

Dear colleagues:

Warming Greetings from Peru. I hope everybody is very well!

This communication aims to inform you about the activities I have been taking part and submitting the conclusions and recommendations of the 13th Meeting of The Women Leaders' Network.

1. Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible For Trade

This meeting was held in Arequipa on 31 May and 1 June. My presentation was on 1 June. All we submitted was welcomed by the Chair of the meeting, Dr. Mercedes Araoz, who agreed recommendations and outputs submitted, especially the inclusion of gender implications in trade as a policy key issue to be considered by APEC Ministers and Economic Leaders, as well as the need of including women in planning, negotiation and implementation of trade agreements, in order to ensure gender issues are included as part of negotiations. It is important to mention that the Ministerial Statement establishes in one of its paragraphs the following:

"Gender

We welcomed the reports from the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN) and Women Leaders' Network (WLN), and recognized the importance of integrating gender considerations into the development of trade policy, and the need to strengthen APEC's capacity in this regard.

We welcomed initiatives for the promotion of women exporters in the APEC region, particularly in developing economies, and reinforced the importance of continued cooperation between APEC and the business community to ensure that women entrepreneurs are able to both contribute to and benefit from free trade in the Asia-Pacific region".

5. Meeting of the APEC Small And Medium Enterprises Working Group

This meeting was held this year in Chiclayo on 25-27 August. My presentation was on 26 August.

In this meeting, I submitted the conclusions of the 6 GFPN meeting, highlighting the need of modifying the name of the Working Group, by including the Microenterprises.

It is important to remark that this Working Group took note of our submitted recommendations. Additionally, Ms. Andrina Lever and Ms. Francine Whiteduck submitted their report on: Models for Supporting Women's Microenterprises Development: Best Practices and Guidelines: Assessment and Recommendations from Phase III of a Four Phase study.

6. APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting

This meeting was held in Chiclayo city on 28 and 29 August this year.

On 29 August, I submitted my document to the meeting whose Chair was the Eng. Rafael Rey Rey, current Minister of Production.

This 15 Ministerial Meeting welcomed recommendations of the 6 meeting of the Gender Focal Point Network and were considered on Item 7 and 16 of the Ministerial Statement:



7. Ministers recognized the specific challenges faced by youth, women and minority-led SMEs and supported the inclusion of "Youth, Women and Minorities" as the cross-cutting theme within the priorities of the Strategic Plan. Ministers agreed to continue inter-fora collaboration between the SMEWG and the Gender Focal Point Network (GFPN).

16. Ministers welcomed the participation of the GFPN, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and the Women's Leaders Network (WLN), and noted their role in advancing APEC's SME agenda and encouraged wider collaboration in areas of mutual interest.



In each meeting the work and goals of Women Leaders' Network were disseminated.

Our next report will be at the APEC Telecommunications Working Group Meeting to be held next October.

Sincerely yours,


Dolores Tasayco Arana
Chair