and evaluation of women's confidence during a transition
188 period over a year where women are encouraged to work side by side with men to
189 promote autonomy, ownership of their ideas, and leadership roles through
190 confidence building strategies;
- 191
- 192 7. *Acknowledges* the Youth for Technology (YTF) to promote YTF Academy after-school programs
193 (from primary school to high school) in partnership with leading-enterprises and UN-Women by
194 following actions:
- 195
- 196 a. Inviting leading ICTs industries to conduct female youth-oriented entrepreneurial workshops;
- 197
- 198 b. Integrating female youth-oriented entrepreneurial courses into the UN-Women e-Learning
199 Campus to provide an online platform;
- 200
- 201 8. *Strongly advises* the utilization of awareness programs that provide women with educational
202 resources:
- 203
- 204 a. Promoting the inclusion of women through the use of on-ground marketing for entrepreneurial
205 programs;
- 206
- 207 b. Expanding existing UNIDO databases that ensure accountability to achieve the effective
208 empowerment of women and facilitate information sharing by:
- 209

- 210 i. Requiring UNIDO representatives in Member States to collaborate with the World
211 Bank to collect data for the purpose of providing women with entrepreneurial
212 opportunities and add in the Statistical Country Briefs;
213 ii. Utilizing blockchain technology in databases to ensure a secure and accurate data
214 collection;
215
- 216 9. *Calls upon* Member States to implement the Medium-Term Programme Framework and
217 Entrepreneurial Curriculum Programme developed by UNIDO in order ensure the development of
218 entrepreneurial businesses, especially ones led by women;
219
- 220 10. *Encourages* NGOs to promote initiatives such as the Welfare Association for Development Alternative
221 which provide ICT trainings to unemployed women to introduce an “ICT upskilling and reskilling
222 program” that administers ICT training focusing on unskilled and semiskilled female workers with the
223 objective of increasing their productivity, employability, and mobility;
224
- 225 11. *Fosters* Member States to promote leadership programs for women in order to be financially stable
226 by:
227
- 228 a. Aiding women in their journey to entrepreneurship;
229
- 230 b. Creating leadership conferences about entrepreneurship that teach topics such as marketing,
231 leadership, development, organizational skills, and business management;
232
- 233 c. Empowering women in spousal union to become more self-sufficient;
234
- 235 12. *Further recommends* partnerships of local, regional, and national organizations with the role of
236 increasing educational opportunities for women and girls by:
237
- 238 a. Fostering communities that promote a positive learning environment as seen in the Manna
239 Project;
240
- 241 b. Strengthening and utilizing existing learning services, particularly in regions where services
242 are lacking;
243
- 244 c. Exploring ways in which funding can be increased;
245
- 246 13. *Calls upon* Member States to create national and regional programs and policies, with the specific
247 aim of implementing and opening access to industrial sectors to women entrepreneurs, by:
248
- 249 a. Guaranteeing safe and affordable transport infrastructure to connect rural and isolated areas
250 to educational and training centers;
251
- 252 b. Emphasizing regional initiatives that increase literacy and soft-skill development for future
253 women entrepreneurs through:
254
- 255 i. Programs like Ecuador and Nicaragua’s Manna Project which promotes positive
256 learning environments in communities;
257 ii. Strengthening and utilizing existing learning services particularly in regions lacking
258 literacy services;
259
- 260 c. Inviting women entrepreneurs in educational centers to share their professional experience
261 and to inspire female students to start their own businesses.



