

IWG - 16 July

Item 5: Other Business

WTO secretariat Talking points

Thank you Chair,

I would like to update the Informal Working Group on the current focus of the WTO work on trade and gender.

But before I do, I would like to introduce Lolita Laperle-Forget who will be working with for the next 11 months. She comes from Canada and was my former intern. Since then, she has grown and among many other achievements she has conducted a research on how African countries have integrated gender provisions and chapters in their FTAs. Now she is back with the WTO.

First, as mentioned earlier this year, the WTO has been working on establishing a database of gender responsive trade policies implemented by WTO members.

Various sources of information are being used to set this database including the discussions with the IWG, trade policy review reports and research conducted by the WTO Trade and Gender Focal Point. This database could also include the gender provisions contained in FTAs and RTAs.

The project is currently shaping and a first draft of the database will be published by the next meeting of the IWG on 23 September.

It will be publically accessible on the WTO web page and will be regularly updated.

Second, the WTO has been developing a set of trade policy tools to help members integrate gender into their trade policies. This package includes:

- An extensive questionnaire that members could use (fully or partially) to integrate a full chapter in their trade policy reports or to assess how gender has been integrated in their trade policies.
- A check-list derived from the questionnaire that can be used for the same purpose
- A guidebook to support members in tis exercise.
- Indicators that can help member understand how trade rules can be implemented with gender lens. The first set of indicators will be developed for the Trade Facilitation Agreement

This package is complementary to ITC's SheTrades Policy Outlook.

This set of tolls will be available to members by the next meeting of the IWG on 23 September.

In the meantime, I am available to discuss these tools if members are interested.

Lastly, the WTO Gender Research Hub will be organising a session at the Public Forum entitled "From gender research to action for a post COVID-19 resilient world".

The session will highlight key research done by the Hub's participants and show how findings have been or could be integrated into policies and programmes, paving the way from research to action on women's empowerment.

I wish you all a nice summer break.

Thank you.