

EXPLORE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

WEPs 2026 Q2 Newsletter



Thank you for being part of the global Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) community.

This quarter, WEPs Signatories across the world have demonstrated that meaningful progress is possible through focused action—from strengthening parental leave policies and advancing women in STEM, to expanding supplier diversity, promoting gender-responsive finance, and driving change across global supply chains. We are inspired by your continued leadership and commitment to turning gender equality ambitions into measurable results.

Looking ahead, we invite you to get inspired and deepen your impact through upcoming WEPs opportunities, including the WEPs Action Clinic, peer-learning events, and new practical tools on gender-responsive procurement and transparency & accountability. You can also benchmark your progress through the updated Gender Gap Assessment Tool (GGAT), report on your achievements, explore new resources on AI, DEI, due diligence, and industry, partner with UN Women to scale solutions and strengthen gender equality across your workplace, marketplace, and community, or support the WEPs with a [donation](#).

Thank you for all your support,
Anna Fälth
Global Head, WEPs Secretariat
UN Women

DRIVING CHANGE

Made possible through partnerships, donor support, and company leadership, these initiatives show how commitment can be translated into action and impact.

Gender Equality is Better Business: The Global Supply Chain Coalition

Supply chains drive up to 90% of business risks. Through the Global Supply Chain Coalition (GSCC), UN Women is working with companies, industries and governments to advance practical action on gender equality across global supply chains.

At the 2026 United Nations High-Level Political Forum, UN Women and the Governments of Germany and Croatia brought together business and policy leaders to explore a path forward.

[Countries and companies discuss supply chains at HLPF >](#)



Megan Gilgan, UN Women (L) with Dr Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development Germany (R) | UN Women / Ryan Brown

WEPs Gender Action Labs in Indonesia and the Philippines



WEPs Gender Action Labs in Indonesia and the Philippines

With dedicated funding, technical support, and peer learning, WEPs Gender Action Labs in Indonesia and the Philippines demonstrate how companies can turn gender equality commitments into tangible workplace reforms in just a few months.

In Indonesia, 12 state-owned enterprises worked together over six months to strengthen parental leave policies, support caregivers, improve workplace flexibility, and advance women's

leadership—reaching around 15,000 employees. [Read more >](#)

In the Philippines, 10 companies piloted new ways to increase women's leadership in technology from mentorship and leadership pipelines to returnship programmes and skills development initiatives. [Read more >](#)



Nepal: Putting Women at the Center of Procurement

Across Madhesh, Sudurpaschim and Karnali, businesses, cooperatives, and private sector leaders came together for a landmark workshop on Gender-Responsive Procurement — reimagining supply chains as engines of women's economic empowerment. From internal workplace reforms to external sourcing commitments, participants learned how to turn policy into practice, one procurement decision at a time.

[Read more >](#)



Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan: Financial Leaders for Gender Equality

Financial institutions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia came together to strengthen gender-responsive finance and share practical approaches to expanding women's access to finance. The discussions reinforced a clear message: gender equality is not only the right thing to do—it drives entrepreneurship, business growth, and economic resilience.

[Read more >](#)

Help us reach and empower more women around the world.

[Donate to WEPs](#)

BUILDING CAPACITY

Learn from Peers. Take Action.

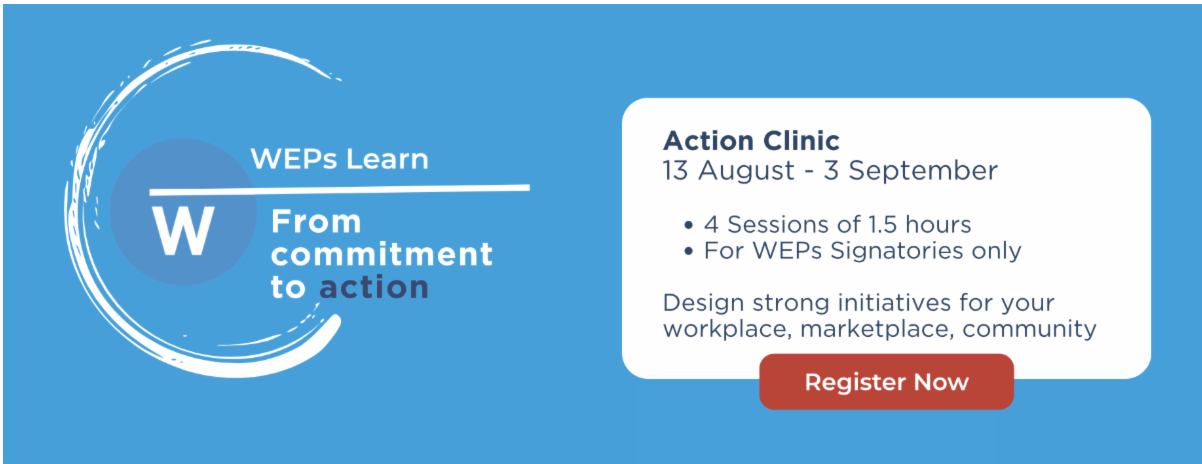
One of the most valued benefits of the WEPs community is the opportunity to learn from companies already advancing gender equality. Between April and June, the WEPs team hosted **10 webinars**, drawing more than **2,200 registrations**, and launched **new tools** to help companies close pay gaps, adopt gender-responsive procurement, and strengthen **accountability**.