Code: UNIDO/1/4

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*
2
3 *Considering* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) mandate on Inclusive
4 and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), and its importance in fostering/achieving sustained
5 economic growth and shared prosperity among men and women, per the *Lima Declaration* adopted in
6 2013,
7
8 *Recognizing* that only half of all countries currently offer at least 14 weeks of maternity leave and 48
9 percent of countries have adopted provisions for paternity leave, though such measures exclude "paid
10 domestic workers, own-account and contributing family workers, casual and temporary workers, and
11 agricultural workers", according to the *World's Women 2015 Report*,
12
13 *Noting with deep concern* the ongoing gender-based constraints and barriers faced by women from all
14 over the world, as shown by the fact that less than 4 percent of CEOs in the world's largest 500
15 corporations are women per *World's Women 2015 Report*,
16
17 *Concerned by* the fact that only about half of countries have 30 percent or more shares of women in
18 managerial positions and that none have achieved parity as determined by the *World's Women 2015*
19 *Report*,
20
21 *Alarmed by* the number of women restrained from functioning on an equal basis with men in most
22 economic spheres because of, among other things, their outstanding contribution to family work, which is
23 estimated to constitute over 42 percent of total female employment, as compared to 20 percent of male
24 employment according to UNIDO's *Mainstreaming Gender in Cluster Development 2018*,
25
26 *Considering* the potential of women as important drivers of innovation and sustainable development,
27 since gender parity would contribute to a rise of 0.6 percent to the world's annual Gross Domestic
28 Product which would significate a world gain of USD12 trillion per Ireland's *National Strategy for Women*
29 *and Girls 2017-2020*,
30
31 *Calling attention to* Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 8, which aims to ensure gender equality while
32 enabling sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and offering decent work for all,
33
34 *Acknowledging* that only 50 percent of women of working age are in the labor force, compared to 77% of
35 men worldwide per the *World's Women 2015*,
36
37 *Reconfirming* the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women's strategy as the core of UNIDO's
38 mandate for addressing systemic barriers to women's involvement in entrepreneurship such as the lack of
39 recognition or discriminating policies in the private or public sectors,
40
41 *Recognizing* that scholarly literature agrees on several reasons for women's lower propensity to engage
42 in entrepreneurial activities, such as access to finance, cultural barriers, information and training gaps,
43 unfavorable business regulations, etc., per the Statistics Norway Research Department 2014,
44
45 *Emphasizing* the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative established during the 2017 G20 Hamburg
46 Summit that aims to help female entrepreneurs access capital, financing and managerial support in the
47 developing world and fostering sustained economic growth,
48

- 49 1. *Suggests* Member States develop inclusive policies that create equal access to universal parental
50 leave, which aligns with UNIDO's mandate of fostering sustainable economic growth, by aspiring for
51 programs that:
52
- 53 a. Allow each parent, necessarily, to take a reasonable period of time from work while
54 maintaining benefits during:
55
 - 56 i. A larger period at lower pay;
 - 57 ii. A smaller period at full pay;
 - 58 b. Negotiate with each parent a set portion of their salary before their due date;
 - 59 c. Allow each parent to take a partial leave once the child turns 3 and until the child enrolls in
60 first, second, or third grade;
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64 2. *Further suggests* the improvement of equality within industrial companies and entrepreneurial
65 environments that remove gender biases by:
66
- 67 a. Using company-standardized achievement assessments to remove gender biases from the
68 individual making the decision nominations, awards, and grants;
 - 69 b. Instigating presence of women in industrial environments by:
70
 - 71 i. Creating online job applications that exclude gender biases by blind, standardized
72 assessments;
 - 73 ii. Being conscious of company environments that promote equality;
 - 74 c. Encouraging managers to advertise - and apply with consent - women in their work
75 environments for awards such as the Stevie Awards for Women in Business, which:
76
 - 77 i. is open to all organizations worldwide;
 - 78 ii. recognizes the achievements of women executives, entrepreneurs, and the
79 organizations they run;
 - 80 d. Suggesting the reduction or elimination of social, economic, and political barriers that could
81 suppose a detriment of equality, including but not limited to, the differences between
82 maternity and paternity leave inside Member States;
- 83
- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87 3. *Encourages* Member States to continue to promote equality among men and women as a necessity
88 for the empowerment of women in line with UNIDO'S ISID mandate through entrepreneurship by:
89
- 90 a. Establishing online national marketing programs that seek to assess the public perception
91 that women have a lower capability of achieving success, which emulates the efforts of a
92 general national agency for women start-ups activities and services wherein all sorts of
93 support services that cater to the creation and development of women entrepreneurs in all
94 phases of their start-ups by:
95
 - 96 i. Promoting and advertising women who have been successful entrepreneurs within
97 each country;
 - 98 ii. Organizing regional social events that emphasize the achievements of women of
99 each region within countries;
 - 100 b. Directing attention to the possibilities of start-ups with a media and technology focus for
101 young women through public campaigns and the connection with female entrepreneurs and
102 executives, particularly active in those areas;
- 103
- 104

