The Center for Women’s Economic Empowerment (CWEE) advances gender equality in emerging markets to build more inclusive, thriving economies and democracies that deliver for all citizens. Founded within the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), CWEE consolidates nearly four decades of experience to promote women’s leadership and improve their economic conditions through private sector engagement, advocacy, and partnerships with governments and civil society. CWEE supports CIPE’s network of partners in more than 80 countries.

**Vision & Mission**

The Center for Women’s Economic Empowerment (CWEE) empowers women to overcome economic inequality and lead private sector engagement, entrepreneurial ventures, and partnerships. CWEE strengthens community and global networks of women to advocate for democratic reforms, facilitating more resilient and inclusive economies.

**Models of Success**

**Women’s Business Agenda (WBA):** Advocacy tool and program that mobilizes the private sector and civil society to improve the business ecosystem for women. The cyclical WBA process includes consensus-building, setting legislative priorities, and advocating recommendations for reform to policymakers.

**Women’s Business Resource Center (WBRC):** A safe space with childcare where women can take steps to start and grow their businesses. Offerings: education and training, co-working space, networking, information technology, and mentoring by established entrepreneurs.

**Business Networking:** Informal and established networks of women promoting advocacy and leadership. CIPE and local partners provide technical assistance, small grants, and mentoring, as well as opportunities to share information and build relationships worldwide.

**The Center for Women’s Economic Empowerment Works in Three Areas**

1. **Forming coalitions** to bring businesswomen together to advocate for change

2. **Building leadership** skills for women’s business associations and women entrepreneurs

3. **Networking and knowledge-sharing** to champion women’s economic empowerment
The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) is a core institute of the National Endowment for Democracy and a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. CIPE’s mission is to strengthen democracy around the globe through private enterprise and market-oriented reform. Over the past four decades, CIPE has carried out more than 2,800 programs in 138 countries.

**AFRICA:** A national coalition in Nigeria representing four million businesswomen continues to lay the foundation for economic reforms, including issuing an updated Women’s Business Agenda. 35 organizations within Zimbabwe’s Women Alliance of Business Associations form a collective voice to advocate on economic issues, access to finance, and public policy.

**LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN:** CIPE supports the formation of a Central American network of women business associations and a Women’s Business Resource Center in Guatemala. In Peru, indigenous women’s associations raise awareness about their rights and elevate their role as equal citizens, entrepreneurs, and business owners.

**MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA:** National women’s business associations in Jordan provide forums for mentorship and networking on best practices to involve women leaders in COVID-19 response. A new membership program in Palestine focuses on advocacy efforts for women entrepreneurs and features a tiered fee structure.

**EUROPE & EURASIA:** A new Moldova women’s empowerment alliance addresses the challenges of gender-based violence and creation of a national Women’s Business Agenda. The annual International Business Woman Forum in Ukraine attracts thousands and focuses on the role of women in solving global challenges through business transformations and improved public-private dialogue.

**ASIA & THE PACIFIC:** The Papua New Guinea Women’s Business Resource Center has provided assistance to nearly 4,000 women and serves as a model for other countries. PNG’s Business Advocacy Network addresses issues affecting women such as police abuse amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Regional Network for Businesswomen’s Organizations (RNBWO) and other key initiatives help unlock financing, education and security for women in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.