COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW, also called BPW International)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: April 1, 2021 To: October 30, 2022

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Fribourg, 30th November 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW, also called BPW International) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on the report.

Sincerely yours,

Jr. Callusie Broken

Dr. Catherine Bosshart

President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women 2021-2024

Who we are

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is a non-partisan, non-profit organization of unlimited duration with voluntary membership and leadership:

- 1. It does not discriminate on the basis of background or beliefs, and respects human rights
- 2. Its procedures are democratic, transparent and inclusive of all members
- 3. Its decision-making bodies are accountable to the members
- 4. Its funds are carefully managed and used to promote and achieve its aims

The Organization has had consultative status with the United Nations since 1947 and is now in the first category.

History of the organization

On 15thJuly 1919, Lena Madesin Phiips (September 15, 1881 - May 22, 1955) founded an association called the National Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs. The First World War had increased the workforce of women and it was necessary to help protect the new workforce with labor laws. Very quickly Lena Madesin was also in contact with female leaders in Europe. On several trips she reinforced the contacts. Finally, on August 26, 1930 she founded IFBPW International in Geneva with 6 other countries. The organization is now 92 years old and present in 107 countries with a total of circa 24,000 members. IFBPW obtained consultative status with ECOSOC in 1947. We are present with representatives at the Headquarters of the UN in New York, at the offices in Geneva and Vienna, at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, of FAO in Rome as well as at the Regional office ESCWA in Bangkok. The work of our representatives is with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ILO, UNCE, UNECE, DPI, CEDAW, the Human Rights Council and the Business and Human Rights Conference.

MISSION: To aggregate business women and professionals guiding and coordinating their full development in the spheres of public power and the labor market.

VISION: To be recognized as a collective of female leaders, irrespective of race and creed, attracting and maintaining female personalities by assessing them, providing exchange of experience and enhancing entrepreneurship.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To develop the professional and leadership

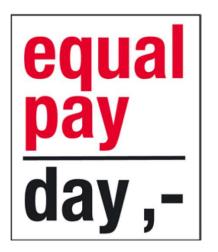
potential of women at all levels through rights achievements, mentoring, networking,

empowerment and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world

II. Description of our Activities

PROJECTS 2021-2022

1. Equal Pay Day





To create awareness of equal pay day.

12 indicators to investigate before inverting your labour force in a country:

1. national gendered statistics about total wage gap (not full time equivalents) updated annually ;

- 2. minimum wages ;
- 3. law on authorizing unions ;
- 4. law on professional equality to negotiate within companies ;
- 5. law on professional equality to negotiate within branches/sectors ;
- 6. specific law regarding pay equality in companies ;
- 7. law on violence at work linked with gender and LGBT ;
- 8. law on risk prevention ;
- 9. law regarding telework ;
- 10. parental leave : number of days paid or not method of sharing
- 11. maternity leave : number of days paid or not
- 12. paternity leave : number of days paid or not

2. 'BUSINESS TOOL'

The initiative involves the creation of a professional database of Members: the "Professional Bank".

Each Member joins the project by making their professionalism, skills, passions and experience available to the Section.

If needed, each Member can draw on the "BancaProfessionale" created within the Section, in accordance with the rules and regulations governing it.

The relationship for professional exchange that will be established is based on a free initial consultation and on the trust that is granted by the Organization that uses it.

Goals

- Get to know the members from a professional aspect
- Appreciate and share the skills, know-how and knowledge present in their section
- Compare work experience
- Able to access high quality professional advice
- Create a network and support female professionalism
- Expand business potential among the members of the section

3. Project for Displaced Afghan Women



This project is intended to provide displaced Afghan business and professional women with tools to regain dignity, establish themselves, and rebuild.

BPW Topic 8, 9, 10

SDG 4, 8, 10

Resources: Many Afghans arrived with one set of clothes. They need new clothes (undergarments, little used loose clothing, large scarves). Donations are being used to provide new, modest undergarments. We also seek fabric and sewing machines.

