



ROUND-TABLE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF LEGISLATIVE DEFINITION OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

On March 31 2022, the EBRD hosted a round-table workshop on International Experience of Legislative Definition of Women's Entrepreneurship at the Hyatt Regency in Dushanbe with over 35 participants, including representatives of relevant ministries and departments, private sector, business associations and development partners. This roundtable was organised under the initiative of the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management of the Republic of Tajikistan (Task Force), the Secretariat of the Advisory Council under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on improving

of "Women's Entrepreneurship", the International Standard (ISO) for the



definition of women's entrepreneurship, Acceptable criteria for the legislative definition of women's entrepreneurship in the Republic of Tajikistan and Development of options for implementing a legislative definition of women-led business to improve the policy and legal framework for accelerating the development of women's entrepreneurship.

THE LACK OF HARMONIZATION OF DEFINITIONS AND A GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION CREATES A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN THE ECOSYSTEM OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

the investment climate and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The purpose of the round-table was to



discuss the international experience of formally defining the concept



The round-table was opened by the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Investment and State Property Management Ms. Khurshedai Qodir who emphasized the importance of Legal aspects of defining the concept of women's entrepreneurship in

international practice," and said that today's event will give a strong impetus to support women's entrepreneurship in Tajikistan. It was reminded that at the 22nd Session of the Consultative Council on improvement of investment climate under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan a number of instructions was given to the relevant ministries and agencies regarding this issue by the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Chairman of the Council, H.E. Emomali Rahmon as of March 16, 2022. Her speech continued by the first Deputy Minister of Justice Ms. Nigina Alizoda on the current legal improvements to promote women and youths in SME and stressed that the



round-table is quite useful to identify the issues and next steps in the sector. Then after, Ms. Dildora Tadjibaeva - a regional policy coordinator on behalf of EBRD took the lead and presented a presentation on "International Practice for Legislative Definition of Women's Entrepreneurship and International Standards (ISO) for definition of Women Entrepreneurship and following outstanding topics were discussed in details:

- Ownership criteria for women-owned businesses;
- Ownership criteria for women-led businesses;
- Ownership criteria for women-led cooperatives;

- Management criteria for women-owned



and women-led businesses;
 - Management criteria for women-led cooperatives and women-led informal enterprises.

Lastly, as per the event agenda a few key stakeholders including First Deputy Committee for Women and Family Affairs Nigorakhon Ghafforzoda, Deputy Director of the Agency on statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan Kiyomiddin Davlatzoda, and Leading Specialist of the Tax Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan Zuhul Jabborzoda.

Representatives of relevant ministries and departments, representatives of the private sector, business associations and development partners took part in the work of the round table and discussion.

The presentation and speeches were followed by the comments and discussion collected from the participants and based on them, the Task Force will continue in



three key approaches:

- Promote a better social and regulatory environment for MSMEs development in general in Tajikistan, with a special



focus women-led, including simplification of taxation, inspections, access to finance and land;

- Give priority to the economic reforms in the promising sectors, largely represented by the women-led businesses or industries such as textile sector, handicrafts, tourism and service, agriculture;
- Develop, support and implement the gender responsive economic policies and programs focused on women economic empowerment in Tajikistan, including capacity building of the key players in this process to ensure effective implementation and sustainability of the developed policy.

During the summing up of the round table, the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Khurshedai Kodir, expressed confidence that, given the importance of the topics discussed related to the definition of legal aspects of women's entrepreneurship in the Republic of Tajikistan, at the same time, the initiatives will continue aimed to develop and implement gender aspects in the political and



legislative process, monitoring the impact of gender-related national plans development strategies and projects through the establishment of criteria and indicators.