INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Background

Since 2013, the International Economics Department at Chatham House has been working closely with countries hosts of the G20 to raise awareness around gender-related issues and ensure that gender equality in the context of growth targets would be on the various G20 meeting agenda (Finance Ministers’, Leaders’ Summit, Sherpas, etc.). The first manifestation of Chatham House’s work was the Policy Forum entitled Investing in Gender Equality at the Group of 20 Leaders’ Summit, Australia to Turkey, held in Canberra on 24 September 2014 organized in partnership with Australian National University (during Australia’s presidency of the G20). This forum provided a space for a constructive dialogue on gender-inclusive growth in G20 countries, and, more importantly, it presented a series of recommendations for discussion at the G20 level.

In April 2015, Turkey (host of the G20) announced the establishment of an official engagement group which would focus its work on women and business: the Women 20 (W20). Again, Chatham House was actively involved in this process.

As a direct result of the establishment of the W20, the second International Policy Forum, which Chatham House had developed as a natural follow up to the Canberra event, was taken up by the W20 to become the official launch event. It was held in Ankara on 6 September 2016 and allowed to prepare the ground for the W20 Summit (16-17 October 2016).

In July 2016, Chatham House held a successful third International Policy Forum in London under the title Empowering Women for Economic Growth: the Smart Choice for the G20. The Forum gathered some 120 participants from around the world representing the public and private sectors, academia, the media and activists who engaged in passionate and intense discussions to determine the policy ideas which the G20 should explore in 2016-17. The Forum had a strong following on social media, especially on Twitter. For excerpts from the Forum, please go to: https://www.chathamhouse.org/file/empowering-women-economic-growth-smart-choice-g20

Plans for 2017

Chatham House is now working towards the fourth International Policy Forum. The aims of the Forum will be to promote innovative policies and help galvanise an international effort towards the establishment of gender-balanced economies across the G20 as a fresh policy alternative to support growth. The various sessions assess progress made towards gender-equality, monitor implementation of commitments and develop recommendations as well as measurable and actionable goals for to the G20.

The 2017 International Policy Forum will be preceded by consultations and workshops in London, New York City, Washington, DC, Berlin and Brussels to inform the Forum discussion.
ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

In Conversation with Tina Tchen
London, 7 February 2017 (Invitation only)

Roundtable discussion with guest speaker Tina Tchen, former Assistant to President Barack Obama, Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama and Executive Director for the White House Council on Women and Girls. A unique opportunity to hear about the achievements of the Obama administration towards women’s economic empowerment as well as the challenges encountered and lessons learned.

Female entrepreneurship, trade and procurement
New York City, 20 March 2017 (Invitation only)

Research has amply demonstrated that legal and regulatory frameworks as well as financial inclusion and access to finance are generally the most important barriers to the development of women-owned businesses. But what are the tools needed for women entrepreneurs to succeed? What government policies and market structures have proven most effective in supporting female participation in supply chains and could be adopted by other countries? And have these policies or structures had an impact on the number of women-owned businesses involved in trade? Initial findings from a Chatham House research on gender-smart procurement will also be shared and discussed during the roundtable.

Female entrepreneurship, trade and procurement
Washington DC, 20 April 2017 (Invitation only)

As with the March event in New York City, this roundtable discussion will focus on financial and digital inclusion, procurement and trade, and explore the untapped potential of the female economy and what measures can be taken to ensure that women play a vital role as consumers, investors and job-creating entrepreneurs.

Fostering economic opportunities for migrant and refugee women
Berlin, 24 April 2017 (Invitation only)

Ahead of the W20 Summit in Berlin, Chatham House will continue the dialogue initiated in Germany in 2016 and will examine the measures which should be put in place to increase opportunities for female migrants, from proper education for women and girls to financial and digital inclusion. Participants will include representatives of government, business and civil society who will focus on the specific challenges facing Germany.

Boosting Women’s Economic Empowerment through Gender-Smart Procurement and Trade
Brussels, 10 May 2017 (Invitation only)

Around the world, many women-owned businesses tend to be either informal or smaller businesses and as such often lack access to the resources needed to expand, whether it is...
capital, market information or networks. They are therefore disadvantaged in scaling up to a level that allows them to participate in global trade. The roundtable will focus on what needs to be done to improve women’s access to global markets and make trade more women-friendly.

In Conversation with President Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera
London, 12 May 2017 (Invitation only)

A roundtable discussion with Costa Rica President, HE Luis Guillermo Solis on the work he led as co-chair of the United Nations High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment. The panel was set up to inform and inspire action by government, businesses and civil society to address constraints and create opportunities for women. The roundtable will allow for discussion on concrete political and policy measures that countries around the world could take to narrow gender inequality and foster economic growth and will form an integral part of the work undertaken by the Gender and Growth Initiative at Chatham House.

10-11 July 2017: London

Smart and fair: recognizing women’s role in our economic future
The Chatham House 2017 International Policy Forum (by invitation only)

The annual International Policy Forum provides a space for a constructive dialogue to explore innovative policy ideas for the G20. In 2016, Forum discussions informed the preparation of an Action Plan for the G20 which provided a policy framework for gender-inclusive growth, offered actionable policy recommendations for the G20, and supported the engagement of the W20 with the G20 chair and member states. The 2017 Forum will continue the work with a view to providing an update to the 2016 Action Plan.

Themes addressed at the 2017 International Policy Forum will include:

- Multilateral initiatives—developments and achievements in 2016-17
- G20 reforms to meet the Brisbane ‘25 by 25’ commitment
- Living with legacies, changing habits and disrupting the norms
- Gender-responsive policies—investing in women for women
- Financial inclusion and access to finance
- Women’s inclusion in the digital economy
- Entrepreneurship, trade and procurement
- Preparing for the jobs of tomorrow

N.B. this programme of activities may change during the year as external events beyond our control may bring us to add or re-schedule some activities. Please contact Stéphane Dubois, Manager, Gender and Growth Initiative on sdubois@chathamhouse.org for more information.