

**Regional Forum on Women's Entrepreneurship
Policy and Governance Environment**



Pramila Acharya Rijal

Founder President

South Asian Women Development Forum
(SAWDF)

Gender and Entrepreneurial Expert

- **History of Nepal's Industrial Policies - 60 years**

Formation of **Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy 2023** – Ministry of Industries , commerce and supplies of the government of Nepal

Why Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy 2023 ?

Evidence :

- MSME sector engages almost 2.5 million workers in Nepal.
- This accounts for 84.7 percent of the 3.2 million people who make up the country's workforce
- Women comprise 37.9 percent of the total workforce
- A large concentration of women are engaged in microenterprises with 69.3 % followed by small and medium enterprises.
- Around 13 percent of registered small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Nepal are either fully or partially owned by women (The Asia Foundation 2021)

Participatory Process

Role of UNESCAP

National Consultative Workshop on “Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy Draft , 2023 – Biratnagar , Province 1



National Consultative Workshop on

“Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy Draft , 2023 – Kathmandu, Province 3



National Consultative Workshop

on

“Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy Draft , 2023 – Kathmandu, Province 3



Some of the recommendations on the draft Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy 2023

- ❖ Conduct gender-lens assessments and reviews of relevant existing and new policies, laws, and regulatory frameworks to create a gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- ❖ Strengthen the integration of women entrepreneurship in all national micro, cottage, small, and medium enterprises development policies and strategies.
- ❖ Establish a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism specific for the development of women's entrepreneurship, including women's associations , federations, and policy entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Specify the roles and responsibility of all three tiers of government to implement the Policy.
- ❖ Establish Business Development Support Services entities/foster and promote gender-inclusion practices in all BDS organizations/entities.
- ❖ To include gender-responsive provisions in public procurement policies. Apply quota of public procurement contracts to be awarded to women-led enterprises.
- ❖ Remove “educational certificates” and replace with “skills-based certificates”
- ❖ Invest in social care infrastructures to address unpaid care work, which is a significant barrier for women's economic empowerment.
- ❖ Monitoring and Evaluation framework with key performance indicators and to be inserted into all relevant national MSME policies and strategies
- ❖ **Building an inclusive and resilient economy**

- The cabinet of the council of ministers of the government of Nepal approved the **Micro, Cottage and Small-Scale Industries Promotion Policy on 30th April 2024** .
- Clause 11.5 of the MCSE Policy titled **‘Access to and ownership by women, Dalits, minorities, endangered and marginalized communities, as well as persons with disabilities, will be expanded in micro, domestic, and small-scale industries.’**
- The clause outlines several key provisions aimed at identifying and enhancing access and ownership for women within micro, domestic, and small-scale industries.
- It focuses on promoting, developing, and expanding industries through social mobilization, targeting women for priority assistance. This includes proposals for fee waivers, tax exemptions, accessible loans, capacity-building, and entrepreneurship programs to empower women economically and contribute to livelihood and poverty reduction efforts.



Thank You !