Equal Pay Can't Wait

The global gender pay gap remains at around 20%—meaning women effectively work one day out of every five without pay compared to men. We know from our **Global WEPs Survey** that 27% of WEPs Signatories have undergone independent **gender equality audit or certification**.

Leaders from **Bayer**, **Natura & Co**, **Coca-Cola Icecek**, **EFU Life Assurance**, **Intesa Sanpaolo Bank Albania**, the International Labour Organization, Equal Pay International Coalition and others shared practical ways to close the gender pay gap through a global three-part webinar series, organized with the EQUAL-SALARY Foundation.

[Watch Recordings & Learn More >](#)



WEPs Learn
W From commitment to action

Action Clinic
13 August - 3 September

- 4 Sessions of 1.5 hours
- For WEPs Signatories only

Design strong initiatives for your workplace, marketplace, community

[Register Now](#)

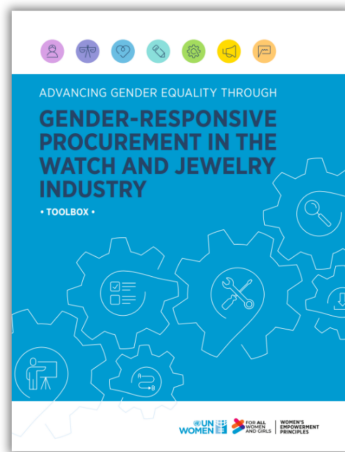
Upcoming: WEPs Action Clinic

Starting **13 August 2026**, the WEPs Action Clinic will bring companies together for peer learning and practical guidance on turning commitments into workplace action. In 4 Sessions of 1,5 hours, participants will learn how to design impactful gender equality initiatives and be inspired by strong company examples.

[Register >](#)

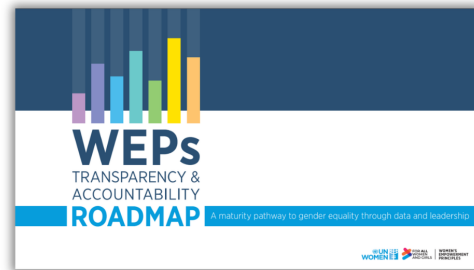
New WEPs Resources for Action

Two new tools are available to help your companies accelerate implementation:



[Gender-Responsive Procurement Toolbox >](#)

Practical steps for integrating gender equality into your supply chain.



[WEPs Transparency & Accountability Roadmap >](#)

Step-by-step path to stronger governance, target-setting and reporting.

New Changes to the WEPs Gender Gap Assessment Tool

The WEPs Gender Gap Assessment Tool (GGAT) has moved to a new platform. Existing users may need to reset their password or log in using their existing credentials, but all data has been transferred and remains comparable over time. Use the GGAT to benchmark your company's gender equality performance, identify gaps, and track progress over time.

[Take the GGAT Tool >](#)

ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE

China: Bringing Gender Equality to Global Supply Chains

Gender equality strengthens supply chain resilience, competitiveness, and responsible business practices – and sets companies apart! At the 4th China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), UN Women put gender-responsive procurement and the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in front of more than 200,000 visitors and buyers from around the world.

Colombia Marks International Day of Women in Industry

To commemorate the International Day of Women in Industry on 21 April 2026, UN Women and UNIDO convened a conversation on "Gender-Responsive Industry: Tools and Lessons from the WEPs." The webinar and campaign spotlighted women leading in sectors like services, aquaculture, energy and health. The initiative celebrated women's contributions to industry while encouraging reflection on the barriers still holding them back.

