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Women's Entrepreneurship Facility (Annex)

Women entrepreneurs play a critical role in economic development by creating jobs and boosting growth. However, women face numerous challenges to financing, owning, and growing businesses, including access to capital, lack of networks and knowledge resources, as well as legal and policy obstacles to business ownership and development.

We, the G20 Leaders, building upon our long-standing engagement in women's empowerment, launch the Women's Entrepreneurship Facility, supported by donors and housed at the World Bank, to improve women's access to capital, provide technical assistance, and invest in other projects and programs that support women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs in World Bank client countries.

The Facility will raise up to 1 billion USD of financing to support women entrepreneurs. We will provide 200 million USD in grant financing with the aim of leveraging an additional 800 million USD in commercial and international financial institution funding.

The Facility will be composed of a private sector and a public sector window. The private sector window is designed to:

Improve access to capital and related critical services

- Channel debt and equity finance to women-owned SMEs through financial intermediaries and non-bank financial institutions;
- Support angel, seed, and venture capital-type facilities that provide critical equity finance to women entrepreneurs;
- Use financial tools, incentives, and technical assistance to increase public and corporate sourcing from women entrepreneurs and women-owned SMEs;
- Provide incentives to non-bank-financial service providers, including insurance companies, to expand their female customer base and target women-owned SMEs to help reduce the risks that women entrepreneurs face.

Provide technical assistance

- Provide advisory services and technical assistance to business networks, incubators, and financial intermediaries to encourage and facilitate greater use of and engagement with women-owned SMEs and entrepreneurs;
- Support intermediaries providing direct technical assistance to women-owned SMEs.

Invest in Other Projects and Programs to Support Women Entrepreneurs

- Facilitate country-specific approaches that align with country plans to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) and other gender targets, and complement ongoing initiatives;
- Co-invest in or scale up Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) pilot projects designed to overcome constraints to women entrepreneurs and business owners;
- Support efforts to build the business case for investing in women, for example by collecting high-quality financial data on women-owned SMEs and conducting rigorous impact evaluations;
- Coordinate with development finance institutions of donor countries to further catalyze private investment and leverage the impact of technical assistance for women-owned SMEs and entrepreneurs.

A complementary public sector window will foster government reform, including by simultaneously providing technical assistance to help governments lower legal and regulatory barriers to female entrepreneurship and improve the enabling environment for SMEs in order to increase investment in the private sector.

The Facility will be established at the World Bank Group, which will also serve as the Trustee and Secretariat. In order to ensure implementation and accountability, the Facility will convene a:

- Governing Council as the decision-making body responsible for setting the strategic directions and policies. It will set the Facility's operational policies, eligibility, and resource allocation criteria, approve allocations to implementing partners such as MDBs, provide regular monitoring, and review evaluations. The Governing Council will comprise representatives from donors as well as beneficiary countries.
- Women's Business Council as the advisory body responsible for providing high-level strategic guidance, ensuring coherence with existing facilities and programs, and helping raise awareness of the Facility on a global level. It will also promote partnerships among women entrepreneurs, encourage cooperation to share best practices and facilitate access to resources, programs, platforms and activities to promote women entrepreneurship.

The Facility will start its work in 2017. The Facility's duration will be 4 years and can be extended based on consensus of G20 members. Its progress will be reviewed after the first 2 years.