



GTPA
GLOBAL TRADE PROFESSIONALS ALLIANCE

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CAPACITY BUILDING AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT FOR INCLUSIVE TRADE

GTPA WHITE PAPER

CONCEPT NOTE

OVERVIEW

Inclusive trade refers to the principle that all levels of society should gain from increased trade. This includes trade between developing and developed economies, as well as ensuring that gains are fairly distributed within countries to reduce inequality and enable shared prosperity. It promotes the inclusion of groups that may currently be marginalised or challenged in their ability to engage with international trading opportunities.

This paper discusses the importance of standards and capacity building to support four of these groups – gender, youth, diaspora and indigenous communities – and their engagement in trade. Ensuring that these groups are adequately represented in trade discussions and that wealth generated through trade is distributed in an equitable fashion is an increasingly important component of policy dialogues within government as well as within commercial environments.

The free flow of goods, services and capital around the world alone is not enough to ensure widespread prosperity for all. The global trade architecture is increasingly coming into question for the fairness and equity with which gains are distributed, while mounting trade tensions and the adoption of protectionist policies present the greatest threat to this architecture since its inception in the post-war era.

Trade nevertheless remains a powerful driver of economic value creation and is a supporting mechanism for inclusion and poverty reduction, as well as a means to achieve peace and security through the prosperity and interlinkages it promotes. Inequity puts at risk the progress achieved over the previous decades in advancing rules-based trade to which most of the globe adheres to.

As the global trade architecture comes into question for the fairness and equity with which gains are distributed, pursuing an inclusive trade agenda presents one way to address the real or perceived imperfections in the current international trade environment.

Adopting a more inclusive global trade architecture will ensure that everyone enjoys the same opportunities to participate in international trade, and that the benefits from trade are distributed in a fair and equal fashion. This ultimately leads to more stable and prosperous societies.

This paper will explore various mechanisms under the rubric of standards and capacity development through which a more inclusive international trading environment may emerge. These include trade facilitation, digital trade and e-commerce, trade finance, and global supply chain integration initiatives.

THE GTPA'S ROLE IN INCLUSIVE TRADE PROMOTION

Promoting inclusive trade touches on all the GTPA's focus areas and core competencies, such as capacity building, standard setting and building international networks of recognised trade professionals. These are key components to ensuring that all groups in society can benefit from the gains from trade.

The GTPA works with governments, international institutions, non-profit organisations, universities and professional education providers, as well as individual professionals to build trade skills in a structured, formalised manner. We are focused on ensuring that our standards and capacity development work can drive sustainable, inclusive trade around the world.

OUTCOMES

This paper will produce practical recommendations on how capacity building and standard setting can facilitate a more inclusive international trading ecosystem.

The recommendations will benefit organisations, institutions and individual professionals engaged in international trade.

The outcomes from this paper are intended to:

- support policy makers in ensuring that policy settings and commercial environments are structured to achieve fair and equitable access to international trading opportunity;
- support international trade professionals in becoming well-rounded and well-versed on issues pertaining to inclusive trade;
- raise awareness of and reinforce the need to ensure that gains from international trade are equitably shared by all in society.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The GTPA will undertake significant stakeholder engagement through the duration of this project. We will seek to engage with public and private sector organisations, governments and international institutions to gauge experiences and draw out best practice in terms of policy making and programmes that support inclusive trade.

The GTPA will be reaching out to relevant individuals and organisations to discuss these issues and learn from their experiences.

We also welcome outreach from relevant individuals and organisations that are interested in sharing their expertise with the GTPA throughout the duration of this project.

WORKING STRUCTURE

The working structure and themes to be covered as part of this paper are as below.

The discussion will be supported by literature reviews of current research pertaining to these issues, as well primary research conducted with relevant stakeholders around the world to obtain current insight, case studies and examples of best practice.

Executive Summary

1. The need for a more inclusive global trade architecture
 - a. Overview of inequality and instability in current trade architecture
 - b. The rationale for more inclusive trade to promote shared prosperity
 - c. Overview of mechanisms to support inclusive trade, including e-commerce and digital trade; trade facilitation initiatives; trade finance; global supply chain integration
2. Gender inclusion in trade
 - a. Rationale and benefits to ensuring that trade policy takes account of gender issues and preferences
 - b. Instruments to facilitate greater gender inclusion in international trade
 - c. Highlights of international best practice
3. Youth inclusion in trade
 - a. Rationale and benefits to ensuring that trade policy takes account of youth issues and preferences
 - b. Instruments to facilitate greater youth inclusion in international trade
 - c. Highlights of international best practice
4. Diaspora inclusion in trade
 - a. Rationale and benefits to ensuring that trade policy takes account of diaspora issues and preferences
 - b. Instruments to facilitate greater diaspora inclusion in international trade
 - c. Highlights of international best practice
5. Indigenous inclusion in trade
 - a. Rationale and benefits to ensuring that trade policy takes account of indigenous issues and preferences
 - b. Instruments to facilitate greater indigenous inclusion in international trade
 - c. Highlights of international best practice
6. The role of standard development and capacity building in trade

Recommendations to leverage standards and capacity building to support inclusive trade