

LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE DRIVES CHANGE FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

WEPS Q1 2026 NEWSLETTER



International Women's Day was a chance to mark how gender equality is being advanced globally and how the private sector is moving beyond commitment toward measurable, structural change.

Ring the Bell 2026 saw 115 stock exchanges around the world reframe gender equality as a market resilience and governance issue, with countries naming concrete barriers and pushing for structural remedies. The **Global Supply Chain Coalition** reinforced that no single actor can drive transformation alone, with business, governments, and civil society aligning around collaborative action.

WEPs' capacity-building webinars reached over 1,500 organizations, and a new **WEPs Transparency and Accountability Roadmap** gives companies a practical pathway to demonstrate credible progress. Upcoming events continue to foster learning.

From Tunisia to Cambodia, Malaysia to Colombia, WEPs signatories are growing in number and deepening their impact: launching action labs, addressing gender pay gaps and introducing procurement reforms that expand economic opportunity for women across workplaces, value chains, and communities. This newsletter reflects a global movement gaining momentum.

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

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2026



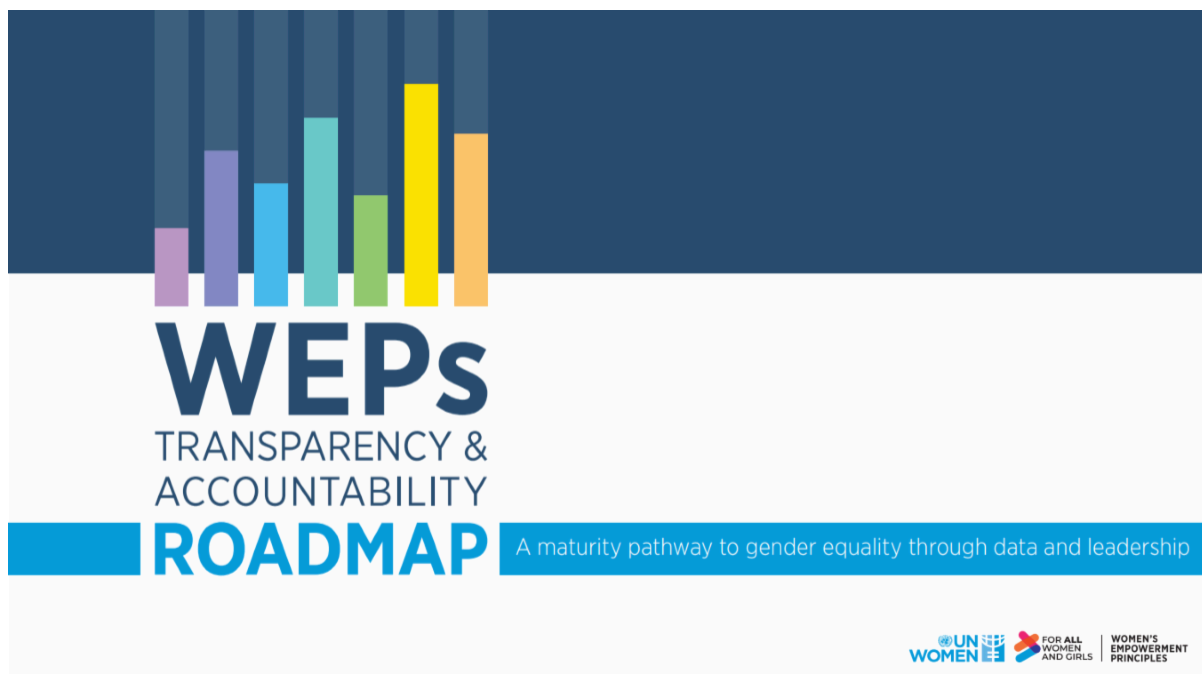
Ring the Bell for Gender Equality is an annual global campaign around International Women's Day led by capital markets and stock exchanges.

In 2026, the 115 participating exchanges moved from awareness raising to highlighting governance and market solutions including equal pay systems, responsible data governance, and gender-responsive procurement.

Country actions, from Uganda's Corporate Gender Accountability Network to Thailand's gender-responsive procurement reforms and India's investment access for women-led businesses, show that gender equality is now a core governance and market resilience issue, accelerating measurable business impact.

[Read the Report](#)

Building Systems through Transparency & Accountability



The WEPs Transparency and Accountability Roadmap, developed in partnership with the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 and ESG Book, was launched in March.

The roadmap responds to growing demand from consumers, investors, and regulators for companies to demonstrate credible, transparent action on gender equality.

It provides a practical, step-by-step pathway to strengthen governance, track progress, and translate gender commitments into measurable results across the workplace, marketplace, and community.