- 105 4. *Suggests* the further development of already existing programs that aim to change the current
106 entrepreneurial mindset to admit and incentivize women to enter the entrepreneurial and industrial
107 world, such as:
108
- 109 a. The *Imprenditorialità Donna è l'Associazione*, which should adopt a collaborative
110 environment among entrepreneurs to not only promote the benefits of female
111 entrepreneurship but also give constructive criticism to women who present their ideas to the
112 entity;
 - 113 b. Providing opportunities for development and hands-on training;
 - 114 c. Promoting local employment initiatives, policies, and projects that have a direct regional
115 impact, which will incentivize local businesses;
- 116
- 117 5. *Encourages* Member States to establish skills enhancement initiatives tailored to meet the life and
118 work circumstances of women emulating the “Woman Enterprise Program” across the globe by:
119
- 120 a. Fostering mentoring relationships with successful women entrepreneurs who advocate for
121 women empowerment while reducing the stigma of failure associated with aspiring women
122 entrepreneurs;
 - 123 b. Educating aspiring women entrepreneurs about entrepreneurship culture and its paucity in
124 the public discourse in order to tackle entrepreneurship issues commonly faced by women;
125
 - 126 c. Promoting women’s access to a high position in the workplace by keeping direct contact with
127 companies and promoting them through self-regulation instead of legislation;
128
- 129
- 130 6. *Further suggests* high marketing and improvement of the yearly international recognition Global
131 Award for Women's Empowerment, hosted by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
132 Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), that highlights the success of women entrepreneurs
133 specifically throughout the world:
134
- 135 a. Focusing on growth goals and time defined milestones;
 - 136 b. Building on existing awards such as the UN-Women and Bahrain initiative Princess Sabeeka
137 Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Women Empowerment, this award would require:
138
 - 139 i. Women candidates from all UNIDO Member states;
 - 140 ii. A panel of 10 judges from the private sector, UN-Women, and UNIDO’s Gender
141 Office;
 - 142 iii. To be given during the yearly session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
 - 143 iv. The development of partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil
144 society, industries, and the private sector at the regional level for broader recognition
145 of women’s work in entrepreneurship;
 - 146 v. A focus on the fields of sustainable development, technologies, and social
147 enterprises; - 148 c. Appeals for the implementation of entrepreneurial support services to ensure that every
149 initiative can be applied to different life-work situations of women, which implies considering
150 their educational background, family situation, origin, disabilities, and other relevant
151 information through a standardized application;
- 152
- 153 7. *Encourages* cooperation with NGOs and civil society groups to broaden the range of initiatives and
154 campaigns that collectively empower women and increase public awareness in both urban and rural
155 areas;
156
- 157
- 158
- 159
- 160

