

ACTION AGENDA ON MAINSTREAMING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) IN ASEAN

The Action Agenda aims to mainstream Women's Economic Empowerment through innovation, trade and inclusive business, and human capital development by encouraging each ASEAN Member State to support the following actions:

- 1) **ADOPT CONCRETE AND MEASURABLE ACTIONS** to address the barriers that impede maximizing women's full economic potential in the areas of: finance, information access, and markets; human capital development and leadership; and innovation and technology;
- 2) **PROMOTE** women's participation and skills development in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (S.T.E.A.M.), including information and communication technologies (ICT) by providing, for example, incentives for women innovators, allocating more foreign investments in science research institutes and foundations, and by creating an enabling environment for ICT-empowerment of women entrepreneurs and to promote ICT as enabling tools for the advancement of women and their economic empowerment;
- 3) **INVEST** in programs which provide enabling environments for women micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to prosper through ease of doing business initiatives, incentives and favourable tax regulations, helping them participate in inclusive and innovative businesses whether as consumer, seller, supplier, distributor, and worker, and by addressing the constraints that limit their integration in the international markets and global value chains (GVCs);
- 4) **INCREASE** women's representation and leadership in the workforce at the executive and managerial positions by intensifying human capital development and capacity building programs that empower women to bear equal roles in all sectors as men do and, enhance gender equality policies and strategies to close the gender pay gap;
- 5) **ENCOURAGE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION** through the ASEAN BAC and AWEN for advocacy, networking, and outreach purposes to create more opportunities for women in business; AWEN shall echo the voices of women MSMEs as its representative in the ACW under ASCC and in the ACCMSME under AEC; and
- 6) **CONSIDER** organizing an annual ASEAN Women's Business Conference led by AWEN in coordination with other relevant sectoral bodies under the ASCC and the AEC where ASEAN Member States' public and private sector representatives, academe, and civil society converge to share good practices, discuss gaps and challenges, and put forward recommendations to achieve women's economic empowerment and gender equality in the region.