[Learn More](#)

Global Supply Chain Coalition builds momentum



The Global Supply Chain Coalition (GSCC) has been highly active in Q1, convening companies, policy makers and international organizations to advance gender equality in global supply chains. Across [virtual expert meeting](#) and in-person engagements in [Berlin](#), [Bonn](#), [Brussels](#) and [New York](#), two clear messages emerged: (1) gender equality is becoming a defining factor

in building resilient, responsible and future ready supply chains; and (2) supply chains are powerful levers for systemic change for gender equality.

There was strong consensus across the events that no single actor can drive this transformation alone. Progress will depend on the deeper collaboration between business, governments and civil society that the Coalition is building, as well as practical approaches that move from commitment to implementation.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming events

We invite you to share the below learning opportunities with relevant teams and staff in your organization. Each webinar highlights company experiences and is designed to help companies take action.

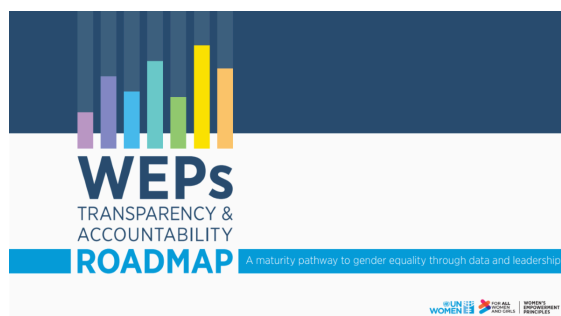


Equal Pay Webinar Series

 21 April 2026 | 11:00 AM UTC

Understand the importance of equal pay to business and companies are achieving it. Speakers from Bayer and EFU Life Insurance.

[Register](#)



Intro to WEPs Transparency & Accountability Roadmap

 23 April 2026 and 29 April 2026

Overview of the Roadmap as well as guidance on how to starting using it.

[Register](#)



Measurement as a tool for prevention of gender-based violence & harassment (GBVH)

 23 April 2026 | 12:30 PM UTC

Evidence-based approaches to tackle GBVH – a material and human rights risk.

Learn from Vodafone Foundation and Adjara Group.

[Register](#)



2026 Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards

 21 April 2026 | 11:00-12:00 (GMT+7)

Join the launch event, get inspired and find out how to apply.

[Register](#)

Updates from WEPs around the world

Building Capacity

In 2026, the Women's Empowerment Principles continues to bring companies together to learn from each other and turn commitment into measurable impact. WEPs has delivered three well-attended webinars and contributed to five partner webinars, engaging over 1,500 companies, financial institutions, and UN partners. Topics ranged from closing gender data gaps in the private sector to integrating gender equality in capital markets.

[Watch | Addressing Gender Data Gaps in the Private Sector >](#)

Cambodia

UN Women launched the Cambodia WEPs Corporate Action Lab (WEPsCAL), with 11 companies joining the inaugural cohort to building gender-responsive business practices and advancing women's leadership. Backed by the Asia-Pacific Gender Action Lab, the initiative highlights how targeted capacity building and partnership can accelerate measurable progress on gender equality in business.

UN Women Cambodia convened private sector leaders and WEPs signatories on International Women's Day 2026 to advance women's leadership in business. Cambodia now counts 44 WEPs signatories.

The initiative is supported through the Gender Action Lab (GAL), funded by the Australian Government, and reflects UN Women's role in helping businesses translate gender equality commitments into practical action.

[Read more >](#)



Representatives of new Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) signatory companies, together with UN Women Cambodia and EuroCham Cambodia, during the signing and certificate ceremony at the International Women's Day 2026 event. Photo credit: UN Women Cambodia

Ecuador

UN Women Ecuador invited companies to engage in the WEPs LAB 2.0 — a collaborative learning initiative using a pooled funding model to strengthen business capacities for inclusive, safe, and violence-free workplaces.

The invitation was extended during the Gender Equality Forums held in partnership with the Ecuadorian-British Chamber of Commerce in Quito and Guayaquil in March 2026.

[Read more >](#)

Photo: UN Women Ecuador



Malaysia

On 11 March 2026, Malaysia concluded its first-ever WEPs Corporate Action Lab (WEPsCAL) “Innovating the Future of Family-Friendly Workplaces” jointly delivered by UN Women, TalentCorp (Ministry of Human Resources) and LeadWomen.

Since June 2025, 11 private sector organizations joined the WEPsCAL and are reimagining what family-friendly, gender-equal workplaces can look like, showcasing innovations including new care leave benefits, flexible working solutions, financial wellbeing programmes, and return-to-work pathways.

[Read more about UN Women Gender Action Lab >](#)



Group photo with representatives from the Australian Government, UN Women, TalentCorp and LeadWomen mark the closing of the first WEPs Corporate Action Lab in Malaysia with employees of the 11 organizations comprising the first cohort and event participants. Credit: TalentCorp Malaysia

Driving Change



Georgia

A series of fairs provided free, accessible marketplaces and targeted support to 300 women entrepreneurs, boosting their sales, visibility, and business networks, while also strengthening their skills and confidence.