- 161 8. *Suggests that* Member States track their progress in creating an auspicious environment for women
162 entrepreneurs by:
163
- 164 a. Ensuring the use of sex-disaggregated data in the policy-making process to estimate their
165 impacts on women entrepreneurs;
 - 166
 - 167 b. Prioritizing gender experts to conduct those types of assessment;
 - 168
 - 169 c. Trying to render available to the population the conclusions drawn from the data;
 - 170
- 171 9. *Welcomes* the international adoption and expansion of organizations and programs such as the
172 “Enterprise Development & Investment Program” and “Entrepreneurship Center at Royal University”
173 established by UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship Investment Training in 2011,
174 supporting businesswomen by connecting, supporting, and empowering women on a national basis
175 through:
176
- 177 a. Exhibitions, forums, and congresses;
 - 178
 - 179 b. Providing entrepreneurs with the contacts of businesswomen in similar industries, and
180 activities;
 - 181
 - 182 c. Popularizing entrepreneurship in industries focusing on social issues through public
183 campaigns and information sessions spreading awareness about the possibilities and
184 benefits of such entrepreneurship for individuals and the wider society in each field;
 - 185
 - 186 d. Supporting entrepreneurial women on how to form start-ups by facilitating professional
187 guidance on legal frameworks, tax payments, and protection of intellectual property.



Code: UNIDO/1/5

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*
2
3 *Reconfirming* the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*
4 (CEDAW), highlighting the commitment made by Member States to protect women’s rights in the
5 workplace,
6
7 *Recognizing* Article 2.1 of the United Nations Charter that the United Nations (UN) is formed by sovereign
8 states, and furthermore, that individual Member States implement mandates at their own discretion,
9
10 *Reaffirming* the sentiments in General Assembly resolution 70/1 on “Transforming our world: the 2030
11 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” which addresses the UN and UNIDO 15-year target endorsing the
12 assurance of social security, fiscal security, and physical well-being,
13
14 *Noting* the important and prevalent role that the private sector can play in achieving gender parity in
15 industrial workforces by implementing ethical hiring and treatment practices thereby fostering a safe
16 environment for women to work,
17
18 *Understanding* that women face more financial barriers to entrepreneurial success due to lack of access
19 to resources as for example in the US where nearly 36% of the businesses are owned by female
20 entrepreneurs, but only 2.7% receive venture capital funding, females require support in the form of
21 financial resources and vocational training to overcome these barriers and to pursue entrepreneurial
22 opportunities,
23
24 *Fully believing* that women need to have a safe passage to their place of work to encourage their
25 involvement in industry and entrepreneurship,
26
27 *Recognizing* the impact of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (2017) on networks and
28 partnerships to nurture and encourage women’s entrepreneurial skills through knowledge sharing and
29 networking among successful women from academia, civil societies, and business communities; and
30 further welcoming the expansion of mentorship programs that help women develop entrepreneurial skills
31 and characteristics,
32
33 *Alarmed by* the challenges women face when trying to access information and communication
34 technologies, such as the 30.9% lower internet usage of women in least developed countries, affecting
35 their employment and educational opportunities,
36
37 *Reaffirming* the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment (2016)
38 which encourage greater representation of women in strategic fields of work, the accumulation of
39 personal financial assets to minimize the economic barriers to women working, and providing a legal
40 framework for women’s security in the workplace,
41
42 *Taking into consideration* the many challenges that women face when participating in male-dominated
43 fields can lead to doubt and lack of confidence, the UN University has created a Women’s
44 Entrepreneurship Training to bridge the confidence gap through women’s mentor programs, by
45 introducing women’s support networks, and by providing opportunities to experiment with leadership in an
46 environment that is free from risks,
47
48 *Further reaffirming* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 9, and 10; SDG 5: Achieve gender equality
49 and empower all women and girls, SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable

50 industrialization, and foster innovation, and SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries; for
51 the purpose of empowering women financially and socially in entrepreneurial roles,
52

53 *Encouraged by* the World Bank Group implementation of Women Entrepreneurship Financing Initiative
54 (We-Fi) is expected to provide \$870 million and 57,000 new jobs to women owned/led Small and Medium
55 Enterprises (WSMEs) through its “Creating Finance and Markets for All” to promote private and public
56 sector with fiscal resources to WSMEs,
57