Guidebook: using stories and life hacks from immigrant women who experienced common perceptions/misconceptions, and who faced fundamental/common differences as business & professional women, entrepreneurs, and young women going to university. The guidebook is structured so that it can be adapted to any women moving to a new country. No equivalent information exists for business and professional women in the US.

Advocacy: Cultural competency training is being developed for those engaged in empowering and advocating for immigrant women and their families. Complementary training is being developed for newly arrived refugees.

Mentorship: Our vibrant mentoring program will be launched for Afghan women seeking allies and mentors.

We are creating a living document that can be adapted for any group of displaced women in any country. The concept is to use the real experiences of displaced women and immigrants to help new arrivals to achieve dignity, independence and integration into their new home more quickly. With this comes advocacy, mentorship resources and training to bridge cultural gaps and to support understanding and respect among business and professional women.

4. TECH4GIRLS



STEAM - should this be STEM

To deliver digital skills workshops to young women in Australia and the Pacific; and increase participation in STEM careers.

BPW Australia with CWBN, as part of the UN Equals Partnership goal to deliverTech4Girls workshops offering hands-on STEM activities and training to young women (aged 18-25).

The workshops are designed to inspire girls and young women to pursue STEM-related studies and careers and to boost their confidence in their ability to pursue STEM studies and careers intech or tech-related fields.

5. Values-Led Mentoring Program



Program to empower women and build confidence with a focus on values-led leadership

This annual, six-month mentoring program seeks to empower women, build confidence and leadership capability, strengthen economic independence, support female labour force

participation and ultimately reduce the gender gap in the economic status of women in the Northern Territory of Australia.



6. Women and the Future of Work

Description

BPW Australia has teamed up with the economic Security4Women (eS4W) to survey women on their experiences and expectations on the future of work in Australia.

Part of the background to the results was the disruption to work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted on employment, hours worked, workplace participation, incomes and in many instances, the workplace. COVID-19 also had a significant impact on unpaid work, with unpaid care work a high-profile issue in the survey results.

There were many important work place themes and structural changes in the labour market unfolding before the emergence of COVID-19 and these are also incorporated into the findings and issues as to how the labour market will evolve in future.

7. WOMEN ON BOARDS



The project promotes Women on Boards all over the world.

The goals are:

To introduce a beneficial restructuring of boards

To promote the evaluation of policies to promote women's rights

To promote the effects of corporate governance: the gender quota law is improving the quality of boards (not only women, but also men)

PROJECTS 2022

1. AWARD about Women's Rights



Project Goal

To promote our association to the younger generation through the award

To fight violence against women

To collaborate with schools.

Description

The project wants to promote education and respect of women's rights in schools.

The project would like to give a cash award to highlight the best theme or class work on:

Violence Against Women or

Women's Rights

Timescale

The Prize will be awarded annually. Therefore, each year a different club, chosen in rotation by the Standing Committee on Membership, will organize the competition at local level.

Date of the event

25 November, International Day against Violence against Women or

8 March, International Women's Rights Day.

The award will be given to girls in their final year of high school. The school concerned will be chosen by the local club through appropriate contact with the school headmaster.

2. Equal Pay Day 2022



The struggle to close the gender pay gap is worldwide and ongoing. At BPW International we aim to achieve fair and equal pay for all women. Our Federation has led this fight and has been able to gain momentum when it comes to equal pay.

Every year we have taken the streets and paired up with our local and national representatives to raise awareness of this issue. We have made public demands to close the gender pay gap through our social media channels.

3. Feminist Response and Recovery - IDEA4 Gender Equality



To advance women's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 through targeted systemic change to the Canadian workplace, marketplace and community.

