



UNITED NATIONS  
KUWAIT

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

## Women Economic Empowerment in Kuwait

**07 MAR 2023** | **10am - 12pm** (Kuwait Time)

UN House Auditorium

**Discussions Moderated by: Professor Lubna Al-Kazmi, PhD**

The discussion will bring our partners together from public and private sectors, as well as civil society organizations. The media is invited to cover the discussions to further disseminate key messages for women's economic empowerment of women to broader general public.

**Master of Ceremony: Mohammad Altunaib, Youth Specialist, UNDP Kuwait**



Scan QR-Code

In support of

**WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT  
PRINCIPLES**

Established by UN Women and the  
UN Global Compact Office

[Kuwait.un.org](http://Kuwait.un.org)



# Women Economic Empowerment in Kuwait

## 1. Background

Gender equality is an essential aspect of “leaving no one behind,” one of the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda, and it is reflected in the 45 targets and 54 indicators of the SDG. The economic empowerment of women is one of the most fundamental components of achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment more broadly.

Women’s meaningful economic participation is integral to achieving greater security and stability around in any country. When women are economically secure, they invest in their families and communities, spurring economic growth and creating more stable societies. Also, Women’s equal participation at every level lead to better financial performance and raises returns on investment.

The private sector has an important role to play to support and promote gender equality by investing in the economic empowerment of women in their workplaces and communities. The private sector in Kuwait has been leading and advancing in this area, where more than 40 companies in Kuwait have committed to the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). Globally, there are more than 7000 companies CEOs who signed up the WEPs [www.weps.org](http://www.weps.org). WEP promotes empowerment of women and gender equality in various areas such as high-level corporate leadership; employees’ health and wellbeing; training for career advancement; enterprise development; no-discrimination at workplace; community initiatives and measurement/reporting.

Leading members of the Kuwait private sector launched the Women’s Economic Empowerment Platform Kuwait (WEEP Kuwait) on 6 June 2022, with a vision to foster a private sector that is gender-inclusive, and which will contribute to implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Kuwait’s national development priorities on growth and social protection.

## 2. Objective

To celebrate International Women’s Day 2023 to highlight the importance of Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) in contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

To discuss the role of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) as a set of principles offering guidance to businesses on how to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

To share and promote achievements and initiatives undertaken by the private sector as well as UNDP and UN Women in promoting the economic empowerment of women in their workplaces and communities.

# Women Economic Empowerment in Kuwait

## 3. Participants / Invitees

- The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD)
- The Ministry of foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- The private sector (WEPs signatories such as Zain, NBK, Gulf Bank)
- Civil society organizations
- Bursa Kuwait
- UN-Women
- UN Resident Coordinator's Office
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## 4. Media Interactions

There will be a short segment (15 minutes), at 9:45 am for key officials and business leaders to give a short intervention to the media on the role their organization/entity is playing in promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

## Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 - 10:02	Welcome remarks by Hideko Hadzialic, Resident Representative, UNDP
10:02 - 10:07	Keynote address by Dr. Khaled Mahdi, Secretary-General, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD)
10:07 - 10:14	Keynote address by Ms. Eman Al Roudhan, CEO of Zain Kuwait, 1 <sup>st</sup> WEP's signatory in Kuwait
10:15 - 11:00	Panel Discussion on the role of Private Sector in promoting Women Economic Empowerment in Kuwait, introduction and moderated by Professor Lubna Al-Kazmi, Director, Women's Research and Studies Center, Kuwait University
	Panel Discussion on the role of Private Sector in promoting Women Economic Empowerment in Kuwait, introduction and moderated by Professor Lubna Al-Kazmi, Director, Women's Research and Studies Center, Kuwait University
10:15 - 11:00	<b>Panelists:</b>
	- Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi <i>Kuwait University "Moderator"</i>
	- <b>National Bank of Kuwait</b> <i>Emad Al-Ablani - Head of Group Human Resources</i>
	- <b>Gulf Bank</b> <i>Salma Al Hajjaj - General Manager Human Resources</i>
	- <b>Kuwait Finance House</b> <i>Zeyad Al-Omar - Group Chief Human Resources Officers</i>
- <b>UN Women office for the Arab States</b> <i>Janneke van der Graaff - Kukler - UN Women Deputy Regional Director for the Arab States</i>	
- <b>United Nations Development Programme</b> <i>Shereen Alsaad - Team Leader, Sustainable Development</i>	
11:00 - 11:20	Q&A Session
11:25 - 11:30	Closing Remarks and Ways-Forward by Dr. Lubna Al-Kazmi, Kuwait University