



مركز قطر للأعمال  
QATAR BUSINESS  
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## Abstract for the 12<sup>th</sup> INSME Annual Meeting Round Table IV

### The Twelve-Trillion-Dollar Opportunity: More Women Entrepreneurs = Smarter Economy?

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Many studies indicate the huge benefits available at micro and macroeconomic levels when women join work. But the World Bank predicts that at the current rate, it would take 150 years for MENA countries to reach the current world average for women's penetration of the labor force.

All over the world, the working environment is unsuited to women's and families' concerns. This is by no means unique to developing economies.

Last year, the USA's Kauffman Foundation exhorted policy leaders to help women in the USA into work, while improving their resources and abilities to raise a family<sup>1</sup>. But the real opportunities offer themselves to the developing world, and especially the MENA region, which stands to benefit most of all by accelerating its provisions for women in work beyond what can easily or quickly be achieved elsewhere.

Our cultural, social, historical and religious outlooks may constitute a unique potential to leapfrog economically into a new position of productivity and growth potential.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Women Entrepreneurs are Key to Accelerating Growth', Emily Fetsch, Chris Jackson, and Jason Wiens (07/20/15).