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Understanding the links between trade, government procurement and women economic empowerment: the role of the GPA

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Contents of presentation



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The link
between trade,
GP and women
economic
empowerment

What is the
GPA?

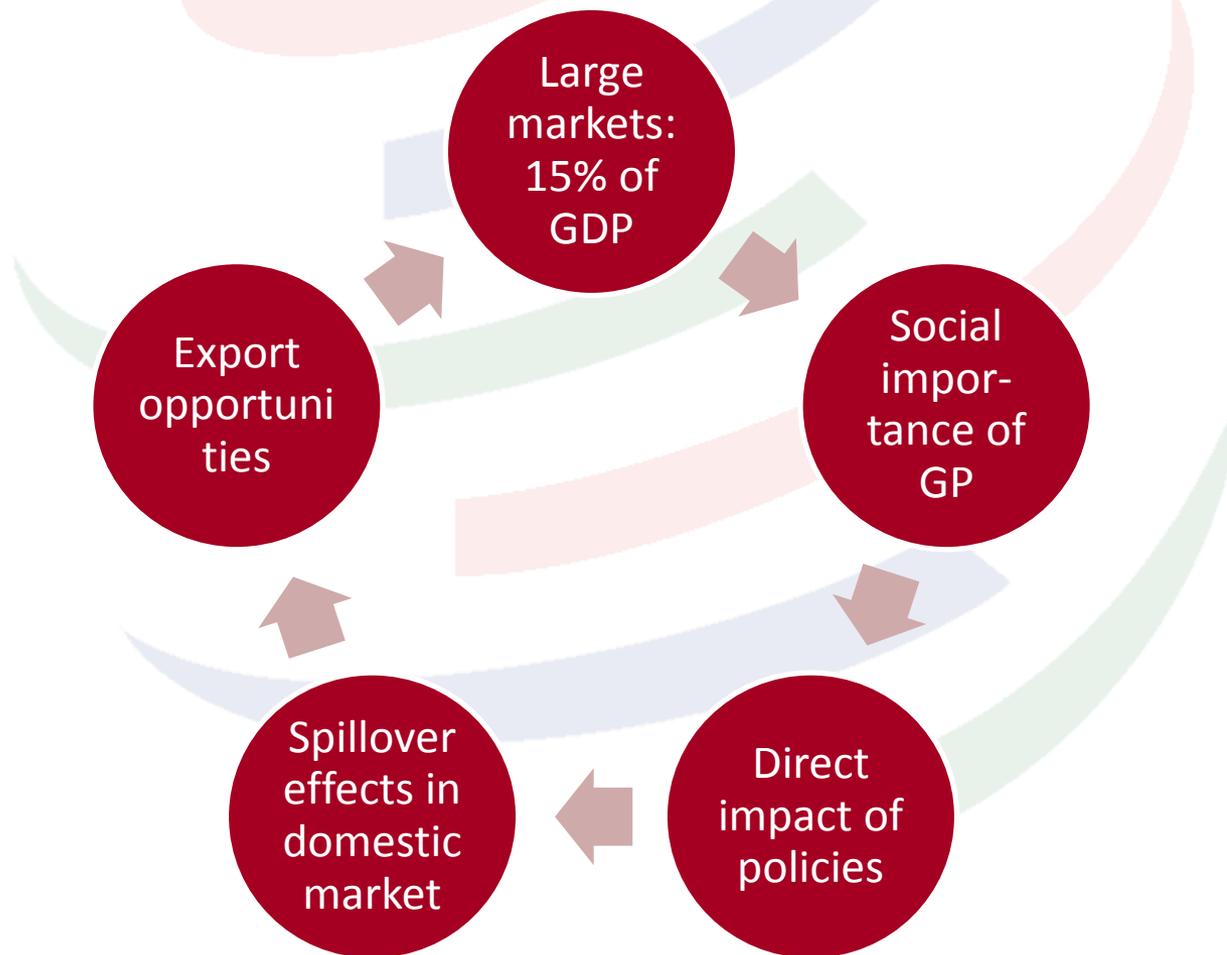
What is the role
of the GPA in
fostering women
business
participation?



Why government procurement for women economic empowerment?



