



*Initiatives in the United
Nations System Working
to Support Women's
Entrepreneurship*

International Labour Organization

Women's Entrepreneurship Development (WED):

ILO's Women's Entrepreneurship Development programme (ILO-WED) works on enhancing economic opportunities for women by carrying out affirmative actions in support of women starting, formalizing and growing their enterprises. ILO-WED aims to create an enabling environment for WED that generates quality jobs, to build institutional capacity in WED to develop tools and support services for women entrepreneurs.

www.ilo.org/empent/areas/womens-entrepreneurship-development-wed/lang--en/index.htm

Africa Commission, the Youth Employment Network and the ILO

Youth Entrepreneurs Facility – Youth to Youth Fund,

the objective of this Fund in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda was to identify implementable project ideas that contribute specifically to the development of entrepreneurship and business opportunities for young women. The Youth-to-Youth Fund offers local youth-led organizations an opportunity to actively participate in the development of youth entrepreneurship in their communities.

www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm

International Trade Center

Women and Trade Programme:

The aim of ITC's Women and Trade Programme is to bring greater economic benefit to women through increased participation in export trade. The ITC works with governments and trade support institutions on projects that target both women entrepreneurs and women working in export-oriented value chains.

www.intracen.org/projects/women-and-trade

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Empretec Women in Business Awards:

Empretec inspires women entrepreneurs in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to start, grow and develop their businesses. The Empretec Women in Business Awards started in 2008 with the aim of celebrating exceptional women entrepreneurs who have benefitted from the Empretec programme and have served as role models for their communities.

www.empretec.net

Women's Entrepreneurship and Innovation:

This recent report by UNCTAD investigates the drivers of entrepreneurship and innovation according to gender in both developed and developing countries. The report contributes to filling the knowledge gaps that remain on the obstacles hindering women's role in the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth through the creation of high-growth, innovative enterprises.

www.unctad.org/diae



ICT and Women's Entrepreneurship:

UNCTAD promotes more effective application of ICT for enterprise development, including women's entrepreneurship, in developing countries. It is committed to combatting the "gender digital divide" wherein women entrepreneurs – due to lack of literacy, skills, access, resources and other factors – are excluded from the opportunities and benefits offered by ICT. UNCTAD has prepared a practical guide aimed at helping policymakers and development practitioners to formulate more effective policies on ICT and women's entrepreneurship.

www.unctad.org/en/Pages/DTL/STI_and ICTs/ICT4D-Women.aspx

Gender and Trade:

UNCTAD has engaged in the debate on the role of gender equality in the post-2015 development framework. Its published Policy Briefings aim to spur discussion on the linkages between gender and economics, especially trade, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. They suggest elements and data that may help stakeholders to assess whether they are implementing the new framework in a gender-sensitive way. The report titled Looking at trade policy through a "gender lens" presents the findings of seven country case studies rendering women in the economy visible, and offering countries concrete and extensive policy guidance on how trade policy can promote gender equality. A teaching manual on trade and gender was developed and online training courses made available. In collaboration with UN Women, UNCTAD also developed a "satellite course" on trade and gender to accompany and complement the generic course developed by UN Women and addressed to all UN staff, called "I know gender".

High-level intergovernmental meetings on gender and economic issues are held with three main purposes: (i) to take the gender issue to a new level of political prominence within the debate on trade and development; (ii) to yield new insights into the relationship between trade and other macroeconomic policies, development and gender; and (iii) to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and good practices on women's economic empowerment.

www.unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Gender-and-Trade/Trade,-Gender-and-Development.aspx

*United Nations Development Programme***Women's Economic Empowerment:**

Supporting women's entrepreneurship through training in production skills and techniques, business management and functional literacy.

www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/gender-equality/women-s-economic-empowerment.html



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Rural and Women Entrepreneurship (RWE):

The aim of UNIDO's RWE Programme is to contribute to poverty reduction through entrepreneurship development, with a focus on rural development and gender equality. The essential elements in this programme are to create a business environment that encourages the initiatives of rural and women entrepreneurs and to enhance the human and institutional capacities required to foster entrepreneurial dynamism and enhance productivity. As well as empowering women through targeted technical cooperation activities, UNIDO mainstreams gender in all its programmes, projects and organizational practices. UNIDO's Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, issued in 2009 and updated in 2015, sets out the Organization's gender equality commitments. The Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016–2019 provides a clear, results-oriented framework and plan of action.

www.unido.org

UN Women

Women, Poverty & Economics - Economic Empowerment:

In more than 40 countries, UN Women supports women in reshaping conditions at both ends of the economic spectrum – from boosting women's participation in economic policymaking to supporting efforts to provide women and their communities with practical skills needed for securing sustainable livelihoods. UN Women also works to strengthen women's rights to land and inheritance,

improve their access to credit and decent work, and empower women migrant workers as well as home-based workers. Recently, in partnership with the SEED Initiative, UNEP and UNIDO, it has developed the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment.

www.empowerwomen.org

UN Women, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union have joined forces to support sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth in G7 countries. We Empower is promoting economic empowerment of women at work through responsible business conduct in G7 countries.

www.unwomen.org

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Women's Leadership Programme – UNITAR's new programme is working with UN Women and across the UN System, with a mandate to build the skills, knowledge and capacities of government officials accredited to the United Nations and its entities. Following UN Women's Step it Up for Gender Equality call for Planet 50:50 by 2030 as well as the adoption of the Agenda 2030 with Sustainable Development Goal 5, the Women's Leadership Programme seeks to address the gender imbalance that exists on delegations to multilateral conferences under the United Nations and to promote both gender equality and women's full and effective participation and leadership at all levels of political life.

