



Women's Economic Empowerment Transforming Investments and Entrepreneurship

25 October 2018, 14:30–17:30, Room XXIV, Palais des Nations

Description

Women's economic empowerment has been identified as a key means for development and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Foreign direct investment by multinational enterprises (MNEs) can be a powerful tool to empower women and set new standards, particularly in high-value sectors, leveraging research and development and information technology and moving women up to executive and managerial positions. In many developing countries, MNEs have expanded the possibilities for women to enter the formal labour market. These opportunities arise through direct employment, but also as suppliers and other associated companies, offering business opportunities for women-owned companies within local, regional or global supply chains. At the same time, MNE investments may put gender equality and women empowerment at risk, for example through lack of sustainable links with the local communities and crowding out effects.

Achieving women's economic empowerment requires therefore gender-responsive government policies and corporate strategies, civil society engagement as well as removal of gender stereotypes and biases. The session will present the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a platform for corporate action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

Programme

High-level panel:

2.30-3.30 pm **What international organizations and governments are doing to foster women economic empowerment towards sustainable development?**

- **Isabelle Durant**, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- **Patricia Scotland**, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations
- **Laura Londén**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund
- **Claire Akamanzi**, CEO, Rwanda Development Board
- **Yam Kumari Khatiwada**, Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply, Nepal
- **Christine Löw**, Director, UN Women Office in Geneva

Moderator: • **Martina Fuchs**, Anchor, CNN Money Switzerland



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Business panel MNEs:

3:30-4:30 pm How are MNEs positioning themselves as agents of change for women's economic empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community?

- **Jamila Belabidi-Chahid**, Purchases Group Manager - Brand and Business Service Purchases, Procter & Gamble International SA
- **Angie Rozas**, The Coca-Cola Company, Senior Director, Social Impact
- **Marianne Mwaniki**, SVP Social Impact, Visa
- **Francesca Lavazza**, Board Member, Lavazza Group
- **Anja Monrad**, Senior VP & GM for Central and Eastern Europe, Dell EMC

Moderator: • **Anna Falth**, Head, Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Secretariat, UN Women

Business panel on SMEs:

4:30 – 5:30 pm How to empower a new generation of women in business leaders to act as feeders of sustainable development?

- **Cate Ambrose**, President and CEO, Latin America Venture Capital Association
- **Giselle Rufer**, Founder and CEO, Delance
- **Bisila Bokoko**, CEO, Bisila Bokoko Embassy Services International, BBES
- **Lama Sha'sha'a Abu Dahab**, Cofounder and Chairperson, Robotic Academic International, Jordan (EMPRETEC Finalist)

Moderator: • **Martina Fuchs**, CNN Money Switzerland