This is part of a partnership between Bazari, a WEPs Signatory, and UN Women to create sustainable platforms that create equitable market access and long-term economic opportunities.

[Read more >](#)

Photo: UN Women Georgia

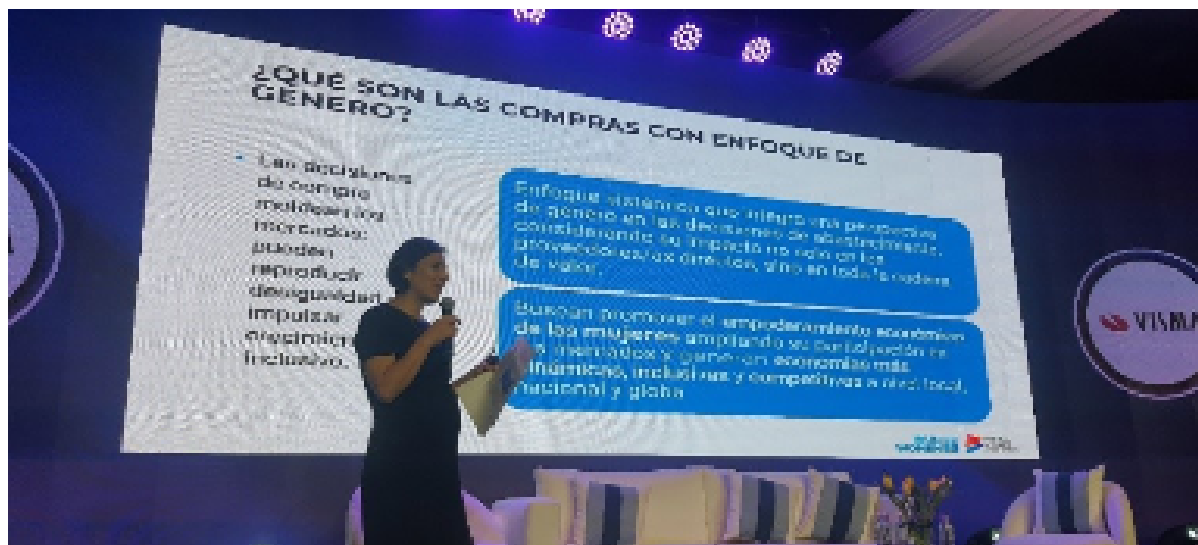
Chile

The “Activa Empresarias” programme connects women-led businesses with major buyers, building their capacity to access national and international value chains and aligning with ESG commitments.

By embedding inclusive procurement and partnering with UN Women, companies can strengthen competitiveness, unlock innovation, and create more resilient markets. The joint

initiative of UN Women, CORFO, and ProChile was launched at the World Economic Forum in Chile on 4 March 2026, engaging over 100 companies.

Photo: UN Women Chile



Engaging & Collaborating

Georgia

The European Business Association held the Women's Economic Empowerment Forum in March, highlighted that creating care-friendly workplaces is essential for fostering inclusive environments and improving employee well-being, productivity, and retention. WEPS Signatories shared practical advice and experience.

It also emphasized that businesses have a strong role in integrating gender-responsive policies and practical solutions to address caregiving responsibilities and support women's full economic participation.

[Read more >](#)

Photo: Tegeta Holding



Mexico

In February 2026, UN Women and the UN Global Compact Mexico strengthened their partnership by formalizing the 2026–2028 work plan—positioning Mexico as a leading regional example of private sector action on gender equality. With 338 WEPS signatories already engaged, the next phase focuses on scaling impact: expanding peer learning, launching the first WEPS Awards, and driving a 20% annual growth—inviting companies

to lead, collaborate, and accelerate progress together.



Colombia

Colombia's first 2026 WEPS outreach event, organized by UN Women and the UN Global Compact, brought together 25 companies to exchange best practices. Banco de Bogotá shared how it has integrated WEPS principles, inspiring other companies to join. The session also introduced the Gender Gap Analysis Tool to support companies formalizing their commitment to equality.

Photo: UN Women Colombia

Tunisia

For International Women's Day, UN Women Tunisia organized a WEPS signing ceremony, during which 11 new companies formally committed to the Women's Empowerment Principles, reaffirmed their commitment to translating principles into concrete actions within the workplace, the marketplace, and the community.

This milestone accelerated momentum, nearly doubling the number of national signatories.

[Watch Recap of the Event >](#)



Latin America and Caribbean

UN Women LAC participated as a speaker in a regional webinar by Red MAMLA, a network promoting women's inclusion in the maritime sector across Latin America. The session focused on strengthening private sector engagement for gender equality, with UN Women sharing WEPs as a practical framework and highlighting regional lessons on building effective partnerships.



Moni Pizani, UN Women Representative; Mauricio Bonilla, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact; and their teams during the symbolic signing of the 2026–2028 work plan in Mexico. Photo credit: R. Espinosa / UN Women Mexico

Donate and support our work in 2026 and beyond.

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



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