



2nd Women 20 (W20) International Meeting

**Women-Led Development:
Leveraging Women's Untapped Potential to
Accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Future**

**13-14TH APRIL, 2023
JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA**

REPORT





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BACKGROUND

The Women 20 (W20) was established in 2015 during Turkey's G20 Presidency as the official G20 engagement group with a primary objective of promoting gender equity through women's empowerment, advocating for women's rights, and amplifying their voices in society. The idea behind its creation was that domestic initiatives alone were insufficient to achieve significant progress toward gender equality, necessitating an international approach. In addition, the group aims to ensure that the G20 Leaders' Declaration incorporates measures and commitments that support gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

W20 India is strongly committed to its vision of creating a world where every woman can live with dignity and equality and is dedicated to its mission of eliminating barriers to women-led development while creating a supportive environment for women to thrive and transform their own lives and the lives of others.

To achieve this mission, W20 India has prioritised five key areas for empowering women: Women Entrepreneurship, Grassroot Women Leadership, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education and Skill Development, and Climate Change.

2nd Women 20 (W20) International Meeting

The Women 20 Engagement Group, under India's Presidency, organized the 2nd Women 20 (W20) International Meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 13-14th April 2023. The theme of the meeting, which was in line with the vision of the Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, was 'Women-Led Development: Leveraging Women's Untapped Potential to Accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Future'.

Key Objectives:

The key objectives of the meeting were:

- To discuss and finalize recommendations and action plans of all task forces constituted for five priority areas
- Communique drafting team meetings and interaction with task forces
- Launch of action-oriented initiative that can be replicated and adapted across G20 countries

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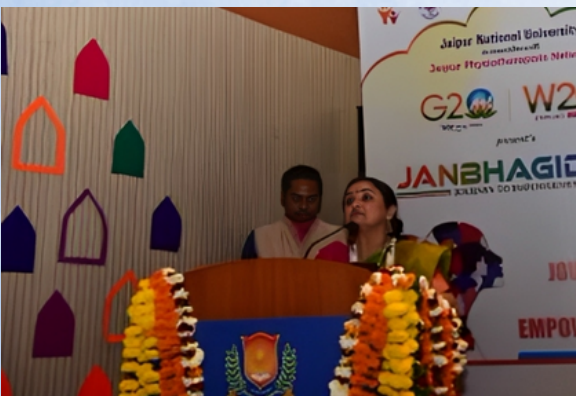
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JANBHAGIDARI



The International Meet began with a Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation) event supported by Jaipur National University, Jaipur Physiotherapist network and the Ministry of WCD, Government of Rajasthan. More than 300 grassroots-level women participated in this citizens' connect programme (Jan Bhagidari).

The theme of the Jan Bhagidari event was 'Transforming lives of women & girls through education and skilling'. Through this event, W20 aimed to increase the grassroots level people's engagement in India's G20 and W20 Presidency, delivering on its vision of inclusivity. By engaging with the grassroots women, the event captured their perceptions to recommend enabling policy ecosystem to enhance education and skilling opportunities for women and girls.



**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

Inaugural Session



W20 India inaugurated the 2nd Women 20 (W20) International Meeting on 13th April 2023 at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India in the presence of several eminent guests, including Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chair W20 India; Ms Hadriani Uli T.L. Silalahi, Chair W20 Indonesia; Dr. Shamika Ravi, Former Member of Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister of India; Shri Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20 India, Shri Indevan Pandey, IAS, Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Ms Bansuri Swaraj, Supreme Court Advocate & W20 India Delegate, Ms Dharitri Patnaik, Chief Coordinator W20 India.

The 2 days programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and felicitation of the dignitaries of the session.



Ms Dharitri Patnaik, Chief Coordinator, W20 India delivered in the opening remarks. In her address she set the overview of W20's objectives and initiatives for realizing women-led development and shared the objective of the 2nd W20 meeting. Mentioning about W20's agenda, she said W20 under able chairmanship of Dr. Sandhya Purecha is collaborating and working with millions of women across G20 countries as primary stakeholders with a motto 'Leave No Women Behind'. One of the key objectives of W20 is to 'Change the Narratives' by identifying challenges and following the best practices. Ms Patnaik set the tone for the event by emphasizing the importance of action-oriented recommendations for the W20 communique and G20 Leaders' Declaration.

Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chair of W20 India, welcomed the delegates to the historic city of Jaipur and iterated the importance of advocacy for achieving gender equity. She elaborated on W20's grassroots-level efforts in the past 4 months to achieve the objectives and accomplish the vision of W20. She said that W20 India has so far involved more than five lakh women across India through its Janbhagidari events in the spirit of inclusivity and gender equity. She stressed the importance of understanding issues concerning women's development in order to devise a framework and Call for Action at W20 India for empowering women socially, financially and digitally. She called for actionable solutions that empower women and accelerate progress towards an inclusive and sustainable future.





Ms Hadriani Uli T. L. Silalahi, Chair W20 Indonesia, thanked Dr Sandhya Purecha for the warm welcome in Jaipur, a city with great colours and history. Ms Silalahi congratulated W20 India presidency for the wider reach and undertaking the impact generating activities with a commitment of leaving no women behind in past months. She anticipated that in the two days deliberations and constructive dialogues, the W20 dignitaries will reach a consensus for affirmative actions on priorities. The W20 Indonesia Chair while concluding her address highlighted the need to empower women in order to empower the nation.

Dr Shamika Ravi extended gratitude G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant for leading from the front and bring the source of inspiration. As the chair of drafting committee, Dr Ravi assured that the zero draft from all 5 task forces have been received and the process of fine-tuning is ongoing and the force. Mentioning about the five priority areas, she said women entrepreneurship while stresses on access to financial linkage, access to market, emerging sectors like green, blue and care economy, education, skill development and labour force participation, STEM and apprenticeship programmes and ending all forms of discrimination at work front, the gender digital divide is putting emphasis on structured data generation, accumulation to measure the gender divide, the climate change component is advocating for gender just financing, putting women at the centre of disaster management and early response system and the women grassroots leadership is the lever to enable the other four key priorities to happen. Women when given the scope of decision making, the Prime Minister vision of women led development will come about in true sense.