58 *Recognizing* the International Labor Organization (ILO) use of Social Finance Network operates to
59 achieve gender equality by providing funding, support, program structures, and training data management
60 for example the ILO start a program Transition to Independent Banking Program (TIP) to help rural
61 women by providing business loans from \$50 to \$250 and provided training, models, peer mentoring, and
62 technical support,
63

- 64 1. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with ILO’s TIP to help women by creating a new initiative
65 by the name of Restore the Computer (RTC) which would work on restoring and fixing used, broken
66 or worn out computers. Representatives from RTC would collect old electronic devices to fix them;
67 thus, having new and restored computers to sell to their rural areas;
68
- 69 2. *Urges* development of support networks similar to the women’s panel within the St. Petersburg
70 International Economic Forum which serve to ensure the success of new business ventures and
71 create business contacts for the expansion of such networks through:
72
 - 73 a. Recognition and incorporation of more relatable female role models who represent
74 marginalized identities and underrepresented backgrounds through initiatives like the
75 International Gender Champions by the UN Office at Geneva;
76
 - 77 b. Focus on self-made entrepreneurial and executive women as an inspiration for others and
78 displaying a woman’s possibility to be successful independently;
79
 - 80 c. Endorsement of peer to peer networking between women entrepreneurs, which allow for
81 advisement, business opportunities, and the sharing of experiences;
82
- 83 3. *Recognizes* the ability of UNIDO to act as an intermediary for partnerships between Member States
84 and both public and private sectors to aid women in accumulating personal capital in order to lessen
85 the financial burdens and barriers they face, such as, but not limited to, the examples of:
86
 - 87 a. UNIDO and Hewlett-Packard’s Graduate Entrepreneurship Training Through IT (2009)
88 program which engages with hundreds of impoverished communities in order to create
89 thousands of vocational jobs;
90
 - 91 b. UNIDO and Microsoft Unlimited Potential (2008) which helps to supply 71 million trained
92 employees for small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
93
 - 94 c. UNIDO and the People’s Bank of China (2016) which offers low-cost loans to banks to help
95 fund SMEs and further encourages to adapt the policy to WSMEs;
96
- 97 4. *Notes with approval* the adaptation of the We-Fi model, as instituted by the World Bank; which
98 includes:
99
 - 100 a. Expanding upon the Creating Finance and Markets for All fund to provide start-up capital
101 based on risk assessment by We-Fi Risk Management Framework;
102
 - 103 b. Building archives based on entrepreneurs’ annual business reports, final business summary
104 and long-term follow-up investigation to provide information for future entrepreneurs as well

- 105 as make hotspot assessment;
106
- 107 5. *Further encourages* Member States to work with all due speed in order to achieve the comprehensive
108 Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda, specifically SDG 5, 9, and 10 to
109 provide a framework for addressing the issues of gender disparity:
110
- 111 a. Encourages the implementation of networks similar to that of the International Gender
112 Champions which recognizes leaders of all backgrounds who act as role models and
113 guardians of gender equality by advocating for the removal of systematic gender barriers and
114 by empowering women in accordance with Goal 5;
115
- 116 b. Calls for contributions of fiscal and substantive resources to women for construction of new
117 SMEs to create resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization
118 and foster innovation in accordance with Goal 9;
119
- 120 c. Urges Member States to support programs such as Making Every Woman and Girl Count by
121 UN Women to assist countries in passing gender equality policies to reduce gender inequality
122 within and among countries in accordance with Goal 10;
123
- 124 6. *Invites* all Member States to pursue vocational and other career-oriented trainings independently or
125 through partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the free multi-language
126 platform of UN Women Training Center, especially in science, technology, engineering, and
127 mathematics (STEM) fields for women to increase the number of women in these lacking fields and
128 encourage:
129
- 130 a. The development of entrepreneurial and institutional knowledge among women which also
131 serves to improve human capital and career competency;
132
- 133 b. The expansion of idea sharing and communication of best practices for creating market
134 incentives for women in industry;
135
- 136 7. *Promotes* partnerships with non-governmental organizations such as the Waste Electrical and
137 Electronic Equipment and Geecycle, to provide recycled mobile phones, tablets, and other consumer
138 electronics to women entrepreneurs in impoverished areas with help of the NGO Women in
139 Engineering to enable new business of repairing and selling affordable consumer products to their
140 local communities;
141
- 142 8. *Further welcomes* Member States to implement programs to help in the acquisition of smart devices
143 for women within each Member States capabilities to:
144
- 145 a. Incentive entrepreneurship networks through smart devices ownership;
146
- 147 b. *Promote* different forms of secure electronic transactions such as electronic credit card
148 payments, that protect women who are looking to expand their businesses into the National
149 and international market, so their products and services are protected from digital threats
150 such as fraud and cybercrime;
151
- 152 c. Allow women that live in prone crime areas and gender-based violence to have a means of
153 communication as well as a physical safety measure that is capable of sharing their location
154 or contacting emergency services;
155
- 156 9. *Recommends* that Member States encourage to follow in the path of UN Women project of creating
157 safe spaces for women and further expanding to create women's and children's only spaces, where
158 possible, on public transportation to foster a safe passage to work, thereby empowering more women
159 to pursue entrepreneurial roles without fear of violence or retribution;
160

