

**WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT “GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
LAUNCH IN SAMSUN, TURKEY**

**Ulrich Zachau, Director, Turkey Country Unit, World Bank
Samsun, December 7, 2011**

- Dear Governor, Dear Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen
- During my time in Turkey, four and a half years, I have met with business women, women farmers, housewives, young women students, and unemployed women all over the country.
- All these women know, all of *us* know: It is time for women to have the same opportunities in life and voice in society as men.
 - **IT IS TIME TO THINK *EQUAL* -- AND TO ACT *EQUAL*.**
 - **EŞİT DÜŞÜNME VE EŞİT DAVRANMA ZAMANIDIR.**
- I would like to *thank the Governor and Mayor of Samsun and our counterparts in the Turkish Government* for hosting the launch of this year’s World Development Report, which focuses on gender equality and development.
- Turkey has seen *significant improvements in women’s welfare*, especially in health and education. Turkey already meets the Millennium Development Goal for maternal mortality, after a sharp decline. The gender gap in primary education has virtually disappeared.
- At the same time, *significant gender gaps remain in Turkey*, particularly in the access to economic opportunities. Only a quarter of working-age women are employed. And more than half of working women work in the informal sector.
- Creating more and better jobs for women is the right thing. It is a matter of fairness. And it can help increase growth and reduce poverty – a lot!

- ***In Turkey, the government, the private sector, and civil society are joining forces to take action:***
 - The government has introduced incentives for employers to hire women.
 - In 2010, the Prime Minister issued a circular to ensure equal gender opportunities in the workplace.
 - And Turkey's upcoming National Employment Strategy, I understand, will have a focus on female employment.

We in the World Bank greatly welcome and support all these initiatives.

- I have been ***fortunate get to know many extraordinarily successful women*** entrepreneurs in Turkey—from Istanbul to Van, and from Samsun to Antalya. They are a ***role model*** for other women, and they ***create jobs***, for women *and* men. Increasing women entrepreneurship will increase female employment.
- ***One key constraint to female entrepreneurship is access to finance.*** This is why the WBG, through IFC, and in partnership with the Development Bank of the Netherlands and ABank, is proud to help finance small and medium female-owned enterprises.
- This past July, KAGİDER launched its new private sector Gender Certification Program, with 11 pioneering firms, and World Bank Group President Robert Zoellick joined the launch and expressed our support. This program recognizes companies that have been successful at ensuring gender equality in the workplace, and it helps and sets an example for others to get there.
- The World Bank Group has been a partner with Turkey and many other countries in supporting gender equality. This year's ***World Development Report*** pushes gender equality to the forefront of development. I hope the report will also succeed in informing policies to address the many, often mutually reinforcing causes of gender inequality in Turkey and around the world.
- ***Gender equality is an aspiration. It is also an inspiration. It is the right thing to do, and is the smart thing to do, in Turkey and around the world.***
- Thank you.