Shri Indevar Pandey, IAS, Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India delivered his address. Mr Pandey appreciated W20's initiatives focusing on women-led development. He emphasized Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for greater women's participation in policymaking and development. He acknowledged that the first step towards empowering women financially and socially is education. He also shared that the GER for girls in the primary education system in India is higher than that of boys. Mr Pandey spoke about the PMGDisha scheme for encouraging last-mile digital literacy, 54% of trainees in this scheme are women, which is a crucial step in the digital literacy and empowerment of women. Under the PM Mudra scheme for microcredit, 68% of beneficiaries are women with 89 billion USD disbursed. Mr Pandey also spoke about the enormous participation of women in the local-level political process in India.

Ms Bansuri Swaraj delivered the closing remarks. She echoed Mr Amitabh Kant's suggestion to put wealth in the hands of women to achieve financial as well as social inclusion and empowerment. Miss Swaraj emphasised the need to achieve women's financial inclusion through digital literacy. Miss Swaraj said that empowered women are instrumental towards the realisation of an empowered globe. Miss Swaraj called for breaking the barriers of prejudice and articulating solution-oriented and actionable points for the Leaders' Summit.





Shri Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G20 India, delivered the keynote address. Mr Kant emphasised that W20 is one of the most important engagement groups under the G20 and is pivotal to enabling societal transformation and women-led development, which is the need of the hour especially in the backdrop of economic recessions and other crises. Mr Kant said that women's leadership at this time can drive the world towards a better future. Mr Kant also said that the Indian government sees women as leaders in achieving sustainable development and surpassing developmental challenges globally. He shared how every single woman in India has been given a digital identity and connected to banks, which has financially empowered Indian women by enabling government scheme funds to be directly disbursed to women's bank accounts with the objective of making women financial leaders through the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

He shared his belief that access to digital technologies and financial leadership is essential in achieving swift and inclusive development. Mr Kant emphasised that the opportunity to redesign the economy in the post-covid era affords us a chance to make women the centre stage for inclusive and sustainable development. Mr Kant suggested making radical, out-of-the-box recommendations in the W20 communique and assured that they would also find a way in the G20 Leaders' Declaration.



**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

'Call to Action' W20 Initiative: MISSION DIGITAL WOMEN

The 'Call-to-Action' W20 initiative: MISSION DIGITAL WOMEN was launched by the G20 Sherpa, Mr. Amitabh Kant along with other dignitaries of Women 20 and Govt. of India. The initiative aims to provide women with the skills and knowledge they need to participate fully in the digital economy.

The initiative was launched under the aegis of the Bridging the Gender Digital Divide Task Force headed by Ms. Dharitri Patnaik and has been developed by i3-Access and will be implemented by Hamara Bachpan Trust, and other stakeholders. Mission Digital Women will enhance the economic empowerment of women through skill pathways with a focus on business, digital and finance literacy delivered as a public good and will be first piloted in India and subsequently scaled further.



Mission Digital Women has been established under the platform as a service model where any institution can access pre-curated content and nudges, and customize it for their target group. The content is then delivered via both digital and physical modes. Virtual reality-based experience centres have been established. The platform creates an individualized engagement journey and experience for every woman based on her interactions and actions. The focus is to drive behaviour change that can translate into positive outcomes that is measurable.

Recommendations by Speakers

- Push for greater gender responsiveness in all policies concerning women's entrepreneurship such as access to finance and access to markets.
- Put great emphasis on the green, blue and care economies, which are emerging sectors.
- Investing in the care infrastructure, and addressing the gender pay gap.
- Put emphasis on STEM, and apprenticeship programs from an education and capacity-building perspective.
- Tackle all forms of stereotypes and end all gender-based discriminations that exist in the workplace
- Gender digital divide: Strengthening data skills, structure and enforcement mechanisms to make sure that the disproportionate impact of AI and emerging technologies on women is reduced going forward.
- Push for gender-just financing.
- Brining more women at the centre of disaster-management and early response programs as women are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters.
- Increase women's representation at the grassroots through quotas in politics, corporate boards, different forms of mentoring, and eventually finding women the space in the decision-making of all kinds.
- Brining women in all decision making process is the tool/ lever for women-led development, which is one of the goals of India's G20 Presidency as underlined by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Strengthen women-led education and skills.
- Education is the link between the economic empowerment of women, their contribution to the household and the macro-level growth of the nation.
- Address the gender gap in education at the secondary and higher secondary level
- Increase access to smart phones, and IT devices and digital education for women at the last mile to reduce the gender digital divide.
- Encouraging frontline workers to adapt digital reporting system and to give confidence to their clientele to use the facilities of digital technologies

Recommendations by Speakers

- Promoting women groups to clusters as companies such as producers groups to enhance the scope of access to entrepreneurship credit facilities
- Ensuring women leadership in corporate and business enterprises value chain system
- Ensure leadership of women in designing and implementing solutions to all the challenges of the world
- Close existing gaps in access, awareness, capability, affordability and utilization of digital technology will lead to enhanced financial inclusion and employment
- Make women the financial leaders by putting wealth into the hands of women of the household for achieving rapid transformation
- Bringing in existing and encouraging schemes to promote more saving in daughter's bank account will gain enhanced interest rate to the parents
- W20 India should make radical, out-of-the-box recommendations for a generational shift.
- Women must play key role in de-carbonization process by leading the adaptation initiatives which prioritise their leadership and knowledge and they ensuring that their voices are heard in climate governance and multilateral climate processes.
- Encourage small scale savings and promoting women manage the family's finance will improve the education, health status of the society and will address the virtual cycle of malnutrition as well as the generational poverty
- Ensure women's access to income through employment and social security is the key
- Break through the barriers of the 'pink tax' and 'pink prejudice' by ensuring that the communicate is solution-oriented and has actionable points.

