

The WE Finance Code

We envision a world where women create, build and scale businesses on an equal footing with their male peers, to unlock more jobs, innovation and growth. Yet women entrepreneurs face significant obstacles to realize their potential. Among these constraints, it is estimated that 400 million women entrepreneurs around the world have \$1.7 trillion in unmet financing need. Financial intermediaries, policy and regulatory bodies, development finance partners, industry associations and others must work together to systematically address the complex challenges leading to these gaps in order to significantly accelerate funding to women entrepreneurs.

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code ("WE Finance Code" or "Code") is a global multi-stakeholder approach that aims to eliminate constraints and financing gaps for women entrepreneurs around the world. It engages institutions across the financial ecosystem to (1) strengthen leadership on this issue at an institutional, national and global level (2) improve the collection, analysis and use of supply-side data on the level and quality of funding to women-led enterprises and (3) take action in their relevant domain to help close financing gaps for women entrepreneurs.

Sample Public Declaration of Intent to Launch a National Code

"[Country or coalition partner names] is/are committed to advancing access to finance and identifying innovative solutions to mobilize capital for women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (WMSMEs). We endorse the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code ("WE Finance Code" or "Code"), a global multi-stakeholder data-driven approach to systematically expand how women-led businesses are supported and financed. We intend to champion the launch of a Code in [country] to align and catalyze action and incentives across the financial sector ecosystem to support women entrepreneurs. A national coalition of public and private stakeholders will work together to adopt the Code, engaging financial service providers, regulators, standard-setting bodies, financial sector infrastructure organizations and trade associations and other ecosystem players. We look forward to collaborating with other countries and stakeholders to align our approach with the Code's global framework and ensure its effective governance, coordination and aggregation mechanisms."