



United Nations Secretary-General's
High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

CONCEPT PAPER

What

United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

When

22 September 2016, 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly
09:00-12:30

Where

ECOSOC Chamber United Nations HQ

Background

In order to lead a discussion on closing gaps for women's economic empowerment and in line with his leadership on and long-standing commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a 20 member High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. Consisting of representatives of government, business, and civil society and co-chaired by Luis Guillermo Solis, President of Costa Rica and Simona Scarpaleggia, CEO IKEA, Switzerland, The High-Level Panel (HLP) was charged with supporting and providing guidance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women, and promote women's leadership in driving sustainable, inclusive, gender-responsive and environmentally sensitive economic growth.

Based on rigorous analysis of existing relevant evidence and participatory and inclusive regional consultations and research, the HLP will provide thought leadership and galvanize political will to scale up actions that support women's economic empowerment under select Sustainable Development Goals, especially those that pertain to agricultural/rural issues; labour; industry; infrastructure; migration; climate change; and entrepreneurship. Seven major issue areas that Panel members have agreed should be the focus of work include:

1. Eliminate **legal barriers** to women's economic empowerment
2. Address the **care economy**
3. Reduce **gender pay gaps**
4. Expand opportunities for women who **work in the informal economy**
5. Ensure **financial inclusion**
6. Promote **digital inclusion**
7. Foster **female entrepreneurship** and enhance the productivity of **women-owned enterprises**

An interim report of the Panel will be presented to the Secretary-General during the seventy-first session of the UN General Assembly on Thursday, 22 September, at an event from 09:00am-12:00pm at UN



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Headquarters in New York. A second report, informed by the first year of implementations of the 2030 Agenda, will be issued in early 2017.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Recognize the Secretary-General for his leadership and commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls during his tenure.
- Demonstrate unity, leadership and commitment of the HLP, present key report findings and recommendations, and set clear action oriented priorities to empower women economically.
- Showcase commitments from governments, private sector, and civil society for interventions to accelerate the economic empowerment of women, inspire leadership in improving opportunities and outcomes for women in their respective sectors and businesses, and catalyze civil society good practice examples that foster women's economic empowerment.
- Show how government, business, and civil society can work together to place the economic empowerment of women at the top of the global agenda and provide actionable recommendations for governments to adopt and implement policies, legislation, regulation and administrative instructions that support women's economic empowerment.

PARTICIPANTS

All members of the HLP and their deputies as well as partner organizations will attend. Member States are invited to participate at the level of Head of State or Government or Ministerial level as well as senior officials from international organizations, the United Nations system and representatives from civil society and the business and academic communities.

FORMAT

The event will consist of an opening tribute, report presentation, commitment statements, panel discussions, audience participation and closing remarks.

The meeting will be open to press. Webcast and interpretation in French and Spanish.

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