**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

Session 1: Women's Economic Empowerment: Building the Care Economy Ecosystem

Constituting one-half of the world's population, women contribute only 37% to the global GDP. The average further falls down in developing and under-developed countries, creating a cause of concern for the global community. This has been due to the stereotypical challenges faced by women creating barriers and hindrances to their economic integration. W20 was established in 2015 to address these challenges, foster gender equality and mainstream gender considerations into policy discussions. W20 under India's presidency is focused on reimagining women as the core architects of our society and developing an enabling ecosystem for women to thrive, transcend and transform their lives. India under its presidency aims to develop an inclusive framework encouraging women's participation in the Global economy and incorporate gender analysis into investing and promoting practices that support women in their endeavours of achieving financial independence.



Session Objectives:

- Developing an enabling ecosystem and allowing an equitable platform for women to thrive.
- Engendering pathways for women to realize income-generating opportunities and attain self-reliance by promoting women's empowerment.
- Discuss and deliberate policy solutions to further advance women's participation within entrepreneurship and the global economy allowing for women-led development.

The panellists deliberated on the importance of investing in the care economy to empower women economically. The discussion also focused on how various government initiatives and private sector efforts can be leveraged to support women's participation in the workforce.



Opening Remarks

Ms Shreya Guha, IAS, Principal Secretary Cooperation & WCD, Government of Rajasthan

Ms Shreya Guha welcomed all delegates to Jaipur, a UNESCO world heritage city. She emphasised the importance of the care economy and the need for greater data and documentation in the care economy sector, urging delegates representing different G20 countries to converge and discuss how the G20 countries can devise a framework for addressing issues in the care economy sector. She also emphasised the challenge of lack of dignity in the care economy work performed by women. She spoke about the Rajasthan Government's digital identity system called 'Jan Aadhaar' which recognises women as heads of households for government schemes. The Rajasthan government has incentivised land registration in the name of women members of the family by granting land tax concessions. She recommended that there is a need for the private sector to come in and lead the formalisation and financialisation of the care economy sector.

Moderator:

Hyun Hee Ban, Chief, Social Policy, UNICEF

Ms Ban said that care pillars should be part of the universal social protection system, especially because it has a multiplier effect on a range of areas such as nutrition, health, education, etc. She mentioned that working towards strengthening the care economy sector through the provision of good healthcare, nutrition and education would also help achieve the UN SDGs by 2030. She urged to devise and share good care economy practices and community models which also make good economic sense. She emphasised the need to come up with radical recommendations for the care economy sector. She appreciated that the care economy sector and women-led development are being prioritised in the context of the “One Family” in India’s G20 theme. She underscored the importance of political will to achieve the agenda of W20. She concluded the session with the need to learn from models from different G20 countries to be referenced for curating recommendations for the W20 communique and leaders' declaration.

Panelists:

Ms Madhu Krishna, Deputy Director, Gates Foundation

Ms Madhu Krishna spoke about community care models and public-private partnerships, which are quite promising. She called for the inclusion of governance models and getting greater private sector commitment to monitoring what is being afforded to women in the workplace. She emphasised that there needs to be a better incentive for the private sector, underscoring the pre-existing policy framework. She suggested that the governments can work on creating a bottom-line incentive that the private sector will have to adhere to help create a robust care economy system. She called for greater recognition of women’s contribution to the care economy. She appreciated the National Rural Livelihood Mission which gives involved women a sense of dignity within the totality of the community model of development. She recommended the creation of formalised childcare centres so that a sustainable ecosystem can be created for women to enter the labour force in large centres.



Dr Erin Watson, Managing Director of Baker & York and HoD of W20 Australia

Ms Erin Watson shared that unpaid work in Australia is valued at around 650 billion dollars. She called for greater private sector engagement in the care economy sector and improving regulations and devising frameworks around wage rate increases for the growth of the care economy sector. She listed three recommendations: formalise, standardize and professionalise the care sector. Social protection, increasing GDP and empowerment will flow from these policy initiatives.

Ms Vishishta Sam, National Project Coordinator, Care Economy, International Labour Organization

Ms Vishishta Sam spoke about the legal frameworks that would enable women to join the workforce. She spoke about UN SDG 5 which focuses on gender equality and target 5.4 which in particular focuses on recognising and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. She also mentioned sections 189, 183, 156, and 149 of the ILO Conventions which include frameworks for areas such as domestic workers, maternity care, nursing professionals, and family with responsibilities. She spoke about the Maternity Act in India which offers 26 weeks of maternity cover for women, which is an example of strides made for the welfare of women in the informal care economy. She recommended expanding the coverage of schemes to women in the informal sector. She stated that women need to be recognised as workers in their own right and have access to education and skills in order to emerge as productive contributors and stakeholders in the economy.



Ms Anne Simmons-Benton, Principal, Deep Water Points and Associates; W20 USA Co-HoD

Ms Anne Simmons Benton, a delegate of the U.S.A. urged for the need for a regulatory, enabling environment for the care economy to play its role. She also called for greater private-sector involvement to boost the care economy sector. She recommended inculcating skills for the deepening of the care economy sector across different areas such as nutrition, elderly care, etc., whose need has been amply demonstrated by Covid-19. She recommended that women, who constitute 50% of the population, should have equal opportunities to start entrepreneurial ventures. Both men and families will be better off and have access to better learning and nutrition if the women in the family care economy system can work.

Ms Cheryl Miller Van Dyck, Digital Leadership Institute, W20 EU Delegate

Ms Cheryl Miller said that women must have reciprocal entitlements as workers in order to continue contributing to the GDP. She urged men to also be equally engaged in care in their families. She underscored the importance of paternity leave packages among the G20 countries. She called for women to be represented at an equal level at the G20. She emphasised better media portrayal of women in leadership and STEM roles, and men in care economy roles in order to break stereotypes and end discrimination.



