WTO DATABASE
ON GENDER PROVISIONS IN REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (RTAs)
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs

• One-stop platform on provisions explicitly supporting gender equality or addressing gender issues

• Provide access to 331 gender provisions included in 109 RTAs in force or soon to be in force

• Summary document: INF/TGE/COM/4
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs

Objectives

✓ Provide access to gender provisions included in RTAs

✓ Provide up-to-date information on commitments to gender equality in RTAs

✓ Support negotiations of gender provisions in future trade agreements

✓ Facilitate research on trade and gender
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – how to use it

Search

Filter by Parties: Nothing selected

Filter by Region: All

Filter by Part: All

Filter by Implementation instruments: All

Filter by Gender issues: All

Sort by date of signature

Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Show only provisions not excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism

Clear Filter

As of 23 August 2022
Search by gender issues

Sub-categories of social issues

- Filter by Implementation instruments
- Filter by Gender issues
- Sub-Categories Gender issues: 
  - Education
  - Family
  - Food security
  - Health
  - Safety
  - Social inclusion/vulnerability

Sub-categories of issues related to women’s economic participation

- Filter by Implementation instruments
- Filter by Gender issues
- Women participation in economic/development
- Sub-Categories Gender issues:
  - Access to productive resources
  - Female entrepreneurship
  - Labour

Search by implementation instruments

Search

Filter by Parties: Nothing selected

Filter by Region: All

Filter by Part: All

Filter by Implementation instruments: Consultation
Data collection/analysis/research
Dialogue
Exception/exclusion mechanism
Experience/information sharing
Focal point
Framework/work plan
Impact assessment
Implementation of an international instrument
Institution
Law/regulation
Policy/plan/strategy
Programme/project
Recognition/promotion
Resource mobilisation
Specific obligation
Training/capacity-building

Sort by date of signature
Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Clear Filter

As of 23 August 2022

The entries do not refer to the exact number of provisions. Gender provisions included in EU RTAs and incorporated in trade agreements are not exhaustively listed. To cite this work: Laperle-Forget, L., WTO Database on gender provisions in regional trade agreements, World Trade Organisation, gender@wto.org
Search by parties and regions

Filter by Parties:
- All

Filter by Region:
- All
  - Albania
  - Algeria
  - Angola
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Argentina
  - Armenia
  - Australia
  - Bahamas
  - Bahrain, Kingdom of
  - Barbados
  - Belarus

Filter by Part:
- All

Search by date of signature

Sort by date of signature
Search by date and enforcement mechanisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Filter by Parties:</th>
<th>Filter by Implementation instruments:</th>
<th>Filter by Region:</th>
<th>Filter by Gender issues:</th>
<th>Filter by Part:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>All</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Sort by date of signature
- Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism
- Show only provisions not excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism

Clear Filter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Gender issues</th>
<th>Part, Title and Chapter</th>
<th>Provision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada</td>
<td>Women participation in economic/development activities</td>
<td>Chapter 25: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises</td>
<td>Article 25.2: Cooperation to Increase Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. State Parties recognise the importance of technical assistance, capacity building and cooperation in order to complement the liberalisation of services, to support State Parties’ efforts to strengthen their capacity in the supply of services and to facilitate implementation and attainment of the objectives of this Protocol.

2. State Parties agree, where possible, to mobilise resources, in collaboration with development partners, and implement measures, in support of the domestic efforts of State Parties, with a view to, inter alia: (a) building capacity and training for trade in services; (b) improving the ability of service suppliers to gather information on and to meet regulations and standards at international, continental, regional and national levels; (c) supporting the collection and management of statistical data on trade in services; (d) improving the export capacity of both formal and informal service suppliers, with particular attention to micro, small and medium size; women and youth service suppliers. [...] 3. The Secretariat, working with State Parties, RECs and partners, shall coordinate the provision of technical assistance.