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What is the GPA?: Basic nature of the Agreement



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A binding international Agreement that promotes:

- Access to other GPA Parties' procurement markets;
- Improved value for money in each participating Member's procurements;
- Good governance (transparency, fair competition and a key requirement regarding avoidance of corruption).

A plurilateral agreement

- Part of the WTO system (and enforceable under the DSU!) via Annex 4 of the Marrakesh Agreement.
- Recently re-negotiated.
- Membership increasing over time.



Membership & market access dimension



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- increasing membership of the Agreement.
 - currently comprises 19 Parties, latest Parties: Moldova and Ukraine
 - 2015 and 2016: two new Parties each
 - encompasses 47 WTO members – up from 22 in 1994
 - several acceding members (incl. Australia, China, Russia) and others with GPA accession commitments (e.g. Kazakhstan)
- significant and growing market access dimension
 - estimated \$1.7 trillion, worth about 2.5% of global economy



State of play and latest developments



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10 observers are in the process of acceding

Australia

Albania;

Jordan;

Oman;

F.Y.R. of Macedonia;

China;

Georgia;

Kyrgyz Republic;

Russian Federation;

Tajikistan.

Ukraine and Moldova completed their accession processes and became Parties to the Agreement in Summer 2016.

Link to WTO accession: 5 other WTO Members have commitments to seek GPA accession: Afghanistan; Mongolia; Saudi Arabia; Seychelles and Kazakhstan.

Main elements



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National treatment and non-discrimination.

Detailed provisions on procurement process, to ensure transparent and open competition.

E-procurement and fight against corruption as new elements

Flexibilities for developing economies & only applies to above-threshold covered procurement!



Core principles of the Agreement (basis for legal elements)



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Non-discrimination
(especially between foreign
and domestic suppliers);

Transparency of the
procurement system and of
individual procurements;

Procedural fairness for
suppliers/potential
suppliers



The GPA and Women Economic Empowerment



The GPA and Women Economic Empowerment



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Preferential programmes: Use of flexibilities under the GPA

Advocacy, training and community of female procurement professionals: WTO technical assistance

The right choices: what to buy, contract size, turnover requirements, payment terms: GPA Committee policy dialogue

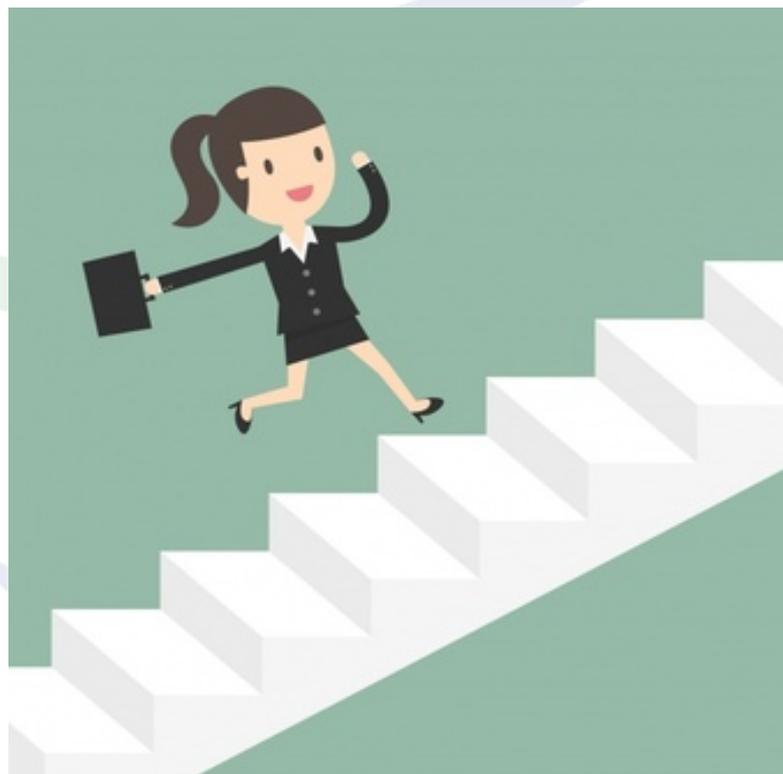
A fair, open and transparent procurement system: GPA minimum standards and e-procurement



