

13th Meeting of the Women Leaders Network

Recommendations to APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers

Arequipa, Peru, 12-14 May 2008

The 13th meeting of the Women Leaders Network (WLN) was convened in Arequipa, Peru the 12th – 14th May, 2008. The theme of the meeting was ‘Successful Women, Successful Economies’. Over three hundred women and men, representing the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and indigenous and rural women met to consider issues that are critical to supporting the 2008 APEC agenda and the Bogor Goals of free and open trade among the developed economies by 2010 and all economies by 2020. WLN affirmed its commitment to supporting Peru’s priorities of:

- **Facilitation of Women’s Access to International Markets**
- **Education in ICT**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility**
- **Rural Women & Trade**
- **Micro Enterprise and Micro Finance**

WLN calls upon Economic Leaders and Ministers to implement the decisions taken by the 13th Meeting of the WLN. WLN calls upon the responsible Minister to inform your WLN representative of the extent of implementation of these recommendations before the next WLN meeting.

Ministers Responsible for Trade

Based on research conducted by WLN, and the proceedings of the 13th WLN meeting, including the Women in Export Day, WLN strongly recommends that the Ministers Responsible for Trade :

1. **Direct their departments to:**
 - a. **Develop and provide accessible and affordable export credit plans and microfinance for small and micro enterprises; and**

4. Improve the collection of sex-disaggregated data on micro, small and medium enterprises.

SMEs Working Group

WLN strongly recommends that the name of SME Working Group be changed to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group.

Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)

Develop an action plan to advance and promote:

- the education of women and girls in science and technology
- enterprise skills, beginning at school level

WLN within APEC

To further APEC's achievements on its commitment to gender issues, WLN asks APEC Leaders to:

- 1. Grant the WLN guest status at the meetings of all APEC working groups from 2009;**
- 2. Appoint at least one woman to each economy's APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) delegation from 2008, to begin to address the striking gender imbalance currently evident within ABAC;**
- 3. Include the presentation of the WLN recommendations by the Chair of WLN as a standing ABAC agenda item at the APEC Leaders Dialogue from 2009; and**
- 4. Ensure the continued attendance of ABAC at the WLN meetings each year.**

WLN thanks the Ministry for Women and Social Development of Peru for their outstanding hospitality and congratulates the government of Peru for hosting these important events.

WLN looks forward to convening its 14th meeting in Singapore on 20 August, 2009.