



## Commonwealth joins UN in Landmark Partnership to Drive Change for Women Entrepreneurs

September 28, 2021 12.00 PM UTC

LONDON – The Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator (CWEA), a strategic multi-stakeholder partnership from the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN), the Global Entrepreneurship Network UK (GEN UK) and Oxentia today joins forces with the Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator (WEA), a strategic multi-partnership initiative established by five UN agencies and Mary Kay Inc.

CWEA is a direct response to three developments: the agreement by Commonwealth Heads of Government in London in 2018 'to work towards an increase in the number and enhancement of the success rate of women-owned businesses, break down gender barriers in all sectors, and increase opportunities for women to trade internationally'; the recognition by the G20 in 2020 that 'there is 'a missed opportunity - to tackle the gap that needs immediate action, which is the representation of women in emerging fields'; and the UN Global Acceleration Plan to advance gender equality by 2026 and its Action Coalitions on Economic Justice and Rights and Technology and Innovation launched in 2021.

The Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator (WEA) also announces progress on several programmes designed to impact 5 million women around the world by 2030. The programmes and knowledge products, which further demonstrate WEA's commitment to maximizing the development impact of women's entrepreneurship in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will be rolled out in the fourth quarter of this year. These include initiatives on Digital Capacity Building Tools and Training; Entrepreneurship Research; and Gender-Responsive Procurement (GRP) Advocacy and Training.

The Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator (CWEA) will collaborate with the Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator in these and other areas for which it is a leading partner. CWEA's focus will additionally be on scaling high potential female businesses and born-digital companies through internationalisation within and across the Commonwealth targeting opportunities to scale from both developing and developed Commonwealth countries.

CWEA will also derive mutual value from collaboration with the UN WEA by leveraging the Commonwealth multiplier impact across its 54 Commonwealth members and UN member states in three key ways: from the Commonwealth advantage where trading between Commonwealth countries occurs with a 21% reduced cost than with non-members; trade booster initiatives since 2018 during the UK's term as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office including the Commonwealth's Trade Connectivity Agenda and SheTrades Commonwealth; and access to Commonwealth power networks of organisations and key stakeholders to augment, amplify and accelerate impact.

**To mark these developments, CWEA will be joining WEA for a [#UNGA](#) side-event on "Joining Forces to Drive Change" on 28 September 2021 at 1-3 pm EDT, with the participation of [Pramila Patten](#), Acting**



Executive Director of [UN Women](#), Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; [Pamela Coke-Hamilton](#), Executive Director of [International Trade Centre](#); [Doreen Bogdan-Martin](#), Director of [International Telecommunication Union](#) [Sanda Ojiambo](#), CEO and Executive Director of [United Nations Global Compact](#); [Arif Zaman](#), Executive Director of [Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network C.I.C](#); [Deborah Gibbins](#), Chief Operating Officer of [Mary Kay Global](#), moderated by Ambassador [Amanda Ellis](#), Senior Director Global Partnerships of [Arizona State University](#) Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory.

Please find here the registration link: <https://lnkd.in/dPzJ5z-e>

The footage from the event will be available later via [www.thecwea.org](http://www.thecwea.org)

#### About the UN Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator

The Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator (WEA) is a multi-partnership initiative on women's entrepreneurship established during UNGA 74 by five UN agencies, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), UN Global Compact (UNGC), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women and Mary Kay Inc. to empower 5 million women entrepreneurs by 2030.

The ultimate goal of the initiative is to maximize the development impact of women entrepreneurship in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by creating an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs around the world. The Accelerator exemplifies the transformational power of a multi-partnership of unique magnitude to harness the potential of women entrepreneurs.

Learn more at [we-accelerate](http://we-accelerate). Follow us: Twitter ([@we\\_accelerator](#)), Instagram ([@we\\_accelerator](#)), Facebook ([@womensentrepreneurshipaccelerator](#)), LinkedIn ([@womensentrepreneurshipaccelerator](#))

#### About the Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator

The Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator is a strategic multi stakeholder partnership on women's entrepreneurship established as an outcome of the inaugural Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Summit (CWES) in May 2021, the first global event to focus on women in emerging tech sectors. CWES was convened by the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network; the Global Entrepreneurship Network; the UK Government (Women in Innovation Network, a programme of Innovation UK); and Africa's largest network of women entrepreneurs (AWEP: African Women's Entrepreneurship Program).

The Commonwealth Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator is partnership between the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network, Global Entrepreneurship Network and Oxentia.

Learn more at [www.thecwea.org](http://www.thecwea.org)

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**The Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBWN)** works with women in business by connecting Governments and the private sector to encourage, enable and embed women's economic empowerment. This is achieved through delivering activities, initiatives, products and services focused on trade, talent and training. It is the only accredited organisation focused on women's economic empowerment and recognised by 54 governments across six continents. <https://www.cbwn.org>



**Global Entrepreneurship Network UK (GEN UK)** is a non-profit organisation set up to support and represent the entrepreneurial ecosystem across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, working with entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, researchers, public bodies and support organisations. GEN has built a presence around the world integrating the work of governments and NGOs to create one global entrepreneurial ecosystem that is open to all. Its network of 'alternative embassies' in over [190 countries](#) enables it to connect UK organisations with the rest of the world. <https://www.genuk.org>

**Oxentia** works in partnership with individuals and teams to build capacity, develop capability and create opportunities to enable innovation. Oxentia started life as an operating division of Oxford University Innovation, the technology transfer company of the University of Oxford. It also designs, develops and delivers a range of accelerators working with entrepreneurs internationally to unlock the commercial potential of great projects. <https://www.oxentia.com/>

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