SDG

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

BPW Topics

1. BPW Membership, BPW Organizational Development, Strategies, PR

- 4. Economy, Business, Finances, Trade, Employment
- 8. Leadership, Development, Lifelong Learning, Training

The project will explore strategies and solutions to address structural barriers associated with:women's time famine and burden of care, access to affordable quality childcare, flexible work arrangements, leadership and wage gaps. We will address systemic barriers by advancing inclusive policies and practices, increasing networks and collaboration to accelerate systemic change, and address harmful gender norms and attitudes to women's equality. It will spark a gender+ equality innovation challenge workplace culture. We will use collaborative partnerships across businesses, community and government, through an online community platform. We will address discriminatory legislation, policies, and practices preventing women and girls from participating in the social, political and economic spheres; design and implement policies and practices to increase women's labour market participation and opportunities; and engage men and boys to combat harmful gender norms and advance gender equality.

4. Kitchen Gardening



Project Goal

The project seeks to implant and maintain permanent Kitchen Gardening. 'Provide your own food by working the land.'

BPW Lebanon is part of the 2021-2024 International Standing Committee of Agriculture with the Project Kitchen Gardening

We meet regularly to implement permanent management on how to plant seasonal vegetables, fruits and horticulture. The project seeks to implant and maintain permanent Kitchen Gardening. The objective is to gather enough subsidies to encourage other women to plant on a small scale, by doing that they are protecting the environment.

5. Programme WOMEN STAND-UP : "Support to women"



The Support to women project is carried out in Cameroon and is an initiative of the WOMENSTAND-UP programme of the BPW Wouri Cameroon Association.

The mission of the WOMEN STAND-UP programme is to promote women's knowledge, skills and attitude, education and training for women's self-entrepreneurship in various regions of Cameroon. Sustainable management of natural resources and the popularisation of smallscale trades initiated by women.

The Support to Women project is part of this mission to support women in their communities. It was set up with the aim of improving the living conditions of young people 6. Support project to help displaced women to get financial autonomy



The project aims to empower displaced women and girls through training in incomegenerating activities.

The project aims to empower displaced women and girls, victims of obstetric fistula, prolapse, and rape, through training in income-generating activities, namely: latex/weaving, soap making, market gardening, animal husbandry and fish farming.

After training, the women and girls will be provided with installation kits, according to the training received.

They will then be installed in different areas to practise their trade. A follow-up will be done periodically to follow the evolution of the work of these women and girls, set up on their own account.

7. Women Strengthening Women - BPW Mentorship Program



Capitalizing on the skills, knowledge and expertise of our members to provide a tangible benefit of membership to new and existing members.

Launch one cohort every six months consisting of 10 relationships. These relationships can be a mix of one-on-one matches and mentoring groups. All delivered online over a 6-month period. A mentor coach and mentee coach role has been created for additional support to the respective groups should there be challenges, issues, etc. that arise. The mentoring program is free.

8. Projects to support Ukrainian refugees

BPW International made a call for action to support Ukranian refugees. In a short time, the organization collected around 80,000.- Euros among its members. The funds were distributed to help:

- 9. Our club in Cernihiv. The President of this Club is still living in Cernihiv. We were able to send a lorry of most needed goods for the Club members and the town.
- 10. Refugees on their way out of the country. We supported an Institution in Lviv giving shelter and food to refugees . Lviv is close to the Polish border.

- 11. Project of the Polish Federation: Help to provide trauma relief to Ukrainian children through dance and painting.
- 12. Project of the Club Arad in Romania: Language lesson to Ukrainian refugees in the town of Arad.
- 13. Project of the Italian Federation: Scholarships to its seven districts for Ukranian students to continue their studies at an Italian university in the district.
- 14. Project of the Club of Madrid, Spain: the project coaches female Ukrainian refugees to create their own businesses through training on how to create a business plan, evaluation and personal coaching. So far around 50 women have participated in this project.

s. List of all projects of BPW International is attached to this report

III. Partnerships

African Business Council

To realize our objectives and the ten principles of the Global Compact Partnerships are of utmost importance. Coordinated actions are multiplyers for our objectives. Moreover, the theme of the current triennium is "New Actions through Cooperations". On February 17, 2022 we signed a Partnership with the African Business Council in Brussels.

