12 January 2016

IOE Concept Note


(7 March 2016, Geneva)

12h – 13h CET

Women, Business and the Law: Picking up from the Future She Deserves Salon

On 28 September 2015, the U.S. Mission in Geneva organised a lunch meeting where Mr Augusto Lopez-Claros, Director of Global Indicators Group at the World Bank, presented the 2016 World Bank Report on “Women, Business and the Law”, as part of the Salon Series on protecting and empowering women and girls.

The Report examines laws and regulations affecting women’s prospects as entrepreneurs and employees across 173 economies. The Report’s quantitative indicators are intended to inform policy discussions on how to remove legal restrictions on women and promote research on how to improve women’s economic inclusion.

All governments should be encouraged to implement measures to revise current existing laws that are discriminatory against women and improve the circumstances surrounding women as economic actors, from better childcare and family support to greater workplace and labour market flexibility.

Public policy should be the result of an active dialogue and engagement between the public and private sectors, as well as with other stakeholders to deliver policies that align with and support efforts by business to advance women’s economic opportunities. The IOE and its members stand ready to collaborate in advancing gender diversity and supporting the economic dividend this creates for women, families, companies and society.

In order to better contribute to this mission, the IOE is organising a one-hour Webinar session with Mr Augusto Lopez-Claros, who would present the Report and inform national employer organizations (EOs) on how they can contribute to removing legal barriers in their countries.

International Women’s Day 2016

International Women’s Day (8 March 2016) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. In looking forward to advancing women’s economic opportunities, it is important that employers are involved in identifying current and long-standing barriers to women’s economic opportunities in their countries. This would allow them to contribute more constructively to policymaking, in particular in removing legal barriers to women’s advancement. The IOE is looking to celebrate International Women’s Day, in a constructive spirit, by organising a webinar to understand how better to promote advancement of economic opportunities for women in countries around the world.