- 161 10. *Emphasizes* respect for the sovereignty, customs, and culture of independent states and for the
162 recognition of their unique needs by encouraging individual Member States to identify the industrial
163 fields that most align with their own needs or strategic priorities and encouraging states to pursue the
164 most appropriate incentive models such as:
165
- 166 a. Government-issued cash incentive programs like grants or stipends issued to individual
167 women to encourage them to pursue start-ups business ventures;
 - 168
 - 169 b. Government sponsored vocational training to encourage women to pursue entrepreneurial
170 roles in areas of strategic interest, such as STEM field training;
 - 171
 - 172 c. NGO-issued cash incentive programs like grants, scholarships, training, and other available
173 resources;
 - 174
- 175 11. *Recommends* that Member States encourage independent evaluations for cultures of workplace
176 discrimination against women as outlined in legislation like CEDAW and encourage entities within the
177 private sector to become compliant by means:
178
- 179 a. Market incentive programs, like, providing government partnerships, grants, and stipends,
180 and to private sector entities who implement and comply with ethical hiring and treatment
181 practices for women as outlined in CEDAW;
 - 182
 - 183 b. The incentives programs will give private corporations a proper avenue to help improve and
184 understand the CEDAW legislation.



Code: UNIDO/1/6

Committee: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Topic: Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

1 *The United Nations Industrial Development Organization,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* the necessity of the *Lima Declaration* of 2013 in emphasizing the need to maintain UNIDO as
4 an inclusive organization, as it may pertain to be a guiding document towards empowering women
5 entrepreneurship,

6
7 *Deeply concerned* with women's lack of access to necessary tools, such as education, mentorship,
8 internet, financial, and technological tools, to succeed in an ever-changing and advanced world,

9
10 *Recognizing* the efforts from De Beers Group and UN-Women on the education provided through their
11 various training programs such as supporting women through micro-entrepreneurs and capacity building,

12
13 *Fully aware* that women financially earn about 20% less than their male counterparts because women are
14 disproportionately more likely to be tied down to occupations within the household and other low-paying
15 jobs,

16
17 *Alarmed by* the fact that women spend a collective 200 million hours each day just to carry water, as such
18 burdens stymie women's productive time that may be used for entrepreneurial activities,

19
20 *Recognizing* that 35% of women have faced physical or sexual harassment in their lifetime, which has led
21 to psychological trauma and exclusion within the workforce that has further hindered their social and
22 economic productivity by up to \$12 trillion globally,

23
24 *Acknowledging* the importance of sharing knowledge in the areas of best practice in business, financing,
25 marketing, asset management, and in legal issues facing women as a means to shedding the economic
26 barriers women face,