The objective of this partnership is to create business opportunities for SME's in Africa led by women, to advocate for a percentage of government procurement for women which covers at least the amount of 30% and to cooperate worldwide for business opportunities for African Women.

Blue Sea Land

Is a partnership which was concluded in 2018 to promote the businesses of women in the area of sustainable fishery.

Italian Exhibition Group

The partnership was signed in 2020 between IFBPW, the African Business Council and the Italian Exhibition Group. As a first step we concentrated on bringing African female mine owners and jewellers to the Vizenzaoro exhibit with the purpose of selling their products directly to the jewel market without having an intermediate buyer. In January 2023, we will organize a one day convention to promote sustainable mining during the Vizenzaoro exhibit.

Women for Water Partnership

Members of IFBPW are represented in the Executive of WfWP. We collaborate also in parallel events during the Commission on the Status of Women.

Trasmed GLE – Grimaldi Lines

On February 22, 2022 the inauguration of the partnership with this ferryline to promote Equal Pay took place on the ferry in the harbour of Palma de Mallorca. Every year, this company will hoist the respective flag on each of his ships to promote equal pay for equal work on Equal Pay Day.

Salvamento Maritímo, Madrid

The Salvamento Maritimo (Coast Guard) of Spain, the Standing Committee of Business, Development and Training and IFBPW signed a partnership on the 27th of October 2022 to promote a greater participation of women in this male-dominated sector.

Project 5-O

Project Five-O is concerned with vocational and other training for women and girls in developing countries and countries in transition. The object of Project Five-O is to use the skills and expertise of the members of the participating organizations to support training courses in income-generating skills, including employment and working skills, marketing and small business operations, accompanied by training in health, nutrition, hygiene, child care and literacy. In general, projects are supported in countries where both organizations have a club or a Federation and can follow and accomplish a project on the ground.

International Trade Center

BPW International actively supports actions of the ITC, especially the action HE for She.

Global Summit of Women

This partnership helps female Leaders to meet once a year. IFBPW is actively helping to organize the annual Congress all over the world. For example, the home planning committee in Bangkok in June 2022 consisted namely of IFBPW members.

IV. Communication

1. Website

After the election of the new President in March 2021, she had a special focus on communication as a means of promulgating our objectives, our work and that of our partners. A new webpage was published which is regularly updated and contains all our news, reports, papers submitted to the UN and its agencies as well as a library with all our government documents and essential documents for Federations and Clubs.

2. Newsletter

From May 2021 onwards, IFBPW has published a newsletter every month (exception: month of July) with the latest news, achievements and projects of the International Executive, the Standing Committees, the Task Forces, the activities of the International President and the Running Calender with the events and actions of the organization communicated to us. A regular communication regarding the constitution helps our membership to understand the International Governance documents. The Newsletter is widely read and shared by Club and Federation Presidents with their members.

3. Webinars

From 2021, we also started to produce webinars on the Constitution, the Finance Policy, the Membership, the Commission on the Status of Women, the organization and work of the UN and its agencies as well as the Standing Committees. This initiative is widely accepted and can also be listened to on our youtube channel after the date of the emission.

4. The Directory

IFBPW is one of the only NGO's to have a directory of its own membership. This was possible due to an anonymous donation by a feminist. The creation of this international business card allows the members to connect with each other worldwide and to do business. It also shows to all our stakeholders the competence and skills present in IFBPW. We started first with a test phase in February 2022; in the following months we eliminated all flaws within the program which was especially created for the needs of our organization. The program was launched for use on September 1, 2022. It is still taking time and promotion until all the members are registered.

