

*CONCEPT NOTE*

**Connecting UN SG High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment**

**and UN Women RO for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)**

**for private sector programme/strategy development**

***Background***

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific ([ROAP](http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en)) is currently developing a regional programme for its engagement with the private sector, focus on the ICT-STEM, and including manufacturing and green energy sectors, with a particular focus on the opportunities associated with technology and innovation in these sectors for women’s empowerment. This programme is seeking to intensify partnerships with the private sector in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which recognizes private business activity, investment and innovation as the major drivers for inclusive growth and job creation, to make a strategic move that goes beyond the traditional engagement such as CSR, joint advocacy or corporate giving towards “transformative financing” in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

To support this process, an interdisciplinary working group has been established at ROAP to indentify and pilot innovative approaches and tools, supported by technical experts in private sector engagement and WEE, at regional and global level, including UN Women Headquarters (HQ). The working group is also further exploring opportunities to roll-out the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in the region. For this purpose, we anticipate to devise a process that The development of the programme will engage with the private sector and country offices (to be identified).

In this context, UN Women ROAP, has discussed with the Secretariat of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High Level Panel ([HLP](http://hlp-wee.unwomen.org/en)) on Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) at HQ, the opportunity to align the development and validation process for UN Women’s engagement with the private sector, with the launch and roll-out the findings of the HLP reports in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposed focus for this initiative is the [Driver 5](http://hlp-wee.unwomen.org/-/media/hlp%20wee/attachments/reports-toolkits/hlp-wee-toolkit-driver-5-en.pdf) – ‘How to change business culture and practice’, with the overall expectation to infuse ROAP programming with HLP findings.[[1]](#footnote-1)

***Objective***

UN Women ROAP proposes to bring HLP into programming context through its relevant driver #5, in order to (a) share the findings of the HLP report in the AP region with a large set of stakeholders; (b) use the findings to feed into regional and country-level programming validating the work that UN Women is doing on private sector engagement (including with the WEPs); and (c) leverage private sector engagement.

***Proposed Activities***

Following consultation with HLP colleagues, UN Women suggests the following actions in Bangkok, Thailand -where UN Women ROAP sits-, to connect efforts on private sector engagement focussing on HLP driver #5:

1. Organize a HLP panel in Bangkok in the context of [CSR Asia Summit 2017](http://www.csr-asia.com/summit2017/) (26-27 September 2017), with a strong component of interactivity with the private sector in the region and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The panel would focus on HLP driver #5 and bring Women's Empowerment Principles ([WEPs](http://www.weprinciples.org/)). *The exact set-up and detailed proposed agenda for the panel will be defined shortly.*
2. Arrange a working session in Bangkok (28 September) for the development and validation of the UN Women ROAP’s private sector engagement. Relevant Representatives of UN Women Country Offices and private sector / partnership experts in the AP region will be invited, possibly inviting also select private sector entities to participate. The aim will be to discuss and finalize the private sector programme document. *The proposed agenda and details for this session will need to be developed together with the programme development consultants and RO working group.*

***Results***

It is anticipated that by end of October 2017, as a result of this engagement, we will have effectively used the HLP WEE findings to validate a ROAP programme document and regional strategy for engagement with private sector, firmly anchored in country-offices and regional workplans, and reflecting corporate, country-level as well as private sector, hence producing a firm ground for programme funding, and rapid and early implementation.

***Deliverables***

* Panel on HLP – launch (Could also allow us to discuss WEPs)
* Finalized programme document (regional private sector engagement)
* Report on the roll-out of HLP WEE in the region

***Tentative budget***

1. Days:

* 3 days (from 26 to 28 September 2017)

1. Travel to Bangkok:

* HLP colleagues
* Experts/Private sector
* Representatives UN Women CO

1. Number of Invitees:

* 2 HLP members (HQ)
* 3 Experts (WEPs, Global Compact, Blockchain, private sector engagement…)
* 10 colleagues from UN Women ROAP, Bangkok (no need to travel)
* 10 representatives UN Women CO (APO region)

