



**DFI Gender Finance Collaborative
JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT**

As development finance institutions (DFIs) shaping the breadth and scope of our role in providing capital to support gender equality and women's economic empowerment worldwide, we hereby unite to support the development of financing principles, definitions and methodologies that promote the integration of "gender smart" decision-making into our investment processes and our own operations. While each DFI is on its own journey with varying commitments and levels of capacity, our collective goal is to increase the strategic impact of investment capital toward women as business and fund leaders, entrepreneurs, a strong and valued workforce, consumers and community members. We commit to intentionally use our capital, capacity, networks and knowledge to:

1. Demonstrate that investing with a gender lens and helping investees to sharpen their gender focus can reap business returns in addition to social returns;
2. Support opportunities to improve the lives and livelihoods of women and girls around the globe; and
3. Promote increases in gender diversity to build a bigger base of women in leadership and corporate governance.

Within our efforts, we also recognise that there is an important role for men to play so that all people can enjoy the benefits of equality and reach their full potential.

We are aware that there are number of initiatives happening in this arena globally, and we see a critical role for our collective leadership, collaboration and contribution within and from the DFI community.

Through collaborative learning, dialogue and a shared commitment to action, we aim to advance the standard and the vision for the future of gender smart investing. We seek to mobilise and leverage the platforms and reach of the combined global DFI community and other relevant partners whilst actively sharing learning, knowledge, networks and resources to advance the collective capacity of the group and build a global knowledge and evidence base.

Hence, we hereby declare our commitment to the following actions and appeal to the wider investing community to engage and align with this endeavour:

- Develop principles, financing criteria and due diligence tools to guide our investment decisions toward supporting gender equality, the value of women in leadership and markets and women's economic empowerment in our portfolios;
- Share strategies, case studies and lessons learned from our portfolios to collectively build knowledge about best practices for gender smart investing (and to continue to build and prove the commercial case for investing in women);
- Support increased numbers of women in leadership among our investees by ensuring that an active effort is made to identify and consider qualified women candidates in recruitment processes that we oversee on behalf of our investee companies (for Board or Management Team positions);
- Collaborate on gender smart co-investment opportunities; and
- Raise awareness and collaborate with the wider investing community, investees and partner organizations with regard to our actions and impact through effective communication.

We hereby sign this Joint Statement of Commitment.

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