With a view to more robust cooperation between the Parties to enhance commercial opportunities for SMEs, and among other efforts, in the context of Memoranda of Understanding that exist between Parties on SME cooperation, each Party shall seek to increase trade and investment opportunities, and in particular shall: (a) promote cooperation between the Parties’ small business support infrastructure, including dedicated SME centers, incubators and [...].
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – information provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada</th>
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<th>Gender equality, Social issues, Women participation in economic/development activities</th>
<th>Chapter 23: Labour</th>
<th>Chapter 23: Labour</th>
<th>Article 23.9: Discrimination in the Workplace:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>The Parties recognize the goal of eliminating discrimination in employment and occupation, and support the goal of promoting equality of women in the workplace. Accordingly, each Party shall implement policies that it considers appropriate to protect workers against employment discrimination on the basis of sex (including with regard to sexual harassment), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and caregiving responsibilities; provide job-protected leave for birth or adoption of a child and care of family members; and protect against wage discrimination.</td>
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<td>Article 23.12: Cooperation</td>
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<td>1. The Parties recognize the importance of cooperation as a mechanism for effective implementation of this Chapter, to enhance opportunities to improve labor standards, and to further advance common commitments regarding labor matters, including the principles and rights stated in the ILO Declaration on Rights at Work.</td>
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<td>2. The Parties may, commensurate with the availability of resources, cooperate through: […]</td>
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<td>(i) addressing gender-related issues in the field of labor and employment, including:</td>
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<td>(i) elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex in respect of employment, occupation, and wages,</td>
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<td>(ii) developing analytical and enforcement tools related to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value,</td>
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<td>(iii) promotion of labor practices that integrate and retain women in the job market, and building the capacity and skills of women workers, including on workplace challenges and in collective bargaining,</td>
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<td>(iv) consideration of gender issues related to occupational safety and health and other workplace practices, including advancement of child care, nursing mothers, and related policies and programs, and in the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and</td>
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<td>(v) prevention of gender-based workplace violence and harassment; […] (ii) addressing the opportunities of a diverse workforce, including:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


| Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada | Gender equality, Social issues, Women participation in economic/development activities | Chapter 23: Labour | Article 23.9: Discrimination in the Workplace:

The Parties recognize the goal of eliminating discrimination in employment and occupation, and support the goal of promoting equality of women in the workplace. Accordingly, each Party shall implement policies that it considers appropriate to protect workers against employment discrimination on the basis of sex (including with regard to sexual harassment), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and caregiving responsibilities; provide job-protected leave for birth or adoption of a child and care of family members; and protect against wage discrimination. |

- **Sub-category(ies) of gender issues**: Labour (equal wage, pregnancy, parental leave), family, safety (sexual harassment)
- **Implementation instrument(s)**: Policy/plan/strategy, Recognition/promotion
- **Parties**: Canada, Mexico, United States
- **Institution in charge of reviewing the implementation**: Labour Council (ref. Article 23.14)
- **Explicitly excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism**: Specific procedures (ref. Article 23.17 (Labour Consultation for the procedures): paragraph 12: "No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 31 [Dispute Settlement] for a matter arising under this Chapter without first seeking to resolve the matter in accordance with this Article")
- **Date of signature**: 2018
- **Date of entry into force**: 2020
- **Additional information**: N/A
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs

Visit the website:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/womenandtrade_e/gender_responsiv e_trade_agreement_db_e.htm
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome

Gender provisions are a longstanding practice

September 2022

- 331 gender provisions
- 109 RTAs
- 14 chapters on trade and gender

Source: Laperle-Forget, L, INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome

Gender provisions in force across the globe

Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome

Gender provisions in force across the world

- **153 countries**
  - have included a provision explicitly addressing gender issues in their RTAs

- **Gender provisions**
  - are included in 24 south-south RTAs

- **Trade blocks**
  - Many regional trade blocks promote gender equality
    - AfCFTA, CARIFORUM, USMCA, EEA, GCC, CPTPP, EAEU, PACER Plus

90% of WTO Members

Eight intra-African RTAs promote gender equality

Source: Laperle-Forget, L, INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
Gender issues addressed in RTAs

Gender inequalities issues
- Discrimination in employment and wage
- Equal access to productive resources
- Equal treatment, opportunities, and rights
- Other forms of discrimination against women

Female entrepreneurship issues
- Business opportunities for women entrepreneurs
- Export capacity
- Discrimination and obstacles faced by women entrepreneurs
- Access to productive resources (land, finance, technology, etc)

Social issues
- Family and childcare programmes, reconciliation of family responsibility and career development and unpaid care work
- Access to education and training
- Access to quality health services, including maternal and reproductive health
- Vulnerability and poverty
- Safety issues and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual harassment

Labour issues
- Women workers’ skills
- Decent working conditions
- Employment opportunities
- Flexible working arrangements
- Safety and health in the workplace

Politics and decision-making issues
- Equal opportunities for women in decision-making bodies in the public and private sectors
- Women’s leadership at decision-making levels
- Promotion of women in politics

Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome

**Actions to address gender issues and implement gender provisions**

- Cooperation
- Recognition or promotion
- Implementation of an international instrument
- Training and capacity-building programme
- Policy, plan and strategy
- Experience and information sharing
- Programme and project
- Law and regulation
- Dialogue
- Data collection and analysis, and research
- Consultation
- Creation of an institution
- Report on the implementation
- Framework and work plan
- Impact assessment
- Exclusion or exception mechanism
- Resource mobilisation

Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
Enforcement mechanisms applicable to gender provisions

Monitoring institution

- Other institutions
- Trade issues
- Trade and gender
- Cooperation
- General institution

Dispute settlement mechanism

- Not excluded
- Specific procedure
- Explicitly excluded
- No DSM provided

Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization
Thank you!

Lolita.laperle-forget@wto.org