

FSP COMMITMENT MECHANISM

Dear Financial Service Provider,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code (“The WE Finance Code” or “The Code”). The Code is a multi-stakeholder effort to accelerate financing for women-led enterprises, by strengthening leadership, data and actions across the financial sector globally. It aims to engage financial service providers, regulators, financial infrastructure players, the development finance community and others across the financial sector ecosystem to address constraints systematically.

There are local and global channels for participating in the Code: Entities in countries with National Codes will participate through their national Codes, many of which were launched in Spring 2024. Global organizations may participate in the global Code. Organizations join the global Code by making a simple public pledge committing to the Code’s three pillars around leadership, data and action to:

- (1) designate a senior leader to champion the organization’s efforts to support women-led businesses,
- (2) track a commonly agreed set of indicators on the level of financing provided to women-led firms/ improve the collection, analysis and use of supply-side data on the level and quality of funding to women-led enterprises, and
- (3) expand and introduce financial and non-financial measures that will support women entrepreneurs.

To achieve the Code’s objective to create reinforcing incentives that will catalyze action across the financial ecosystem, participants are asked to define specific actions they will take to support these commitments. A checklist with examples that participants may consider depending on their domain of expertise is available in the next section. Please check off the general areas of interest and submit with the pledge.

Specific actions can be defined during the on-boarding process. Signatories will provide updates on these activities annually. In addition, contact information and other details to facilitate communication, disclosure and coordination across the Code participants will be requested during on-boarding. Baseline data will also be requested, where available.

Institutions should submit their pledges to their country’s national coordinator. They will be notified of the acceptance of the pledge and will be considered Signatories to the Code when their organization is added to a list of participants on the WE Finance Code website. As Signatories they will have access to a logo and communications guidelines, as well as an implementation guide for the Code and peer learning opportunities.

We also welcome feedback to improve the template to meet the diverse needs of ecosystem participants.

All the best,

Wendy Teleki

Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) Secretariat

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 \$1.9 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 (“The WE Finance Code” or “The 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.

The WE Finance Code Pledge

“[Organization name] endorses the Code and will work together with partners and other stakeholders to provide leadership, improve data and take actions that will help eliminate constraints and financing gaps for women entrepreneurs. *As a Signatory in the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code, [name of institution] will:*

- *Designate a senior leader to champion the organization’s efforts to support women-led businesses*
- *Track a commonly agreed set of indicators on the level of financing provided to women-led firms/ improve the collection, analysis and use of supply-side data on the level and quality of funding to women-led enterprises*
- *Expand and introduce financial and non-financial measures that will support women entrepreneurs.*

[Name of institution] will report on these commitments and indicators to an agreed aggregator after a grace period for inclusion in the Global WE Finance Code annual reports.” [Name of institution] will make this commitment public.

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Signature

Menu of options to fulfill the Code commitments

Included below is a menu of activities to enable each participant to identify activities that are relevant for them, based on their area of domain expertise, capacity and networks. Please check off areas where the organization is planning to take action to support the Code. Focus areas may be expanded to include activities not on this list. Each organization's list will preferably include new activities but can also include existing/ongoing activities that will advance the goals of the Code. Please submit the completed form with the signed pledge. These can be updated annually.

1) **Leadership:** activities related to internal leadership around the Code-related activities and advancing support for women entrepreneurs.

- ☒ Designate a senior leader to drive the organization's efforts to support women-led businesses and promote gender equity internally (mandatory)
- ☐ Foster organizational awareness of the unique needs of women entrepreneurs and encourage stakeholders to enhance support for WSMEs
- ☐ Actively promote and implement gender-inclusive policies and practices within your organization, potentially advocate externally for women entrepreneurs
- ☐ Support the development of products and services tailored to women entrepreneurs, ensuring that their specific needs are met
- ☐ Serve as a point person for the WE Finance Code, facilitating peer learning, sharing best practices, and participating in advocacy efforts that promote gender equity in financial services
- ☐ Other

2) **Data:** activities related to mainstreaming the collection and reporting of sex-disaggregation of MSME finance data internally and within the organization's sphere of influence.

- ☒ Incorporate the Code's indicators into [Organization name] data collection, analytics and reporting for its own MSME financing activities. (mandatory)
- ☒ Annually share aggregate data on the Core indicators with aggregator. (mandatory)
- ☐ Encourage or support clients/members/partners to collect, analyze and report the Code's indicators when required to report on MSME financing activities.
- ☐ Undertake research and analytics and develop tools that will improve collection, analysis, use and reporting on sex-disaggregated data
- ☐ Other

3) **Action:** Other activities within the organization's relevant domain and sphere of influence that will address constraints and close finance gaps for women-led enterprises. (Please select at least 1.)

- ☐ Develop new financial products and non-financial services to expand financing for women-led enterprises -- within the organization or with stakeholders.
- ☐ Set targets and develop strategies, policies and standards to expand financing for women-led enterprises.

ⁱ Entities in countries with National Codes will report to their national aggregator. For global and regional FSPs, this would need to be agreed with We-Fi and the aggregator, which may be an institution that is already aggregating this information, or an annual data collection survey specifically for the Code.

- ☐ Expand non-financial services for WMSMEs
- ☐ Strengthen and communicate the business case for financing women-led enterprises, using market research and business analytics.
- ☐ Increase the volume of commercial or blended finance for women-led enterprises, directly or through financial service partners, including through bonds, credit lines, equity financing, trade and embedded financing, performance incentives, etc.
- ☐ Provide financial or other resources to support the work of participants in the WE Finance Code, national pilots, FSP commitments and global peer learning.
- ☐ Promote/contribute to peer learning and documentation of case experience.
- ☐ Bundle Financial & Non-Financial Services to enable one-stop solution for WMSMEs and improve their overall inclusion
- ☐ Other