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FOREWORD

Women, Business and the Law 2020

By developing a time series and further researching the interaction between inequality of opportunity for women and labor market dynamics, *Women, Business and the Law* strengthens insights into how women's employment and entrepreneurship are a

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Source: Women, Business and the Law database.

Note: Maternity leave refers to the sum of paid maternity leave and paid parental leave, excluding any paid parental leave specifically reserved for fathers. Paternity leave refers to the sum of

the directive. Because of this advance,

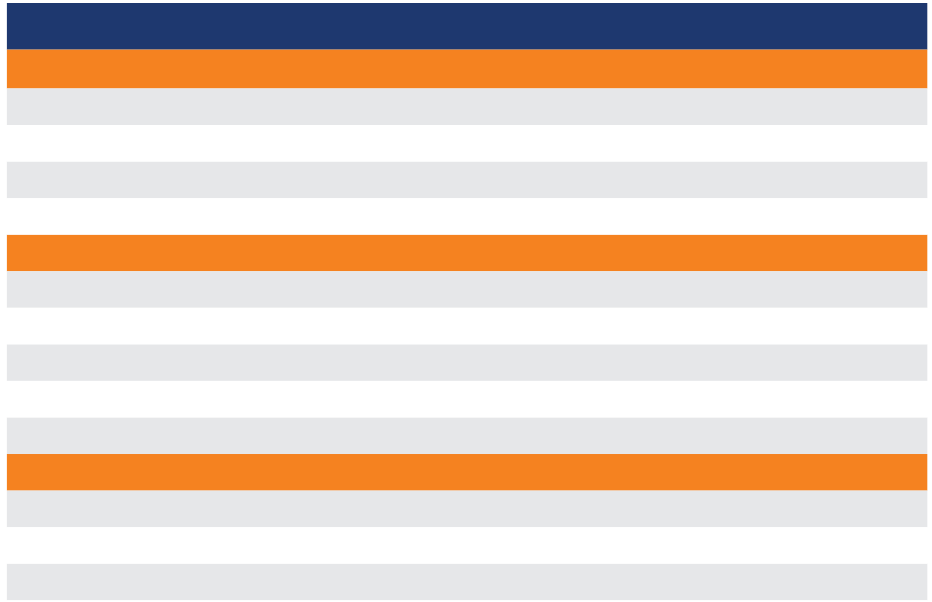
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also reformed laws related to paternity and parental leave, giving parents more opportunity to share child care responsibilities.

new legal principle was only first introduced into national legislation in the late 1970s. Reform uptake has increased since the early 2000s, with more economies now following early adopters' leads.

From 2017 to 2019, Côte d'Ivoire granted spouses equal rights to own and manage property during marriage. Reforms related to property ownership and inheritance are the most difficult to pass, especially in economies where social norms dictate how assets are passed to surviving spouses and children. Equalizing women's rights to own, manage, and inherit property, however, increases their ability to start and grow busi-

Understanding how reforms happen and what motivates economies to reform



BOX 2.1



differences is one step toward a better understanding of where women's economic



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industries is restricted in any way, such as by prohibiting women from working at night" (Industrial) 9.2 (under the law, "om by rbby

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old-age pension. A score of 1 is assigned if the age at which men and women can retire and receive partial pension bene



Burkina Faso



Eswatini

ECONOMY DATA

Indicators capture legal di



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The World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law* examines laws and regulations affecting women's prospects as entrepreneurs and employees across 190 economies. Its goal is to