Recommendations

- Taking care of frontline workforce by ensuring equitable pay, facilities, education and skilling opportunities and the welfare measures being provided
- Introduce system and technology to register the issues and grievances of women in the unorganized sector related to the care work they provide
- Date and documentation is required to address the issues of unorganized women in the care economy
- Recommended starting a digital identity system, similar to the 'Jan Aadhar' implemented by the Rajasthan government, which recognises only the woman of the household as the head of the household. This ensures that any benefit or social service provided to the family has to be acknowledged by the women first.
- Provide parental leave, child benefits, and child grants for both parents.
- Create robust policies with scalable, inclusive and replicable programs and models to bring in recognition and dignity to the women for the critical services that they are providing and also to put into the Leaders' Declaration.
- Recommended that care pillars should be part of the universal social protection system, especially because it has a multiplier effect on a range of areas such as nutrition, health, education, etc.
- Requirement of investing a defined percentage of GDP in the care economy.
- There is a need for building strong partnerships between the government, private sector, intergovernmental organisations and civil society, especially in building infrastructure in urban areas, in order to ensure the proper implementation of policies by the private sector.
- Recommended developing women-centric schemes that provide incentives in the form of tax credits for registering the land in the name of the woman of the household.
- Government and the private sectors to play role by bringing in business models in the sector
- Govt and private sectors also through subsidies enable care workers to afford care work for their children
- The G20 leaders must formalise, standardise and professionalise the care economy sector and the digital care economy should also be given due importance
- Recommended identifying successful community care models and replicating and scaling them in different countries.
- Underscored the opportunity to increase formalized labour force participation by women and to create strong and quality childcare centres.
- Equal representation of women in the G20, and across all its working groups.
- Better media portrayal of women in leadership and STEM roles, and men in care economy roles in order to break stereotypes and end discrimination.

**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

Session 2: Charting a Path of Equity & Equality through Bridging the Gender Digital Divide and Transformation

Equality is not just a fundamental right but also a human right. It is also a hallmark of a modern and thriving economy. Even though technology is perceived to have the potential to promote gender equality, it creates a counterproductive situation for the gender digital divide where females have less access to technology than males. The digital divide can be explained as the inequalities between the digital “haves” and “have-nots” in terms of access to and use of the internet and the ICTs. The gender digital divide specifically refers to the global phenomenon of women and girls’ access and use of ICTs being less than that of men and boys. For example, women are twenty per cent less likely than men to own a smartphone, and those they possess are less likely to support mobile internet use and more likely to have simpler features. NFHS data indicates that a higher percentage of urban women own mobile phones than rural women. All these disparities in ICT use risk limiting the ability of girls and women to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technologies and to be full political, social, and economic actors in the digital society.



Session Objectives:

To bring about a targeted and effective action plan to create a well-founded track for diminishing the gender digital divide and enabling women and girls to access digital technologies all over the country.

The speakers' varied backgrounds and expertise provided valuable insights into bridging the gender digital divide and transformation, which will help shape policies and strategies to promote gender equality and equity in the digital world. W20 aims to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and this session played a crucial role in charting a path of equity and equality through bridging the gender digital divide and transformation.

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Saurabh Garg, IAS, CEO, UIDAI

Dr. Garg presented the opening remarks for the session. He expressed his gratitude towards the W20 leadership for inviting him to such an important and proficient gathering and was elated to know that W20 India has identified Gender Digital Divide as one of its five key priority areas. Dr. Garg then iterated how India under PM Modi's leadership has made revolutionary progress in digital transformation. He further emphasized how India's data revolution has allowed the nation to penetrate the social ceilings and realize 85% teledensity which has been a huge enabler in India's growing Digital and dependent economy that contributes 25% to its total GDP. He then highlighted some of the key digital initiatives launched by the Indian Government such as CoWIN, UMANG, DigiLocker, and others to promote ease of living and how the administration has implemented these services to ensure 100% saturation and warrant comprehensive and all-around growth.

He then underlined the 61% growth in female internet users in India, an indication of the government's well-thought-out initiatives, and suggested that India should work further to be more digitally accessible and focus on issues that have hindered the permeation of digital technology across the length and breadth of this nation. He then recommended enhancing data and mobile affordability and the need for a multi-modal digital infrastructure for panoramic and inclusive growth.



Moderator:

Ms. Tamara B. Dancheva, Senior International Relations Manager, GSMA

Ms. Tamara Dancheva opened and moderated the session and iterated how she has been working on this issue of the digital divide which is extremely close to her heart. She highlighted the need for greater accessibility to digital services, proper education and skill development, and women in senior leadership for mediation potential policy solutions to bridge this divide. She presented another critical issue about active internet usage and how only 40% of the global population efficiently utilizes this mobile data for realizing financial and digital independence.

She then expressed her concern about how factors such as the Covid pandemic, the conflict in Eastern Europe, disruption in supply chains, and others have disproportionately affected women across the globe and have resulted in a 19% drop in the likelihood of women using mobile data to achieve financial freedom and self-reliance and empower themselves. She asked the W20 delegates for providing disruptive recommendations in the W20 communique, providing unique and creative ways for the G20 leaders to promote digital access and greater availability of digital infrastructure and services to a larger share of the world population.



Panelists:

Ms. Eunsong Kim, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Specialist UNESCO

Ms. Kim highlighted the need for a gender-inclusive framework in the deployment and development of AI to promote the principle of gender equality within this fast-emerging field. She also presented a vision document launched by UNESCO in November 2021, “The Ethics of AI” that aims to establish a proper framework of values and principles and female AI experts that can contribute to a concrete policy for the evolution and disposition of AI to allow inclusivity and diversity within the field.

