



POLICY & ADVOCACY- Women Empowerment Initiatives

FLO is advocating steps that the Central & State Governments can take to economically empower women. These initiatives have been presented to the Chief Ministers and Senior Government officials of Assam, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal.

- 1) **Increasing Land ownership by women:** There should be an Exemption of Stamp Duties, Transfer Fees and Registration Fees for Property registered in the name of women, or substantial rebates.
- 2) **Create Women's Industrial Parks:** FLO would be glad to partner with the Government to set up and administer this. Additionally, all Industrial Parks being promoted by the Government should have a certain percentage of land, say 10%, reserved for Women Entrepreneurs.
- 3) **Create a Mahila Haats,** which offers retail space to Women Entrepreneurs and Artisans. FLO would be glad to partner with the Government to set up and administer this.
- 4) **Create a Procurement Policy** for the Government to Purchase from Women SHGs and Entrepreneurs. A certain percentage of purchase by the government should be demarcated for Women owned enterprises. We recommend 5 % to begin with.
- 5) **Skill development:** Introduce gender specific policy and gender budgeting in each Sector skill council. Create a Skill Development Fund for women which can be jointly administered by the Government and FICCI Ladies Organisation.
- 6) **Improve Access to Finance**
 - a) Specially trained Woman Loan Counselling Officers in each branch
 - b) Removal of requirement to get family guarantees for loans
 - c) Collateral Free Loans
 - d) Banks to create special programs for lending to women

e) Seed Capital foundation /Woman Entrepreneurship Development Fund

7) **Make available good quality and affordable Childcare.**

8) **To formulate implementable schemes,** a standing committee should be set up involving FLO and the Government. It could have members from FLO, the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Department of Industry, and the Department of Women and Child development.
