

## **Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group (WEEWG)**

Minutes of Teleconference, 13 March 2018

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### **Participants**

- Sebastian Gilcher (GIZ), Chair
- Arjan de Haan (IDRC)
- Gabrielle Ott (UNIDO)
- Gillian Dowie (IDRC)
- Selina Haeny (SDC)
- Louise Anten (Netherlands MOFA)
- Melinda Kelly (Global Affairs Canada)
- Jim Tanburn, Nick Wilson (DCED Secretariat)

### **Agency updates**

- Sebastian Gilcher began by giving an overview of **GIZ's** current WEE-related work. BMZ has proposed to hold a (high-level) panel discussion in June as part of the "[European Development Days](#)". Furthermore, he gave an update on the new coalition agreement, where Gender Equality in development cooperation still plays a role, but doesn't seem to be a strong focus area.
- Selina Haeny (**SDC**) introduced herself to the group, as this is the first time that she has joined a WEEWG teleconference. Selina joined in the place of Nathalie Wyser (SDC). She explained that SDC are currently focussing on women's financial inclusion. It is currently organising an event on this topic with the Savings and Credit Forum to take place in October or November.
- Gabriele Ott spoke about **UNIDO's** current work in this area. Organizationally, UNIDO is in the process of developing a gender parity strategy and has organized training sessions on its policy on the prohibition, prevention and resolution of harassment. Thematically, she highlighted that UNIDO is expanding its activities on women in green industry, particularly on improving female leadership and mainstreaming gender in green industrial policies. Also, a second phase of its women economic empowerment programme in the MENA region is under preparation; the results of the first phase are currently presented in a side event at the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Gillian Dowie and Arjan de Haan gave an overview of **IDRC's** current research agenda on WEE, including the GrOW programme (undertaken in collaboration with McGill University researchers). They particularly highlighted a recent Policy Brief on the measurement of WEE (<http://grow.research.mcgill.ca/publications/policy-briefs/gpb-2017-05.pdf>).

- Melinda Kelly spoke briefly about **Global Affairs Canada's** work on putting the Canadian government's new feminist International economic assistance policy into practice. She also mentioned GrOW's work, as described above.
- Louise Anten said that the **Netherlands MOFA** is currently waiting for a new policy note in May, and more updates will be available after this point.
- Henriette Kolb (IFC, not present at the call) provided the information via mail of their new report on Women, ridehailing and the sharing economy – [www.ifc.org/drivingequality](http://www.ifc.org/drivingequality)

## Updates from the task teams on work items 2017-2018

Sebastian Gilcher gave an overview of the work of the task teams on the work items of the WEEWG's 2017-2018 work items.

### 1. Scoping study on WEE in Migration Contexts

A consultant (Emily Gettliffe) for this work item has been selected, in accordance with the Terms of Reference previously circulated to the group. The consultant will be able to start by the end of March, and will hopefully finish by the end of June.

### 2. WEE practitioners' workshop

The working group previously agreed that the practitioners' workshop should be held alongside another WEE-related event to maximise attendance. Based on a Poll that was circulated to members, the OECD GENDERNET meeting in Paris in autumn is the group's preference for such an event. The task team will organise a teleconference in advance of the next WEEWG meeting to discuss the potential speakers for this event.

### 3. WEE and social entrepreneurship & WEE and private sector engagement

Nathalie Wyser (SDC) and colleagues from GIZ have produced two short questionnaires for working group members on this topic. This will give the work item a basis for further work. This questionnaire aims to find out to assess the current work being undertaken by member agencies in these areas. The answers from these questionnaires would then provide the basis for further research. The questionnaires can be found [here](#). Members are kindly asked to fill out the questionnaire by the 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

### 4. Snapshot for Policy Makers of the Synthesis Report

This work item has now been completed; it will be forwarded to the Secretariat to finalise the formatting and will then be circulated to the group.

## Discussion on the future of the WEEWG

The group agreed that members should submit suggestions for the 2018-2019 WEEWG Work Plan by the beginning of April 2018. This will be done via email or on-line Form that will be circulated to the group. Sebastian will then collate these suggestions into a Work Plan and circulate it to the group for their approval in early April.

## **AOB**

Participants agreed that there will probably be enough working group members in Toronto to attend the 2018 DCED Annual Meeting (hosted by the MasterCard Foundation) in the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. This will be confirmed by WEEWG members via email in the coming weeks.