She underscored the need for dedicated funds from the public budget to finance and implement gender-specific policies promoting women in AI and STEM fields. She also asked the nation to devise a carefully planned Gender Action Plan as a part of their National Digital Policy to allow for an inclusive and comprehensive digital transformation and eradicate any social ceilings that might hinder their participation within these considerably new fields. She also advocated for more women at the helm of policy-making and in senior leadership throughout the AI cycle to make it sensitive to women's needs and requirements. She called the international institutions and governments for greater investment in programs that aims to enhance female participation in AI and STEM. She iterated the need for realizing the Indian PM's vision of Women-Led Development within digitalization and AI to promote female involvement and provide a platform for their voices and opinions to make sure of inclusive and positive outcomes.



Mr. Jaspreet Singh, Regional Technical Specialist- Digital Finance and Innovation, UNCDF

Mr. Jaspreet Singh emphasized the two different aspects of digital and financial inclusion those being the availability and access of digital services and the other being the active utilization of those services and reasons why people are still apprehensive of these services and their usage. He also highlighted how 73% of women despite being a part of formal and digital financial systems still struggle with their financial management and savings and investments. He underlined how sometimes the indicators can be deceptive about the on-ground realities and the need to shift the focus from a product-centric to a process-centric approach to allow a larger percentage of women inclusion in digital and financial transformation and provide financial agency and independence. He asked the government to use multiple indicators to identify the real on-ground problems and issues and come up with unique and comprehensive solutions to make sure a larger fraction of the global population properly utilizes digital services to promote financial independence and economic well-being.

Ms. Suma Ronanki Chander, Principal, PKF O'Connor Davis, USA

Ms. Chander expressed her delight and elation to be a part of the learned and knowledgeable gathering. She underscored the lack of female participation within tech and related fields such as AI not just in general but also within her firm due to the lack of well-educated and informed women within the tech enterprises. She also highlighted the absence of women from data that is then being fed to AI which causes a serious problem of monotonous and exclusive AI which won't respond to women's needs and desires. She asked the women to come to the forefront and lead these revolutions and utilize platforms like this to raise their voices and opinions on matters that are of paramount importance to them.

Ms. Chander iterated the need for public-private cooperation, necessary for tech innovation and research, and providing potential solutions to bridge this gender digital divide. Ms. Chander suggested reducing cyber crimes against women to promote amongst them the usage of the internet critical to their digital and financial literacy and independence. She also recommended the creation of women-focused job groups and platforms to promote women in entrepreneurship using digital services necessary for realizing the dream of gender equality and women-Led Development.



Ms. Bansuri Swaraj, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Ms. Bansuri Swaraj emphasized how India perceives technology as an enabler of development and women empowerment. She then highlighted the crucial initiatives and steps taken by the India Government to set in motion India's revolution in Digital technology.

She then underscored India's key measures that have sped up India's digital transformation such as the PMGDisha which has promoted digital literacy amongst India's rural population providing them with the necessary skills and capabilities to utilize digital services for economic welfare and social well-being. She then talked about India's rapid and tremendous growth in the digital sphere through services such as UMANG, E-Sanjeevani, and others that especially helped the nation to counter the problems caused due to the COVID pandemic. She also spoke of India's new initiative to build an open for all E-Library to promote free and qualitative education that might spark a revolution for the betterment of India's education system.

Recommendations

- Improve digital device and data affordability to ease the access to digital technology
- Development of Multi-modal digital infrastructure for panoramic and inclusive growth.
- Provide qualitative education and skilling programs to promote women in digitally dependent enterprises by inclusion of digital and financial literacy as a subject in school
- Allocating dedicated funds from the public budget to finance and implement gender-specific policies promoting women in AI and STEM fields.
- A Gender Action Plan as a part of every nation's digital policy to allow for an inclusive and comprehensive digital transformation
- Ensuring more women at the helm of policy-making and in senior leadership throughout the AI cycle.
- Promoting Women-Led Development in Digitization and providing them a platform to raise their opinions when it comes to AI to ensure inclusive and positive outcomes.
- There is a need to shift focus from a product to a process-centric approach necessary for the proliferation of digital services at the grassroots level.
- Sign and use of diverse multiple indicators to help in identifying the on-ground issues that hinder the adoption of digital and financial services.
- The need for public-private cooperation to bridge this gender digital divide.
- Specific platforms to encourage women to realize the benefits of digital services and create new entrepreneurial set-ups
- Strong and robust policies to reduce cyber crimes and promotion of Digital safety to encourage women and girls to fully utilize internet facilities
- Project technology as an enabler of development and empowerment.

**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

Session 3: Setting of our Goals and Targets for a Sustainable Future

The issue of climate change has been one of the major concerns in recent years and has posed a serious existential threat to society and the planet as a whole due to its impact and complete association with the environment, oceans, landscape, food safety, energy, society, and the economy. It has also been known and recognised that climate change affects different sections of society very differently and women specifically very disproportionately, as they are considered to be more vulnerable to its effects due to existing problems in terms of general socio-economic inequality. For example, extreme weather conditions caused by climate change can directly lead to decreased cognitive abilities, an increase in low birth weight and maternal hypertensive diseases. UNDP estimates that 80% of the women's population will be affected directly and disproportionately, hurting directly the achievements of social and gender equity achieved in recent history.



Session Objectives:

To call upon members of the G20 to bring an efficient and feminist approach to tackling climate change and fulfilling its need in relation to green financing, clean energy and social equality.

Opening Remarks:

Raveena Tandon, Actor & Philanthropist and W20 India Delegate

Ms. Raveena Tandon spoke about the issue of climate change which is of extreme and paramount importance for us all and how it affects and threatens our planet, community, and our very way of life. She especially focussed on the disproportionate effects of climate change upon the female community of our society marginalizing them further. She also expressed her disappointment for not accounting for the voice of women while undertaking climate action and neglecting the intimate knowledge of the local environment passed on through generations that might prove of immense help and benefit in the fight against climate change.

Talking about the disproportionate representation of women in decisions making process and senior leadership of our country, she called for a gender-responsive approach to climate change to understand women's needs and perspectives and integrate them within climate policies to make them more diverse and inclusive. She suggested understanding women's role in promoting sustainable practices and using their knowledge for building resilience against climate change.