Fribourg, November 30th, 2022

Jr. Callusie Broker

Dr. Catherine Bosshart

President of IFBPW 2021-2024

Annex

- 1. IFBPW Partnerships
- 2. IFBPW Website
- 3. IFBPW Newsletter
- 4. IFBPW Webinars
- 5. IFBPW Youtube Channel
- 6. IFBPW Directory
- 7. List of IFBPW Projects (296)

1. IFBPWs Partnerships





ITALIAN EXHIBITION GROUP Providing the future











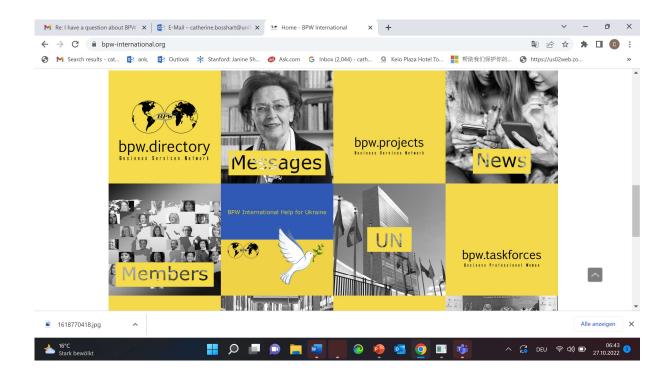
International Trade Centre





2. IFBPW Website

www.bpw-internatoinal.org



3. IFBPW Newsletter

www.bpw-international.org/newsletter/ - www.bpw-international.org/newsletter-archive/



BPW International News

October 23, 2022 - 2nd volume 2022 / No. 8

Challenges for Women's Rights



BPW International Executive Board Meeting, Switzerland - October 3-8, 2022



Dear Presidents of BPW Dear Members

Never forget that it will only take a political, economic or religious crisis to challenge women's rights. These rights can never be taken for granted. You will need to remain vigilant throughout your lives.

(Simone de Beauvoir)

Simone de Beauvoir draws our attention to the social situations that can threaten women's rights.

And we see as an example the decision of the US Supreme Court to repeal Roe v. Wade, the national solution to the abortion issue that had been in force in the US since 1973. With the decision of 24 June 2022, this fundamental question was repealed with the so-called Dobbs decision. In the absence of a comprehensive federal law, the states can again decide on the landity of shortions. For women in many states in the IISA this means the



BPW International News

November 18, 2022 - 2nd volume 2022 / No. 9

International Meetings 2023-2024



Part of the BPW International Executive Board with BPW UK - October 19, 2022



Dear Presidents of BPW Dear Members

The Commission on the Status of Women 67, CSW67-2023, is in preparation. You will find all our information in this Newsletter and on the website.

Finally, it is possible to visit the next Congress location in Argentina. COVID-19 did not help, travel was not feasible for quite some time. Until now, we were not able to do a Congress venue inspection.

Usually, this task is the responsibility of the President of the previous triennium. If you remember, by the time the Latin-American Region decided on which Federation would want to be the organizer of the next Congress, the whole world was under lock-down and it would have been very risky or virtually impossible to travel to Arcentina.

4) bpw.webinars





February 28, 2022 - 16:00h CET Dr. Catherine Bosshart, BPW International President 2021-2024 CSW - What is CSW and how does it work?





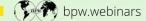
March 29, 2022 - 16:00h CET

Dr. Giuseppina Seidita, BPW International VP Membership 2021-2024 BPW International Membership





April 28, 2022 - 16:00h CET Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla JD, BPW International Executive Secretary 2021-2024 **Understanding BPW International's Constitution**





2 June 2022 - 21:00h CET (UTC+2) Cristina Gorajski Visconti, BPW International Chair SC Agriculture 2021-2024 Standing Committee Agriculture Information - Actions - Business Ideas





15 lune 2022

Dr. Catherine Bosshart, BPW International President 2021-2024, in cooperation with Géraldine Crevat, Intercontinental Online Meetings

Different functions of the UN and BPW commitment with the UN

bpw.webinars



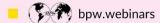
16 Juin 2022

Dr. Catherine Bosshart, BPW International President 2021-2024, en coopération avec Géraldine Crevat, Intercontinental Online Meetings

