



United States Mission to the OECD  
Office of Public Affairs  
Paris, France

For Immediate Release

October 31, 2011

MEDIA NOTE

**Statement on the Pre-G20 OECD Event: Growing Economies through Women's Entrepreneurship"**

**Background:** Today the United States and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) hosted the Pre-G20 Event: Growing Economies through Women's Entrepreneurship, which highlighted the critical role women can play in the global economy if their potential is unleashed.

At the event, the United States Department of Treasury and the International Finance Corporation previewed the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) report "Strengthening Access to Finance for Women SMEs in Developing Countries," which will be released at the G20 Summit in Cannes on November 4, 2011. The United States Agency for International Development also announced new pilot programs that will begin to implement the GPII report recommendations by expanding women's leadership in the Small and Medium Enterprise sector.

Additionally, the United States led the development of an OECD Gender Initiative to identify the gender gaps in education, employment, and entrepreneurship. During the OECD's 50th anniversary ministerial chaired by Secretary Hillary Clinton, the OECD, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Labor Organization committed to collect and harmonize gender-disaggregated data. The action plan for this initiative will be unveiled at the Fourth High-level Aid Effectiveness Forum next month in Busan, South Korea.

***The following may be attributed to Marisa Lago, Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development, United States Department of the Treasury:***

"Through our support of the multilateral development banks, the United States is helping women access credit -- as well as education, healthcare and land -- from Afghanistan to Zanzibar. The report prepared for the G-20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion highlights the massive contributions that women entrepreneurs make to economic development across the globe. That's why we have asked Congress to replenish funding for these vital institutions, so that we can continue to empower women around the world."

***The following may be attributed to Steve Radelet, Chief Economist of USAID:***

"Supporting women's entrepreneurship is important for economic transformation and broad-based growth. Under a new five-year Women's Leadership for Small and Medium Enterprise Initiative, USAID will be making grants for innovative programs that remove barriers to women owning and managing small and medium enterprises, including legal, social, educational and economic barriers. USAID will support impact evaluations of these programs to inform and transform development practice in this field."

"The insights we gain from this initiative will help donors, the NGO community and business leaders in our partner countries to unlock the contribution of women to whole communities, sectors and economies."

***The following may be attributed to Melanne Verveer, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues:***

"To achieve economic growth, we must unlock the power of women in the economy. None of our countries can afford to perpetuate the economic inefficiencies and barriers facing women entrepreneurs. When we increase women's participation in the economy and unleash their productive



potential, we can bring about a dramatic impact on the competitiveness and growth of our economies."

***The following may be attributed to Karen Kornbluh, U.S. Ambassador to the OECD:***

"Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton has put women and girls at the core of U.S. foreign policy, extending worldwide a key focus of President Obama's domestic economic agenda: opportunities for women. At the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States is delivering on that commitment. This year, the OECD Gender Initiative was launched at U.S. urging, helping countries to engage, collaborate and cooperate to unleash the growth potential of women's full participation in the world economy."

**Additional Resources:**

- [Secretary Clinton Address at APEC Women's Economic Summit](#)
- [Declaration from APEC Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Sec. Clinton Remarks to the APEC Women Summit](#)
- [State Dept. Officials Briefing on Women in the Global Economy](#)
- [World Bank World Development Report 2012 on Gender Equality](#)
- [OECD Gender Initiative Interim Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Background Paper on the OECD Gender Initiative \(PDF\)](#)
- [Executive Summary of the OECD Gender Initiative Background Paper \(PDF\)](#)
- [OECD SYG Statement on Women the Future of Our Economies](#)

**Media Contact:** Zoë Mezin, U.S. Mission to the OECD [mezinzl@state.gov](mailto:mezinzl@state.gov), +33 (0)6 07 90 43 84.

**About the U.S. Mission to the OECD**

*The United States is a founding member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development which is an international organization, composed of 34 democratic countries with market-based economies. Shared goals include achieving sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living in member countries as well as engaging with non-members to contribute to the development of the world economy. Through its ground-breaking public policy research, 'soft law,' and effective peer reviews, the OECD is a dynamic international incubator for new ideas, providing the United States an unparalleled opportunity for engaging with other countries. Get updates at [usoecd.usmission.gov](http://usoecd.usmission.gov), @USAmbOECD, @DiploParis.*