Moderator:

Prof. Narnia Bohler-Muller, divisional executive of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable, and Ethical State division and Advocate, W20 HoD, South Africa

Calling Climate Change the most pressing issue facing humanity, Professor Muller adjudged the Climate crisis of far worse proportion than the COVID pandemic and asked global leaders and people to acknowledge it as a reality. She quoted Greta Thunberg “To all of you who choose to look the other way every day because you seem more frightened of the changes that can prevent catastrophic climate change than the catastrophic climate change itself. Your silence is almost worst of all.”

She then put this in the context of gender equality and called those out who look away from the need for gender equality apprehensive of the changes it might bring, ignoring the discrimination and challenges faced by women in our society proclaiming their silence as the worst of all. She then highlighted how G20 nations account for 75% of global CO2 emissions and called on these economic powers to take responsibility for their actions and come up with a capable and working framework to promote climate action and fight climate action.



Panelists:

Ms. Tess Mateo, Senior Advisor to AQAL Capital and the United Nations on Gender and Climate; and Managing Director of CXCatalysts, W20 USA Delegate

Highlighting the harmful effects of greenhouse emissions, Ms. Mateo talked about the need for radical measures to solve the critical issue of climate change and work towards building a sustainable future. She highlighted the failure of nations to reduce their greenhouse emissions under the Paris Agreement and the need for radical, responsive, and disruptive measures to bridge this gap.

She iterated that women have untapped potential to address climate change and can work together to carve out policies and solutions necessary to promote climate action and build up resiliency against climate change.



Ms. Kanika Pal, South Asia Sustainability Director, Unilever

Ms. Pal emphasized the need of humanizing the data to really understand the on-ground realities, problems, and issues. The data-driven approach sometimes reduces the people gravely affected by the effects of climate change merely into data points. So, we need to look at local levels to really understand how climate change is seriously impacting women and girls and their daily activities.

The public-private relationship can be utilized to ensure gender parity in the workforce and provide economic independence to women necessary to help them contribute to fighting against climate change. She iterated the need of bringing the global issue of climate change to a local level to understand its impact on vulnerable and marginalized communities and find solutions necessary to help them sustain against this problem.

Ms. Tatiana Der Avedissian, Head of Business Development of the World Ocean Initiative at The Economist, UK & Co-President of the HKSWN

Ms. Der Avedissian asked the leaders to shift their primary focus to our planet, solving climate change, and preserving the crucial natural resources bestowed upon us necessary for the proper functioning of our global system. She emphasized the need to re-think the value we associate with our scarce and sacred natural resources and the action needed to be taken to tackle the rapidly increasing climate change in the post-pandemic world. She expressed her frustration due to the inability to create valuable change due to a lack of political will, awareness, and finance.

She then suggested the creation of roadmaps and timelines to address climate degradation and the establishment of a proper framework with strategic plans and partners such as organizations, civil societies, and the private sector to aid this fight against climate change. She re-emphasized that women can act as change agents for climate action by contributing to the leadership and decision-making process necessary to attain climate and gender-equity commitments.

Ms. Arpita Pattnaik, Executive Director, Humara Bachpan Trust

Ms. Pattnaik highlighted the need for including grassroots women and girls in climate action and building resiliency against climate change. She talked about the need to include women in climate action discourse as they are disproportionately affected by climate change and must get a platform to raise their voices, opinions, and needs. She further emphasized that grassroots women and girls have the ability to counter climate change and act as eco-changemakers through their traditional and intimate knowledge of local climate that might prove beneficial towards achieving a sustainable future.

She recommended about grassroots leadership promotion by building agencies of Eco Changemakers, encouraging and investing in bring more grassroots women in green and blue economy and the government to invest in qualitative education and skills for girls to foster climate participation and leadership. This will enable grassroots women and girls to fight to take participation in the fight against climate change in large numbers.



Ms. Hari Priya Mohanty, Grassroots Eco change maker

Ms. Mohanty expressed her gratitude towards W20 for providing her with a platform to express herself on a global stage. She emphasized that the right opportunities allow women to break the glass ceiling and traditional stereotypes and contribute to global issues such as climate change. She represented the thousands of rural women of her locality how contributing against climate change by setting up a mangrove plantation to counter the rising sea levels that were forcing them to shift from their ancestral homes and villages. She also shared the eco tourism initiative taken up by women, different climate friendly and climate adaptive livelihoods that they are adopting at the grassroots by which they are not only contributing to the household economy, but to the environment protection also. She highlighted that given an opportunity, right skill and encouragement women at the grassroots can be a solution to the global problem of climate change.



Recommendations

- The need to implement a Gender-Responsive approach to climate change.
- The inclusion of women in leadership and decision-making to present women's needs and perspectives on climate change and integrate them within climate policy for inclusive outcomes.
- Utilize the traditional and intimate knowledge of the grassroots women to promote sustainable practices and build resiliency against climate change.
- The G20 nations must be held accountable for their greenhouse emissions and accept greater responsibility in the fight against climate change.
- Develop a conducive framework to popularise the issue and amplify the fight against climate change.
- Adopt radical measures to solve the critical issue of climate change.
- Facilitate and incentivize women to partake in sustainable entrepreneurship and contribute to net zero commitments.
- Accelerate the transition to green and renewable sources of energy.
- Humanize the data to better understand the real impact of climate change at a local level and devise solutions to promote climate action.
- Utilize public-private relationships to promote and encourage women to partake in climate action by providing and educating them about sustainable livelihood options.
- Promote grassroots women and girls participation in leadership and decision-making process, provide opportunity to contribute towards the solution of the global problem of climate change.
- Creation of action-oriented roadmaps and timelines along with strategic plans to counter climate change.
- The need for cooperation among NGOs, civil societies, and the public and private sectors to counter climate change and propel women to the forefront of the fight against climate change by re-imagining them as change agents.
- The government should invest in qualitative education and skills for women and girls to contribute to this fight in innovative ways.
- Make investment to promote women participation in green, blue and circular economy.