Les différentes fonctions de l'ONU et l'engagement de BPW auprès de l'ONU









5. IFBPW Yout

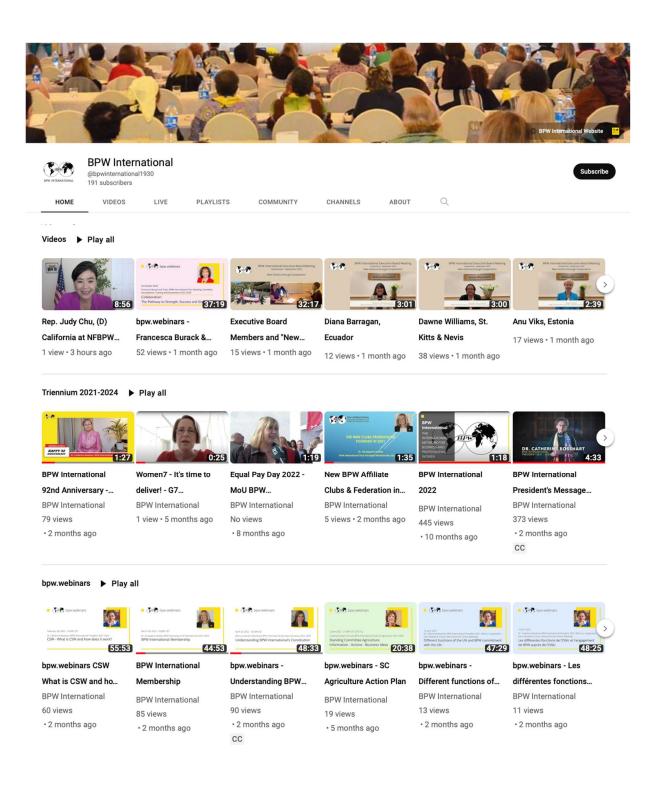
26 October 2022 Francesca Burack and Team, BPW International Chair Standing Committee Development, Training and Employment 2021-2024

Collaboration:

The Pathway to Strength, Success and Sisterhood

5.IFBPW YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@bpwinternational1930



6. IFBPW Directory

www.bpw.directory

bpw.directory Business Services Network



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BPW International Business & Services Directory

bow.directory is a networking tool that can be operated using a smartphone, tablet or PC. Registration is open to BPW members only: the entry is free of charge

bpw.directory makes our professional competency visible and promotes mutual exchange at the international association level, which is made possible by entering profession, branch and sector

bpw.directory also shows the richness of competency of BPW International members to the outside world. Organizations and institutions, politica

committees or media can easily find competent women worldwide bow.directory is not an interactive social media tool: contact is made outside the platform and exclusively by e-mail.

Create your account

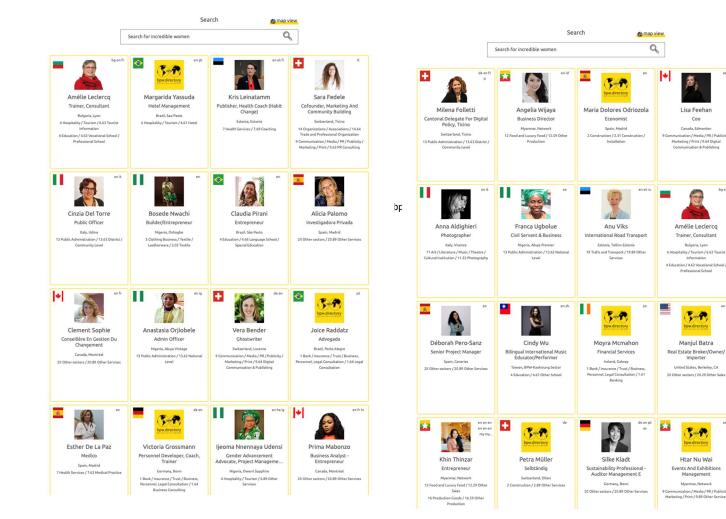
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