

International Women's Day - 6 March 2020
Building a Gender Balanced WTO For All Generations

Speech

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Good morning everyone.

In October 2017, we launched a 2-year Action Plan on Trade and Gender, with 4 key objectives:

- First, raising awareness on the link between trade and gender.
- Second, facilitating members' actions on trade and gender.
- Third, generating new data on the impact of trade on women.
- And, fourth, providing training on these issues.

This action plan was only a start. It has helped build the foundations of the WTO's work on gender. Now we need to build the house.

For this purpose, this year we will launch a 5-year action Plan. Training will be placed at the core of this strategy.

As the DG mentioned, we have developed and are implementing a training module for governments officials, and I would like to thank my colleagues in ITTC for their continuous support. In the coming years, we will extend the training offer via different channels, including interactive online platforms. We will create a programme for WTO delegates based in Geneva and one for women entrepreneurs.

On a more personal note, I am very proud to have been given the opportunity to work on this issue. Through my work, last year, I was able to meet with women entrepreneurs from South Asia and East Africa.

This was a revealing experience and a life lesson of perseverance, resilience, strength and eagerness to rise. I came back transformed with a stronger belief that this work has an impact on real lives of real women.

I want to conclude with this figure: Unilever just announced that it has achieved 50/50 gender balance across global leadership. The company worldwide has the same number of women and men in leadership roles. If Unilever can do it on a global scale, so can the WTO!