**DAY 1:
13TH APRIL**

Special Address by Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State, Culture, Government of India

Mr. Meghwal welcomed the W20 delegates to the city of Jaipur, Rajasthan, and thanked the W20 leadership for the opportunity to attend this illustrious gathering. Mr. Meghwal highlighted the Indian Government's initiative of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" which he considered a crucial part of India's endeavour to promote gender equality and women-led development. He also talked about many other initiatives including "Sukanya Samridhi Yojana" which has helped in breaking social ceilings, and traditional stereotypes and quashing the orthodox mindsets that have long hindered the growth and development of women and girls in India.

He also emphasized PM Jan Dhan Yojana which promoted the inclusion of women in the formal financial sector and has helped them in achieving financial freedom and self-reliance. He highlighted many other programs launched by Prime Minister Modi's regime to promote women's empowerment including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the initiative to build basic toilet facilities for women. He also voiced his appreciation for SHGs or Self-Help Groups that have provided economic independence for women and thanked the government for creating a valuable framework that has enabled women's economic empowerment.



**DAY 2:
14TH APRIL**

Grassroots Leadership- Leading From The Frontlines

This plenary provided valuable insights into how we can support women entrepreneurs and promote grassroots leadership. Grassroots movements have been significant throughout history for their effort, ideology, and consistency. Realizing its importance, W20 India is working upon the vision of “Women-Led Development” initiated by our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi which aims to institute women at the forefront of our society and establish a framework to reshape them as the core architects of our society rather than limiting them to the sidelines where they are marginalized from the mainstream opportunities and the decision-making process. As women constitute one-third of entrepreneurs, it becomes crucial to discuss and promote women-led entrepreneurship. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, W20 aims to identify challenges and pathways to ensure equal participation by women at the grassroots level.





Session Objectives:

- Identify challenges and pathways to ensuring equal participation by girls and women in political and public leadership at the grassroots level, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Review the state of play regarding women entrepreneurs around the world.
- Share best practices to increase the number of women entrepreneurs.

Discuss policy recommendations to promote women-led entrepreneurship



Panelists:

Ms Elvira Morasco, W20 Italy

Ms Elvira Morasco shared stories of successful entrepreneurial ventures founded by women in Italy that made a positive impact in their local community.



Ms Bharati Ghosh, Former IPS, former UN Official and National Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party

Ms Bharti Ghosh said that grassroots leadership is very significant by virtue of its origin at the grassroots. She spoke about Digital Sarthaks, the women who used technological solutions to aid people during waves of Covid-19. Such grassroots women were able to bring about behavioural change in their communities. She added that the Jal Jeevan Mission witnessed an unprecedented transformation in water and sanitation, contributing to women empowerment and enabling women-led development. She spoke about the Prime Minister's Mudra Scheme, which provides credit to support entrepreneurial ventures and has 390 million beneficiaries, 74% of whom are women. She added that the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana has 55% of its bank accounts registered in the name of women. She added that 45% of startups in India have been founded by women.





Ms Virginia Littlejohn, Founder Quantum Leaps, Co-Head of W20 US Delegation

Ms Virginia Littlejohn spoke about the Women Entrepreneurship Act (WE Act) enacted in the USA and the International Strategic Accelerator for Women. She added that W20 countries must facilitate opportunities for digital transformation, women's entrepreneurship and AI for women to participate in these processes for social empowerment. She suggested creating a Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code and a policy framework to provide impetus to a women's entrepreneurship ecosystem. She emphasised focusing on action and implementation of W20 policy recommendations. She expressed the belief that India's W20 Presidency is going to be transformational, ambitious and radical.

Smt. Darshana Jardosh, Minister of State for Railways and Textiles, Government of India

Smt Darshana Jardosh emphasised that India's G20 Presidency can unite the entire world in pursuit of common goals and well-being for all, demonstrating the true spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. She remarked that India is rapidly moving towards women-led development. She added that at the grassroots level, 33% reservation for women in local elections provides a huge impetus to women's grassroots leadership. She added that the Women's Entrepreneurship Platform launched by the NITI Aayog enables women to exchange best practices and cultivate skills for entrepreneurship. She extended gratitude to all the attending delegates and wished them great success.



Recommendations

- Facilitate women-led cooperatives on a community model for the creation of manufacturing supply chains.
- Communities of women should take the lead in creating prospects for grassroots leadership, entrepreneurship and empowerment.
- Strengthen the role of women in the planning and implementation of schemes
- ○ Give women leadership roles in village committees.
- Skilling women in digital monitoring and reporting technologies and equipment handling to enable them to lead scheme implementation at the grassroots level.
- Supporting women's entrepreneurial ventures through the provision of institutional credit support along the lines of the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana in India.
- Assist women entrepreneurs with market linkages and opportunities to showcase their products and services in the market along the lines of the Prime Minister's Samarth Yojana in India and the Mahila E-Haat online marketing platform for women entrepreneurs.
- Create opportunities for the development of women's skills, digital literacy, health and nutrition to enable capacity building to usher in women's entrepreneurship along the lines of the Prime Minister's Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme in India.
- Facilitate opportunities for fundraising, grant writing as well as partnerships to nurture women's entrepreneurship.
- Implementing the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code.
- Create national strategies to support women's entrepreneurship, and access to finance at all stages along the business continuum.
- Creating a policy framework on women's entrepreneurship and ecosystem development at all stages along the business continuum.
- Facilitating women entrepreneurs' access to markets, corporates, government, trade and e-commerce.
- Creating policies to facilitate grassroots leadership, transformational education, green transition, digital transformation, gender-disaggregated data, and AI in the service of humanity.
- Promote girls' education and employment along the lines of India's 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign.
- Facilitate subsidies and microcredit opportunities to support women's entrepreneurship across sectors ranging from handloom, handicraft, and beyond.

