



## **Concept Note**

### **Financial Inclusion to Financial Sustainability– Empowering Women in South Asia and across the Globe**

#### **Description:**

The event is timely in that the Universal Financial Inclusion by 2020 goal is fast approaching. The objective of the session is to share information and have an open dialogue about the challenges to achieving the goal and progress made through financial inclusion strategies to ensure inclusive growth, improved livelihood, and income equality.

South Asia will be the primary case study of the session. In recent years, the region has made noteworthy progress through the announcement of important policies, but implementation continues to remain a challenge. Now is the time to identify the remaining barriers to financial inclusion and weave a coherent strategy to address them.

The session analyzes best practices of countries at different stages of financial inclusion, as well as share strategies where by CSOs can help advance the initiative through their network, programs and insights for ensuring true financial inclusion.

#### **Objective of the Event:**

1. Have an open dialogue about progress made/challenges to achieving Universal Financial Access by 2020
2. Analyze the conditions/relevant data/positive multiplier effects leading to inclusive growth with a particular focus on empowering women and moving the needle on financial inclusion in India
3. Identify international best practices/strategies/the role of CSOs and draw lessons for inclusion in South Asia
4. Examine the role/ impact of big data and fintech
5. Provide actionable policy recommendations to build on past and current efforts

**Logistics and Program:**

April 11 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in Room 12-250 at the I- Building, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

**Opening Remarks:** Mr. Bart Oosterveld is the Director of the Global Business and Economics Program at the Atlantic Council where he leads the “Inclusive Growth Initiative” that specializes in financial inclusion of women and girls.

**List of panelists:**

- Mr. Prabhat Labh, CEO of the Grameen Foundation India, is our NGO lead on this panel with practical knowledge of grassroots policy.
- Dr. Michelle M.Thompson, Associate Professor at the University of New Orleans/Department of Planning & Urban Studies, as well as, a Data Fellow with the MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth.
- Dr. Purva Khera is an International Monetary Fund economist and will provide in-depth policy and research expertise. Her research work focuses on the macroeconomic relevance of gender equality and women’s access to finance in India.
- Dr. Leora Klapper, Lead Economist, Finance and Private Sector Development, Development Research Group, The World Bank

**Moderator:** Ms. Anita Thomas is the Chairperson at the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, a Substantive Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN & Representative to the UN, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund