

WTO GENDER RESEARCH HUB WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

Recalling that the WTO Gender Research Hub (hereafter the Hub) was created on 31 May 2021;

Noting that the Hub was founded and is led by the WTO and includes more than 40 researchers on trade and gender from academia and international/regional organizations;

Reaffirming the WTO Gender Research Hub founding objectives¹;

Affirming that the Hub is a supportive network of peers that promotes innovative thinking and research on trade and gender;

Acknowledging that the awareness, focus and work on trade and gender has grown internationally but a lot still remains to be accomplished to make this issue a recognized field of expertise;

Recognizing that trade and gender should no longer be an incipient topic;

Identifying policy makers and the private sector (i.e. female entrepreneurs associations and large private sector business federations) as the Hub's key stakeholders;

Building on the Hub's achievements in the last two years, mainly raising awareness on research work done on trade and gender internationally and regionally:

- through technical and thematic discussions (Think Up! series);
- by building a database compiling more than 140 recent publications, hence creating a one-stop source for information on the topic;
- by organizing the World Trade Congress on Gender in December 2022, the first international research conference on trade and gender.

Looking at upgrading its activities and enhancing its impact, the WTO Gender Research Hub will hook its **Work Programme 2023-2024**, on **four anchors** and agrees to:

1. Continue building awareness and knowledge on the trade and gender nexus and the Hub's work by (Anchor 1):

1.1. Organizing national/regional awareness building initiatives led by academia and under the Hub's "brand";

2.2. Conducting thematic and technical discussions on published research work through the Think Up! Series;

2.3. Producing simplified briefs of research published to be circulated to key Hub stakeholders;

2.4. Establishing a detailed "Who's Who" Directory of Hub members;

¹) Share information on current and future research topics at the trade-gender interface; 2) Disseminate recent and ongoing research findings; 3) Foster collaborative research partnerships; 4) Join efforts in gathering funding for research; 5) Promote comparative research across regions on methodological issues, empirical findings, policy experiences and tools and encourage knowledge sharing among Hub participants as well as WTO Members; and 6) Research findings will also serve to inform other work in the WTO. (WTO Gender Research Hub Concept Note establishing the Hub, 31 May 2021)

2.5. Creating a calendar of key events organized by Hub members;

2.6. Contributing substantively to the WTO Public Forum 2023 and 2024;

2.7. Organizing milestone international research events such as the Youth Symposium (November 2023) and the second edition of the World Trade Congress on Gender (December 2024) and through them, building connections with the Hub's key stakeholders (as identified above).

2. Better involve the Hub's key stakeholders (as identified above) in its activities by (Anchor 2):

2.1. Creating an institutional link between the trade and gender research community and policy makers and the private sector;

2.2. Holding dedicated discussions on regular basis within Hub meetings;

2.3. Including more representatives from governments and private sector in the Hub's events.

3. Deepen and expand Hub members' work and knowledge by (Anchor 3):

3.1. Setting up a technical assistance plan/programme for Hub members focusing on gender issues;

3.2. Strengthening and expanding research through peer reviews and setting up a safe and secured platform(s) where ongoing research would be shared and discussed and evidence gaps filled, hence bringing new perspectives into the work in progress and benefiting from a body of expertise;

3.3. Presenting material, methodologies, tools, statistics reports beyond and complementing the research conducted and published;

3.4. Contributing mutually to Hub members' institutional activities.

4. Publish joint research work under the Hub's "brand" by (Anchor 4):

4.1. Producing and launching the Congress Publication on 14 September 2023 at the WTO Public Forum;

4.2. Producing and publishing a joint research paper looking at unexplored trade and gender issues and combining the Hub's legal, economic and statistical expertise.

The Hub adopts its Work Programme 2023–2024 as a living document which should undergo continuous adjustments, amendments, and reviews during its implementation and based on the evaluation of progress made. It will therefore remain as a standing agenda item as part of the Hub's discussions and decisions and will be formally revisited twice a year, during two milestone reviews.

On this basis, one of the first implementation tasks of the Hub will be to develop and adopt a detailed calendar of activities for 2023-2024, leading to the second edition of the World Trade Congress on Gender and to expand on the four Work Programme Anchors.

As part of its implementation work, the Hub will also produce an activity report annually outlining its activities and achievements.