



**CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015)**

*Making economic empowerment happen:*

## **Gender, Trade, Procurement and Potential**

**Dag Hammarskjöld Library (DHL) Auditorium,**

**UNHQ Room L-105, First Avenue at 46th Street, NY 10017**

**15:00-16:15 on Monday 16th March 2015**

Commonwealth research recently highlighted how inclusive government procurement policy, coupled with the effective management of scarce resources, can accelerate sustainable economic outcomes. The 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting in 2013 highlighted the potential of gender based approaches to procurement in both public and private sectors for policy-makers and generated significant interest.

In a groundbreaking partnership, the Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBW) is the first businesswomen's organisation to partner with UN Development Business (UNDB) to enable women led/owned businesses to directly access and participate in contracting and export opportunities worldwide.

Combined with the module on Procurement in the Commonwealth Businesswomen Academy delivered by the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) - the first with such collaboration with a businesswomen's organisation - this now means that the necessary skills and knowledge are also now available to women across the 53 member states of the Commonwealth to strengthen their ability to access those opportunities.

Our session will explore what role procurement can play in women's economic empowerment in the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda. This will address both the demand side (procurement as the buying of goods and services by the buyers whether in governments or corporates) and the supply side (the knowledge, skills and tools for women and women-owned businesses to support and strengthen them as participants in international contracts).

Join us to learn more about this collaboration and how we are making women's economic empowerment happen through joining the dots between gender, trade, procurement and potential.

## Speakers

- **Freda Miriklis**, Co-Chair, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBW) and member of UN Women's Empowerment Principles Leadership Group (WEPs LG)
- **Nina Brandt**, Chief, Development Business at United Nations, Department of Public Information
- **Government representative: Kenya**
- **Private sector representative: Louis Berger**
- **Arif Zaman**, Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network (CBW)

## Guiding Questions:

- How do we mobilize participation from governments, the private sector and the civil society in gender-based approaches to procurement?
- What role can procurement play in women's economic empowerment in the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda up to, at and beyond the UN General Assembly in September 2015?
- What issues relevant to women's participation in public and private procurement should be presented to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in November 2015 to drive action and deliver change?