**DAY 2:
14TH APRIL**

Discussion on Communiqué

The Communiqué Drafting team conducted a preliminary closed-door meeting with the W20 delegates prior to the taskforce meetings on the second day of the 2nd W20 International Meeting in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The objective of the meeting was to provide suggestions to the delegates regarding the second draft of the recommendations that each taskforce has to provide to the communiqué drafting committee.



The committee shared a template for the W20 communiqué with the international delegates and urged them to separate the recommendations (What you want the leaders to do?) and the action plans (How do you want the leaders to do it?). They also suggested all taskforces put forward succinct introductions and recommendations, and urged them to put forward only 3-5 recommendations. The committee informed the delegates about the use of a glossary at the end of the W20's communiqué to explain the terminology used in the recommendations and suggested the use of action words to describe the action plan. They presented the tentative timeline of the communiqué drafting process, seeking suggestions and feedback from the delegates regarding the same.

The communiqué drafting committee also addressed the queries and concerns of the W20 delegates. The delegates were informed that the areas from the recommendation which apply to all the themes/ key priority areas of W20 will be put in a separate section called 'Cross-Cutting Areas/Enablers'. The action plan, which will not exceed 2.5 pages for the entire communiqué (2 per taskforce), must be backed by research. Taskforces should create a section on the best practices and cite the sources including the URL. Ms Shamika Ravi, Chair of the communiqué drafting committee, elaborated on the advocacy process after the communiqué has been drafted, which will include meetings with several working groups. The delegates provided feedback to the communique team regarding changes in the tentative timeline. They urged the communiqué drafting committee to conduct a final review of the final communiqué with all the delegates once the communiqué completion work has been done. This will be done in 2-3 days. The delegates also emphasised focusing on advocacy with other engagement groups of G20 to ensure synergy between the engagement groups.



**DAY 2:
14TH APRIL**

Taskforce meeting

A closed-door taskforce meeting on each of the 5 key priority areas of the W20 was organised on 14th April in Jaipur, Rajasthan for the W20 delegates. The meeting was conducted in hybrid mode, with some delegates joining virtually. The objective of the meeting was to work collectively on preparing draft 2 of the recommendations for the communiqué. The delegates were instructed by the Communiqué Drafting team to ensure that the introduction and recommendations of each taskforce were succinct. The delegates also ensured that the recommendations did not cover any cross-cutting areas



Art Workshop, Department of Tourism, Govt of Rajasthan

The Pichwai art workshop organized by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Rajasthan for the W20 delegates in Jaipur, India was a remarkable experience. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to delve into the traditional art form of Rajasthan, India, and learn the techniques, history, and cultural significance of Pichwai art.

The instructor expertly guided participants in creating their own Pichwai painting, using natural pigments and brushes. The workshop offered a unique insight into the creative process while fostering a deep appreciation for the skills and artistry involved in producing such beautiful pieces. Overall, it was an inspiring and enlightening experience that allowed participants to engage with a rich cultural heritage and create their own masterpieces.

Cultural Evening & Gala Dinner

The cultural evening and gala dinner organized at the Lalit Jaipur, Rajasthan, was a celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage. The evening was filled with traditional Rajasthani folk dances, showcasing the vibrant and colourful culture of the state. The dancers, dressed in exquisite Rajasthani attire, performed a variety of dances, including Ghoomar, Kalbelia, and Chari. The audience was mesmerized by the intricate footwork, graceful movements, and vibrant energy of the performers. The gala dinner featured delicious Rajasthani cuisine, including Dal Baati, Rajasthani Kadi, Gatte ki Sabzi, and Lal Maas. The delegates interacted with the talented artisans, who had set up stalls to showcase puppetry, Rajasthani bangles, tarot card reading, and Heena block printing. The evening provided a perfect blend of culture, food, and entertainment, leaving the guests with a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of Rajasthan's cultural heritage.



Leadership Development of Women through YOGA by Patanjali University

The participants were deeply engaged in the session and left feeling invigorated and inspired. The yoga session provided them with valuable tools for self-awareness and inner strength, which they can use to enhance their leadership skills and create a positive impact in their communities. The session was a success, and the participants left with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to make a difference in the world.



Visit to Amer Fort and Nahargarh Fort

The excursion to Amer Fort and Nahargarh Fort in Jaipur, Rajasthan, coordinated by the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, proved to be a captivating experience for the international delegates. The forts are magnificent examples of Rajasthani architecture and are steeped in history and cultural significance. The delegates were spellbound by the intricate carvings, impressive courtyards, and stunning panoramic views of the city. The forts provided a fascinating insight into the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan, and the delegates were thrilled to learn about the region's past. The excursion was an opportunity for the delegates to appreciate the grandeur and magnificence of Rajasthan's architectural heritage, leaving them with unforgettable memories.



Excursion to Jaipur, The Pink City

The excursion to Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 15th April proved to be an immersive experience for the international delegates as they explored the cultural and historical landmarks of the city. The tour commenced at Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh II. It provided a fascinating insight into ancient Indian astronomy. The delegates were fascinated by the advanced technology of the instruments used for measuring time, predicting eclipses, and tracking celestial bodies. They appreciated the monument's historical significance and were impressed by its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

The delegates then proceeded to the City Palace, a palace complex that showcases the architectural splendor of Rajasthan's past. The grandeur of the palace left the delegates spellbound, as they explored the intricately carved walls, impressive courtyards, and awe-inspiring gardens.



THawa Mahal, a unique architectural wonder, proved to be a memorable experience for the international delegates. The palace's 953 jharokhas, or windows, offered stunning views of the city and provided respite from the heat of the region. The delegates were fascinated by the palace's design and connection to Rajasthan's history.

In summary, the excursion to Jaipur proved to be an enriching experience for the international delegates as they explored the city's cultural and historical heritage. The tour provided them with a glimpse into the grandeur of Rajasthan's past and the region's artistic and scientific prowess. It was an opportunity for them to appreciate the beauty and richness of Rajasthan's cultural heritage and to engage with the local community. The tour was a resounding success, and the delegates departed with a newfound appreciation for Jaipur and the State of Rajasthan.





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