



---

Press Release: Thursday, 14 September 2023

## **Papua New Guinea Business Advocacy Network Celebrates Conclusion of First Women's Business Agenda**

The Papua New Guinea Business Advocacy Network (PNG BAN) is celebrating the completion of its first Women's Business Agenda on 21 August 2023. The PNG BAN launched its first Women's Business Agenda (WBA) on Friday, 11 February 2022. The WBA identifies key issues limiting women's social and economic participation in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and outlines policy reforms and recommendations to address these barriers through a roadmap presenting ways for the PNG BAN to engage government leaders and advocate for opportunities that bolster the social and economic participation of Papua New Guinean women. Leading factors in the limited participation of PNG women economically include inconsistent education and lack of access to financial and social welfare resources. To mitigate the effect of these factors, the PNG BAN conducted robust consultations to identify four major pillars of issues to address in their first WBA through targeted advocacy to the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG).

These four pillars are the primary focus of the PNG BAN and its Steering Committee in reducing barriers for businesswomen in PNG:

- (1) Lack of participation of women in politics, policy and decision making to create an enabling policy environment for women in business.
- (2) Lack of access to finance to participate in business.
- (3) Inadequate empowerment and participation of women in the formal economy through SMEs; and
- (4) Poor access for women to inclusive services including health, social welfare, justice, education, that limit women's participation in business.

The WBA includes policy recommendations that fall under these four pillars. Examples of reform recommendations include quotas for women in the PNG government to enhance political participation, expanded financial education and tax incentives for women-owned micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSME and SMEs) and subsidies to incentivize the participation of women in the formal economy. In addition, the first WBA makes several recommendations on how to tackle external factors impacting women's involvement in the economy, such as advocating for a comprehensive national strategy against gender-based violence. Finally, the agenda outlines multiple recommendations addressing marginalized populations, specifically for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

The PNG BAN, a coalition of local business and civil society leaders, was developed during a 2020 coalition building workshop and is dedicated to promoting economic opportunity and inclusive development through advocacy. In October 2020, the PNG BAN announced the results of its first Steering Committee (SC) election in which the seven members elected represent the diversity of the PNG BAN. The PNG BAN SC is designed to provide a leading body to drive awareness, discussion, and implementation of expanded opportunities for women in business in PNG.



Upon its formation, one of the BAN Steering Committee’s primary goals was the development and establishment of their first Women’s Business Agenda. The PNG BAN spearheaded the creation of the WBA, including outlining its priorities and goals, with support and guidance from the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). THE PNG BAN and its stakeholders gather on 21 August 2023, to celebrate the progress made as a result of the first WBA.

The PNG BAN is supported by CIPE, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce affiliate, and this project is funded through the generous support of the United States Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Word Count: 552

Photo caption: tbc

Media related queries, contact: Eli Webb (Ms.) Country Director  
Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

T: 675.7241.6530 | 675.7651.2923 | 61.415 616 892

E: [ewebb@cipe.org](mailto:ewebb@cipe.org)

DRAFT