27
28 1. *Stresses the need* for universal access to tools that make entrepreneurship possible for women,
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31 a. Ensuring women are able to easily access fundamental tools to promote
32 entrepreneurship, by:

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34 i. Proposing programs that support the improvement of broadband and wireless
35 infrastructure in rural areas, provide devices such as cellular devices and tablets,
36 and provide internet access to women in developing countries, such as e-CUT, a
37 five-year project that aims to ensure universal access to information technologies
38 within Cyprus universities;

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40 ii. Encouraging UNIDO to build upon General Assembly resolution S-7/3362, which
41 tackles the information sharing bank regarding industrial and technological
42 techniques, to include topics such as finance and business learning, and further
43 strengthen the current methods of instruction with the usage of video
44 conferences, web seminars, and personal mentoring;

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46 iii. Implementing mentorship programs in local communities, similar to the She
47 Innovates Global Program, to support women throughout their entrepreneurship
journey;

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- b. Creating women's programs and groups within communities to provide support and empower young women to seek opportunities in their local economies through:
 - i. Programs to educate women on the opportunities that teach a skill or trade that is in demand within the community;
 - ii. Encouraging women to be open and to come forth through women's empowerment groups with incidences of discrimination or violence that have occurred;
 - iii. Further inviting Member States to participate in initiatives, such as the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa which has mobilized \$3 billion to grow over 10,000 enterprises led by women, that empower women with the tools necessary to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities;
 - iv. Drawing attention to the importance of national support for financing women's entrepreneurship activities, as demonstrated by Cyprus' founding of the Women's Cooperative Bank which primarily focuses on credit lending towards women-led businesses;
 - 2. Solemnly *affirms* the importance of not only maintaining, but expanding UNIDO's partnerships, especially in regards of enabling innovation, jobs, and opportunities for women entrepreneurs by:
 - a. Expanding the collaboration of the agency not only with Private Public Partnerships but also with willing Member State governments;
 - b. Moving towards the expansion of the UNIDO-Microsoft partnership which would facilitate easier access to computers for women entrepreneurs in less developed countries;
 - c. Hoping to further UNIDO's international partnership through the expansion of the Learning Initiative for Entrepreneurs training program, which has utilized over 50,000 students face-to-face and has created over 20,000 jobs, with over half of all participants being women, to increase the entrepreneurial potential of women in mostly developing Member States;
 - 3. *Stresses* the urgency of facilitating the path for woman towards entrepreneurship in underdeveloped regions by alleviating the pressure of household work through:
 - a. Improving access to in-home and in-yard water systems for women in water-vulnerable regions by:
 - i. Calling upon willing and able governments to prioritize policies improving access to water;
 - ii. Calling upon non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the crowd-funded Waves for Water, and the World Bank to engage with Member States, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, to grant funds that will improve water access to 17 million women and girls;
 - b. Ensuring the electrification of isolated regions lacking modern electricity, by:
 - i. Promoting NGOs such as the Alliance for Rural Electrification and initiatives such as the Enel Green Power that create rural electrification projects that provide access to sustainable electricity in rural areas;
 - 4. *Proposes* the establishment of the "Women's Online Digital Library" (WOEDL), by:
 - a. Collecting and curating international and State databases and scholarly research on women's issues;