1. CSR Asia Summit fee:

* 10,000 USD fee

Tentative budget based on the above suggestions:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Travel related cost** | | | | | |
| HLP speakers (2) | | | | | |
| **Description** | **Rate (USD)** | **No of unit** | **No of days** | **Total** | **Remarks** |
| Airfare | 2500 | 2 |  | 5,000 | NY-BKK-NY |
| DSA | 212 | 2 | 3 | 1,272 | 2 days -100% |
| terminal | 158 | 2 |  | 316 |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **6,588** |  |
| Participants | | | | | |
| UN Women Representatives |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Description** | **Rate (USD)** | **No of unit** | **No of days** | **Total** | **Remarks** |
| Airfare | 700 | 10 |  | 7,000 | Estimation |
| DSA | 212 | 10 | 1 | 2120 |  |
| terminal | 158 | 10 |  | 1,580 |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **10,700** |  |
| WEP experts/colleagues from COs (5 + 10) | | | | | |
| **Description** | **Rate (USD)** | **No of unit** | **No of days** | **Total** | **Remarks** |
| Airfare | 700 | 10 |  | 7,000 | Estimation |
| DSA | 212 | 3 | 3 | 1,908 |  |
| terminal | 158 | 3 |  | 790 |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **9,698** |  |
| **Meeting venue, accommodation and others** | | |  |  |  |
| **Description** | **Rate per day (USD)** | **No of unit** | **No of days** | **Total** | **Remarks** |
| Meeting package | 40 | 35 | 3 | 4,200 |  |
| Summit fee | 10000 | 2 | 1 | 10,000 | Total fee |
| Logistics |  |  |  | 3,000 | Estimation |
| Misc. Advocacy (video) |  |  |  | 6,000 | Estimation |
| **TOTAL PROPOSED** |  |  |  | **50,186** |  |

Other relevant themes/sessions could be included if time, interest and funds allow, such as blockchain and business, advocacy and private sector engagement, business mapping, WEPS… Please note that given the tight deadlines for preparations, our participation on CSR Asia Summit 2017 is not guarantee (at the moment they still have two available slots and it would be necessary to move quickly if we want to participate on it).

***Further information on the WEPs***

Current research demonstrating that gender diversity helps business perform better signals that self-interest and common interest can come together. Ensuring the inclusion of women’s talents, skills, experience and energies requires intentional actions and deliberate policies. The WEPs, a partnership initiative of UN Women and UN Global Compact provide a set of considerations to help the private sector focus on key elements integral to promoting gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.

The CEO Statement of Support for the WEPs offers business leaders an opportunity to signal their support for the overall goal of advancing and empowering women and specifically, the guidance offered by the WEPs. It also provides a platform for corporate executives to encourage fellow business leaders to support the Principles by signing the Statement, and take action to unleash the full potential of women and girls and achieving SDGs. Signers of the CEO Statement underscore that equal treatment of women and men is not just the right thing to do, it is also good for business and should be a corporate priority.

Until now [1461](http://weprinciples.org/Site/Companies/#search) companies have signed the WEP’s. From this total, 422 are business participants in [Asia](http://weprinciples.org/Site/Companies/#search), 59 in [Australasia](http://weprinciples.org/Site/Companies/#search) and 6 in [Oceania](http://weprinciples.org/Site/Companies/#search). The number of companies in the Asia-Pacific region that have signed the WEP’s is 487. Please find attached for your reference a list of the companies in Asia-Pacific signing the CEO statement of support for the WEPs, and a summary of opportunity on CSR Asia Summit 2017 - including a participants list of the summit.

***Contact***

For further information please contact Asa Torkelsson, Regional Policy Advisor on Women’s Economic Empowerment for Asia and the Pacific at [asa.torkelsson@unwomen.org](mailto:asa.torkelsson@unwomen.org); and Alejandro Hita, Advocacy Officer for Asia and the Pacific at [alejandro.hita@unwomen.org](mailto:alejandro.hita@unwomen.org).

1. The was established for the first time in 2016, in the recognition that gender equality and women’s economic empowerment are imperative for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth as envisioned by Agenda 2030. The HLP has been aiming to catalyse energy, commitments and actions, globally, to address constraints and create opportunities for WEE, providing –inter alia-- action-oriented recommendations on how governments, businesses, civil societies and development partners can work together to improve economic outcomes for women and girls. With a powerful and influential membership representing governments, the private sector, civil society and global multilateral institutions, the HLP has produced two influential [reports](http://hlp-wee.unwomen.org/en/reports-toolkits), identifying seven drivers of change to advance WEE. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)