[Meet the women leading across Colombia's industries >](#)



● Historia

23 abril 2026

Andrea Piza: ciencia práctica al servicio de los productores acuícolas



● Historia

22 abril 2026

Ciencia y confianza: el papel de Julieth Villarraga en la industria colombiana

India: Equality Means Business: Advancing Gender Equality through the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

WEPs Signatories [Suzlon](#)

[Energy](#), [Wipro](#) and [\[24\]7.ai](#) are demonstrating how commitment translates into action through inclusive recruitment, women's leadership programmes, mentorship, returnships, supplier diversity, and STEM outreach.



They spoke at an event convened by UN Women India and the Federation of European Businesses in India (FEBI), which brought 32 business leaders together to inspire and invigorate companies to translate gender equality commitments into measurable action. [Read more >](#)

Also in July, UN Women India convened business, government, and multilateral leaders to strengthen pathways for young women from skills development into quality employment. The message is clear: companies that invest in gender equality are helping shape the future workforce and economy. [Read more >](#)

Update Your WEPs Profile and Report Progress

Showcase your company's progress on gender equality, track results over time, and contribute to global learning on what works. Update your profile and submit your latest progress report.

[Read the Guidance Note >](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERSHIPS



Gender equality progress happens faster when companies and UN Women work together. As highlighted in UN Women's 2022–2025 results, over 12,000 companies across 168 countries have now signed the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), while private sector partners and foundations contributed more than USD 14 million to advance gender equality in 2025.

[UN Women's Annual Report 2026 >](#)

Whether through thought leadership, programme partnerships, employee engagement, supply chains, or funding, companies have a critical role to play in driving change.

If your organization is ready to deepen its impact, UN Women is ready to partner with you.

Emerging results of the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030

For several years, UN Women and the [Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 \(WJI\)](#) have partnered to advance gender equality across the global watch and jewellery sector. Together, they have supported industry uptake of the WEPs, developed the [Gender-Responsive Procurement Toolbox](#) and [Transparency & Accountability Roadmap](#), and mobilized sector-wide action through financial and strategic support.

[Read more >](#)

Iceland: Engaging Men and Boys

In Iceland, support from the **Icelandic Electricians' Association** is helping UN Women expand its **Engaging Men and Boys** initiative to vocational schools across the country. The project tackles gender roles, occupational segregation, and equality in education to build more inclusive learning environments and enhance opportunities for women pursuing vocational careers.

WHAT WE'RE READING

UN Women: AI is already rewriting reality for billions of people. It is getting women wrong

AI is reshaping business, but without action it risks reinforcing existing inequalities. Learn how companies can build gender-responsive AI and ensure women benefit equally from the opportunities it creates.

[Read more >](#)

UN Women: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to Become Public and Private Sector Suppliers

Women own one in three businesses globally but receive only 1% of procurement spending. This toolkit helps you develop trainings for your procurement team to integrate gender and supplier

diversity efforts – or simply learn more about gender-responsive procurement.

[Read more >](#)

UN Women/SADC: Gender Statistics in Financial Inclusion Toolkit and Guidelines for Practitioners

Better gender data leads to better financial products, better investment decisions, and greater economic inclusion. Useful for financial service providers, the toolkit provides guidance on collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated financial inclusion data.

[Read more >](#)

OHCHR: Navigating the Pushback against Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As DEI faces growing scrutiny, companies are finding new ways to maintain progress on gender equality. Explore practical recommendations and examples of how businesses are staying the course while strengthening resilience and long-term success.

[Read the Report >](#)

European Commission: EU Due Diligence Navigator for Partner Countries

Human rights and environmental due diligence expectations are evolving rapidly. Explore practical guidance to strengthen responsible business practices and prepare for emerging requirements, including gender equality considerations.

[Access the Navigator >](#)

UN Women: Beyond the Breaking Point

Women-led organizations are facing a funding crisis, yet remain essential partners in advancing gender equality and strengthening communities. Discover why companies should support women's organizations to sustain progress and create impact beyond your company.

[Read the report >](#)

UNIDO: Advancing Gender Equality in Industry

New evidence shows that more gender-diverse industrial businesses are better positioned for innovation, competitiveness and long-term growth. Explore the data and learn about best practices for building more equal industries.

[Read more >](#)

Donate and support our work in 2026 and beyond.

Donate to WEPs

For more ways to support WEPs reach out to the Secretariat.



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