

Chairperson' summary

South Asian Policy Dialogue on Women's Entrepreneurship 27 November 2013, New Delhi

The South Asian Policy Dialogue on Women's Entrepreneurship was convened by ESCAP-SSWA Office in cooperation with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries Ladies Organization, and in partnership with the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC), the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the South Asia Women's Network.

The Policy Dialogue brought together over 80 participants, including senior government officials, business leaders, academics, women entrepreneurs' associations, and other civil society organizations from 8 countries in South Asia (namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal) to develop an understanding of the common challenges facing women entrepreneurs across the subregion and possible ways to harness regional economic integration and cooperation to overcome these challenges. The Policy Dialogue also sought to promote an ecosystem supportive of women's entrepreneurship in South Asia. Below are some highlights and/or recommendations that emerged from the Dialogue:

1. Regional cooperation and integration to promote women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship in South Asia:

- Regional cooperation and integration will provide a unified platform, enhance business opportunities and allow for synergy among women entrepreneurs' organizations across South Asia
- Convene an annual South Asia Women Summit to ensure continuous attention to the issues raised during the above Policy Dialogue and propel the recommendations made for advocacy, also facilitating the sharing and replication of good practices in other countries of the subregion. The annual Summit would also facilitate joint strategies and planning of subregional projects/proposals
- For the purpose of preparing the above summit, a regional apex institution should facilitate networking and coordination and collective advocacy, help form coalitions and build institutional linkages to bridge the gaps identified and promote the exchange of good practices, also facilitating their implementation in other countries. Those would constitute the most effective outcome of networking and partnership at the subregional level.

2. Capacity building and development

- Establish subregional-level information and resource centres to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations brought forward by the annual summits, and document the findings and deliberations of the summits
- Establish regional marketing centres in South Asia to provide opportunities for women enterprises to display and market their products under a single banner, also organizing annual exhibitions and trade fairs. These marketing centres would help build upon supply chain mechanisms and fill the missing links between producers, suppliers, women entrepreneurs and marketers, also facilitating rural-urban linkages. The marketing centres would strengthen networks among suppliers, producers, (potential) entrepreneurs and marketers
- Replicate successful trainings to enhance women entrepreneurs' business skills, for example by building on the successful Goldman Sachs' 10,000 women initiatives curriculum, and other trainings aimed at building women's financial management skills.

3. Access to financial services

Access to finance is one of the major challenges for women-led SMEs to start and scale up their enterprises, including owing to women's weak financial literacy and the lack of gender sensitivity within the banking sector (credit and lending).

- Need for policy changes was identified as a major challenge, owing mostly to social and cultural barriers and patriarchal mindsets that prevail in countries of South Asia
- To address this challenge, successful policies and good practices from across the subregion should be used as advocacy tools and replicated
- Legal interventions from the governments and policy makers should be promoted and endorsed to take forward the recommendations (for example on women's access to land and property).

Other recommendations

- Encourage active and equal participation of men in all matters related to women's economic empowerment in general and in these forums and conferences related to women's access to entrepreneurial ventures in particular
- Promote change of mind sets and attitudes among men in recognition of the central role that women play in contributing to the national economy

我们的产品



大数据平台

国内宏观经济数据库

国际经济合作数据库

行业分析数据库

条约法规平台

国际条约数据库

国外法规数据库

即时信息平台

新闻媒体即时分析

社交媒体即时分析

云报告平台

国内研究报告

国际研究报告

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5822

