

OAS Women's Economic Empowerment Project

**OAS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

WEE PARTICIPATING EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND THE WIDER CARIBBEAN

"POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SECURING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF OUR COUNTRIES"

Thursday 6 June, 2024

Duration 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (AST/EST)

Virtual - Zoom Meeting

**OAS ROUNDTABLE: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SECURING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF OUR COUNTRIES**  
 Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
**Women's Economic Empowerment Project**  
**Thursday, June 6, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (EST/AST)**

**Background**

The Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the American States (GS/OAS) is the development arm of the OAS which is mandated to support member states in their efforts to secure sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development as a foundation for democracy, security, social justice and progress. Central to the work of the SEDI is effectuating technical cooperation in all its modalities. A key initiative of the Secretariat is the 'Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies' (WEE) Project to empower women-led and women-owned MSMEs to actively participate in and benefit from the digital economy and build sustainable livelihoods. This project is being implemented in six countries of the Eastern Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and three countries of Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

The 2022-2026 Strategic Plan of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), approved by the CIM Assembly of Delegates, includes a strategic line of action on women's economic rights to advance the analysis of the persistent gaps in the legal framework regarding the economic rights of women to formulate concrete recommendations for instruments and other tools so that the States can strengthen the guarantee and protection of these rights.

A major component of the WEE project is to promote good practices of policies, strategies, and programs for advancing women's leadership and productive engagement in the economic development of their countries. In this regard WEE is partnering with the CIM, capitalizing on its experience as a leader in advocating for policy reforms for increasing women's economic participation and empowerment in the LAC region.

The Roundtable discussion is intended to provide a space for the sharing of good practices and lessons learned in developing and implementing policies geared towards ensuring that women are able to take their rightful places in the economic development of their countries. The experiences and good practices

shared will be documented and published on the WEE MSME Clearinghouse ([wee-msme-clearinghouse.com](http://wee-msme-clearinghouse.com)). The Roundtable discussion is expected to engage public and private sector leaders, women owned and led MSME's industry organizations, OAS Permanent Missions, NGOs, and others from the six WEE participating Eastern Caribbean countries as well as the wider Caribbean.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this Roundtable Discussion are as follows:

1. To exchange good practices, policy reform, and strategies to enhance women's economic participation and leadership in the economy.
2. To identify good practices on strategies and policies to promote business formalization.
3. To identify actionable steps in both policy and programming to address gaps in ensuring women's leadership in the productive sectors/economy.