- 104 b. Analyzing and mapping varying levels of women's empowerment throughout the world;
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106 c. Utilizing UNIDO gender-disaggregated data on labor and industry;
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- 108 5. *Recommends* the adoption and modification of existing databases into WOEDL, including but not
109 limited to:
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- 111 a. The Women, Business, and the Law Database by the World Bank to aggregate data on
112 the eight different topics:
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- 114 i. Going Places;
115 ii. Starting a Job;
116 iii. Getting Paid;
117 iv. Getting Married;
118 v. Having Children;
119 vi. Running a Business;
120 vii. Managing Assets;
121 viii. Getting a Pension;
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- 123 b. The UN Minimum Set of Gender Statistics, which includes quantitative and qualitative
124 indicators, including but not limited to sectors such as:
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- 126 i. The Global Gender Equality Constitutional Database, created by UN-Women,
127 which is a repository of gender equality related provisions from 195 submitted by
128 the international community, which includes a myriad of criteria for evaluating the
129 status of women;
130 ii. The Gender Inequality Index, created by the United Nations Development
131 Program, which measures gender inequalities in three aspects of human
132 development in reproductive health, empowerment and labor force participation
133 rate;
134 iii. The Gender, Institutions and Development Database, created by the
135 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which analyzes
136 various barriers to women's empowerment, namely, discrimination in the family,
137 restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial
138 resources and restricted civil liberties;
139 iv. UN-Women Watch, which facilitates news and events on gender equality from
140 across the UN;
141 v. The World Bank Group's Enterprise Surveys;
142 vi. Encouraging Member States to provide UNIDO with books, scholarly articles and
143 research on the barriers that women entrepreneurs are facing and have faced, to
144 gather historical knowledge on the subject, and to encourage universities and
145 research bodies to continue such research;
146 vii. Encouraging universities and research bodies to pursue a wide-scale historical
147 research about important cases of discrimination;
148 viii. Encouraging interviewing women about their experience with discrimination;
149 ix. Collecting any reports internal UNIDO reports detailing women's issues including
150 but not limited to the Gender Equity and Empowerment Women Strategy
151 (GEEW);
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- 153 6. *Invites* Member States to cultivate national and international banking institutions that put special
154 attention towards granting loans to ambitious female entrepreneurs, by:
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- 156 a. Welcoming the launch of the Women in Business Programme by the European Bank for
157 Reconstruction and Development (ERBD), where the ERBD has focused on ensuring
158 over 450 million euros to woman-led businesses;
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- b. Encouraging the work of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in dedicating \$55 million to women in Latin America that are working towards obtaining their own businesses;
 - c. Promoting the implementation of programs similar to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa, which has mobilized \$3 billion to grow over 10,000 enterprises led by women in Africa;
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7. *Encourages* the creation of regional web domains or networks with the aim of fostering interactions between women and allowing women to speak freely on an accessible forum, which gives them the ability to:
- a. Participate in discussions with women in similar circumstances and share their experiences;
 - b. Regionally congregate and form advocacy groups for gender equality;
 - c. Create local workshops or sessions that allow women to educate and tutor one another;
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8. *Invites* Member States to participate in initiatives such as the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa which has mobilized \$3 billion to grow over 10,000 enterprises led by women, that empower women with the tools necessary to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities;
- a. Reconstruction and Development (ERBD), where the ERBD has focused on ensuring over 450 million euros to women in 17 developing Member States for the cultivation of women-led businesses;
 - b. Encouraging the work of the IDB in dedicating \$55 million to women in Latin America that are working towards obtaining their own businesses;
 - c. Promoting the implementation of programs similar to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa, which has mobilized \$3 billion to grow over 10,000 enterprises led by women in Africa;
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9. *Invites* willing Member States to partner with UNIDO for the development of Transformational Mobile Cart Program (TMC Program) a unique tool designed to give women the ability of business ownership through a low-cost mobile cart. TMC Program would;
- a. Integration of TMC Program into Educational programs such as:
 - i. De Beers Groups, a program designed to capacity building in small communities and offers training and mentoring women in development communities;
 - b. Funding of program can be facilitated through;
 - i. Eileen Fisher Women-Owned Business Grant Program;
 - ii. National Association for the Self-Employed Growth Grant;
 - c. Unique design of TMC Program is designed to;
 - i. Eco-friendly mobile cart with a bike attachment, facilitating easy mobility that can be easily adapted into any business;
 - d. The unique design of TMC Program gives willing Member States the ability to adopt the program and cultivate a pathway for entrepreneurship for women.
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