



Papua New Guinea Business Advocacy Network (PNG BAN)

Vision: A vibrant and premier coalition of professional, business, and community membership organizations and individuals supporting businesswomen in Papua New Guinea, dedicated to promoting policy reforms that ensure sustainable economic and social development.

Background: The PNG BAN is a coalition of 60 business and civil society leaders from diverse backgrounds working together to advocate for regulatory reforms that promote women's participation in the economy using a Women's Business Agenda (WBA) as a guide to selected priority areas for reform. In February 2020, the PNG BAN announced its first Women Steering Committee (SC) as the leading body to oversee efforts to develop a WBA in PNG. The goal of the WBA is to enhance the opportunities available for women in business and provide a more inclusive representation of women's economic interests through advocacy. Women in the SC represent a variety of organizations, including the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) sector, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as the youth and persons with disabilities (PWD) communities.

The WBA is a guiding document the PNG BAN utilises to engage government and other stakeholders on issues affecting women's social and economic participation in PNG. The WBA will help policy makers in government, business leaders, and other stakeholders to prioritise action in a national effort to address key issues affecting women's social and economic participation in PNG. The issues presented in the WBA have been identified in a rigorous consultation process through an inaugural women's forum where women from all levels of leadership and economic participation in PNG were able to contribute to greater understanding of issues that affect them. The final priority issues for the first iteration of the WBA were determined by discussion and voted by the PNG BAN. The issues identified in the WBA were then substantiated through an independent research process that aims to provide credible evidence-based policy dialogue between government, businesses, and other stakeholders. The first WBA for PNG provides recommendations into four priority areas of advocacy for women's social and economic participation in PNG:

1. **Leadership:** There is a lack of an enabling environment for participation of women in politics, policy and decision making to create an enabling policy environment for women in business.
2. **Access to Finance:** There is a lack of access to finance available to women to participate in business.
3. **Women's Empowerment:** Women are not adequately empowered to participate in the formal economy
4. **Access to Services:** Poor access of women to inclusive services including health, social welfare, justice, education, that limit women's participation in business.

Activities: The PNG BAN host and facilitate following activities based on the four priority areas of advocacy for women's social and economic participation in PNG:

1. PNG BAN Coalition Meeting
2. Public Private Dialogue
3. BAN Advocacy Workshop

To request more information or attend a coalition meeting for PNG BAN, contact the SC at steeringcommittee@pngban.org or pngwba@pngban.org. You can also contact Eli Webb, CIPE Country Director for PNG at ewebb@cipe.org

More information on PNG BAN and copy of the WBA document is accessible on the PNG Women's Business Resource Centre (PNGWBRC) website: <https://www.pngwbrc.com/png-wnba>