

## Annex III. Legal and Policy Reforms with Potential Impact on Women Entrepreneurs in Tajikistan

Reform	Status	Ministry	Potential impact on women entrepreneurs	Other information
Reform on Improvement of Investment Climate in Agriculture and Development of Agribusiness (Land Reform)	WG has been working under the Ministry of Agriculture since February 2015 on analysis of the sector's current state, development of recommendations and Action Plan to improve investment climate in agriculture and development of agribusiness. Draft will be submitted to subsequent sessions of the Investment Council under the President of the RT.	Ministry of Agriculture	High  Women play a critical role in agriculture in the RT. However, they experience legal challenges and practical obstacles to own or co-own the land. Women's barriers to access land as well as women-specific obstacles to access all the other aspects of the reform (from training to inputs, technology or market information) should be addressed by the reform.	Key issues under this reform are land allocation, access of farmers and agribusiness producers to finance, taxation of fertilizers, seeds and agricultural machinery, enhancing the agro-food chain value added and competitiveness of private enterprises, links to international markets, and agricultural extension services.  Oxfam and USAID are leading work on this topic.
Draft Law on Investment	Since 2014 an interagency WG has been established under the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management of the RT which has developed draft law. Draft law was discussed at the meeting of the Investment Council in August 5 <sup>th</sup> 2015.	State Investment Committee and Investment Consultative Council.	High  Investment constraints may hit women business harder given the higher vulnerability of women's businesses due to their lower size, weaker capitalization, and focus on low productivity sector. It is therefore essential to identify how investment-climate constraints affect women businesses in RT and include provisions in the Law to address them.	
Strengthening	The SIC has established its analyses	Secretariat of	High	

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Cooperation with Development Partners on Conducting Investment Climate Analysis	database and started to cooperate with development partners	the Investment Council (SIC) under the President of the RT	Same as above	
Improvement of the Investment Climate in Industry and Development of Domestic Production	An interagency WG has been working since May 2014 under the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies.	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Industry and New Technologies	High  Key areas of the reform are cotton, wool and silk processing sector, textile and clothing industry, food industry, where mostly women are involved.	
New draft Labour Code	A Working Group has been established under the Ministry of Labour to look at amendments of the Labour Code. UN Women is taking a leading role in the review process. Planned to be submitted to the Parliament in August.	Ministry of Labour	Medium to high  Medium to high impact of the reform given high informality of women's businesses.  UN Women together with other agencies and civil society are lobbying to include in the Labour Code recognition of domestic workers (artisans and women who work at home sewing etc.) so they receive social benefits (pension).	UN Women expert has made recommendations on this topic and several public hearings were conducted.
Strategy on activation of the role of women in the RT	Action Plan on implementation of this Strategy is submitted (by CWFA) to all government Ministries and agencies	Committee for Women and Family Affairs of the RT	Medium to high  The 3 <sup>rd</sup> component of the Strategy focuses on women entrepreneurship	

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			and the Action Plan will be developed on women entrepreneurship support	
Draft Handicrafts Law	<p>A WG under the Ministry of Economy is working on this law. The law is planned to be sent to the Parliament towards the end of 2015.</p> <p>Cesvi together with National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises will hire an expert to do analysis of the draft law and other legal acts. Results are expected to be shared with Ministry of Economy in Fall.</p>	Ministry of Economy	<p>Medium to high</p> <p>The majority of artisans are women thus it is important to include women's perspectives into this law.</p>	
Draft Mediation law	The law is being discussed at Legal Council of the RT. The WG is set up under the Legal Council.	Legal Council	<p>Medium to High</p> <p>There are no mediators who solve commercial law issues in Tajikistan at the moment. The law is likely to impact positively women entrepreneurs as long as women know about the new services and can effectively access it. The design of the law, and its subsequent implementation should take these into account.</p>	<p>League of Women Lawyers of the RT has a leading role representing civil society.</p> <p>EBRD plans under the DFID project to train lawyers, particularly women to become Mediators who could solve commercial disputes.</p>