The GPA and Women Economic Empowerment



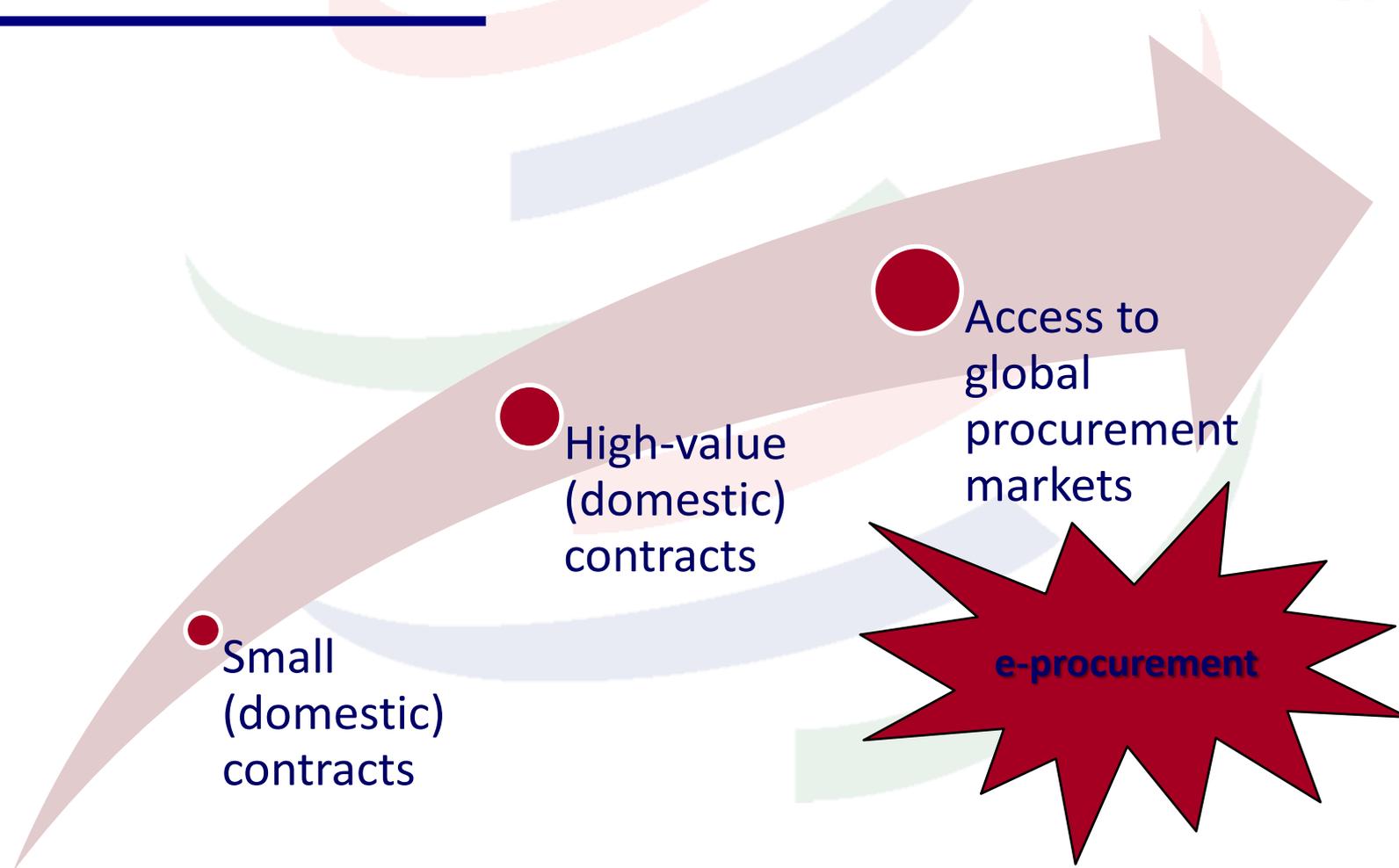
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The GPA and Women Economic Empowerment



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Small
(domestic)
contracts

High-value
(domestic)
contracts

Access to
global
procurement
markets

e-procurement



General remarks



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- The global context of the GPA: an emerging pillar of the global economy and important for women businesses that want to access procurement markets
- It has been adapted to take account of the use of electronic tools
- Synergies between good procurement practices, international trade and women economic empowerment need to be harnessed.
- International dialogue is needed!