

# EMPOWER & ELEVATE

## WEPs 2025 Q1 Newsletter



This year, we mark two significant milestones, the **15th anniversary of WEPs**, a decade and a half of the private sector advancing gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and community, and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global policy framework and blueprint for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls everywhere.

As we celebrate International Women's Day 2025 with the theme **"For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"** we look ahead to another year of action.

### 2025 Q1 Highlights

#### The First Regional WEPs Forum in Middle East and Northern Africa Region



UN Women organized the 2025 WEPs Forum for WEPs signatories in Arab States in January. The Forum attracted 150 participants CEOs, human resources (HR) and marketing directors from the region to discuss the role of businesses in promoting gender equitable social norms. Participants represented some of the largest employers and advertising companies in the region. Read more [here](#).

#### World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos, Switzerland



In January 2025, at World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, UN Women, Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 and ESG Book introduced a white paper that kicks off consultations on gender equality impact-driven metrics through enhanced transparency and accountability. Interested in joining the conversation? Send us an [email](#). See the white paper [here](#).

### In case you've missed- WEPs webinars in 2025 Q1

#### Inaugural of 2025 WEPs Deep-dive Series

The first WEPs Deep-Dive of 2025 addressed unspoken topics in the workplace, hormonal cycles, fertility journey, miscarriage, (peri)menopause, and more. Veroniek Vermeulen, founder of [Silatha](#), highlighted that open conversations promote psychological safety, reduce stress, and boost productivity. The session reinforced the need for inclusive workplaces where employees feel supported. Watch the recording [here](#).

#### WEPs 101 January 2025 Edition

Co-hosted by UN Women and the UN Global Compact, WEPs 101 introduced companies to the WEPs, including available resources. WEPs signatories from Bermuda, and Bolivia- Carika Weldon, Founder and CEO of [CariGenetics](#) and Veronica Gavilanes Véjar, CEO of [BancoSol](#)- shared inspiring insights about their WEPs journeys. Watch the recording [here](#).

# Continuing the Momentum

## WING Workshops in Bangladesh

UN Women and partners held five workshops to support 75 women entrepreneurs with WEPs adoption, networking and business growth.

The sessions also helped participants overcome financial barriers and build gender-responsive businesses.

See more [here](#).



## Gender Equality and Global Capital Markets Workshop

The United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchange (UNSSE) in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and UN Women facilitated a workshop hosted by the Nairobi Stock Exchange.

With 100+ participants, the sessions highlighted how to become a WEPs signatory, how to assess WEPs implementation maturity and how to create a gender action plan.

Read more [here](#).

In case you've missed what happened at the end of 2024

## WEPs annual Meeting in Amman, Jordan

In December 2024, UN Women convened the WEPs Annual Meeting in Jordan. More than 250 participants gathered to share progress, lessons learned and reaffirm the private sector's collective commitment to advancing gender equality in leadership, the workplace, marketplace, and community.

## Knowledge exchange visit of Kosovan WEPs signatories to Türkiye

UN Women Kosovo organized a knowledge exchange visit to Istanbul with the WEPs signatories from Kosovo and Türkiye, with support from UN Women Türkiye and in partnership with the Kosovo CSR Network, to learn about WEPs good practices from Turkish WEPs signatories.



**Knowledge Hub** Explore new publications on WEPs

- [Driving Accountability & Transparency in the Private Sector](#): White paper: WEPs reporting framework
- [Gender Equality in the Private Sector: A Toolkit for Male Allies in the Arab States](#): A guide to creating a gender-inclusive workplace, focusing on the engagement of men.
- [Gender Bonds: A toolkit for the design and issuance of gender bonds in Africa](#): To enhance the economic empowerment of women and girls, with a focus on narrowing gender gaps in multiple sectors across Africa.

## Your Support Matters!

As WEPs marks 15 years, your support drives lasting change. Your donation helps us create the resources and tools needed to support gender equality and empower businesses to take action. It enables us to unite people through events that encourage learning and collaboration and share inspiring stories of companies leading the way. Your support also helps women entrepreneurs access networking opportunities and allows us to grow the WEPs community, making a difference worldwide.

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