



# Integrating Women in International Trade: The Canadian Approach

WTO Workshop

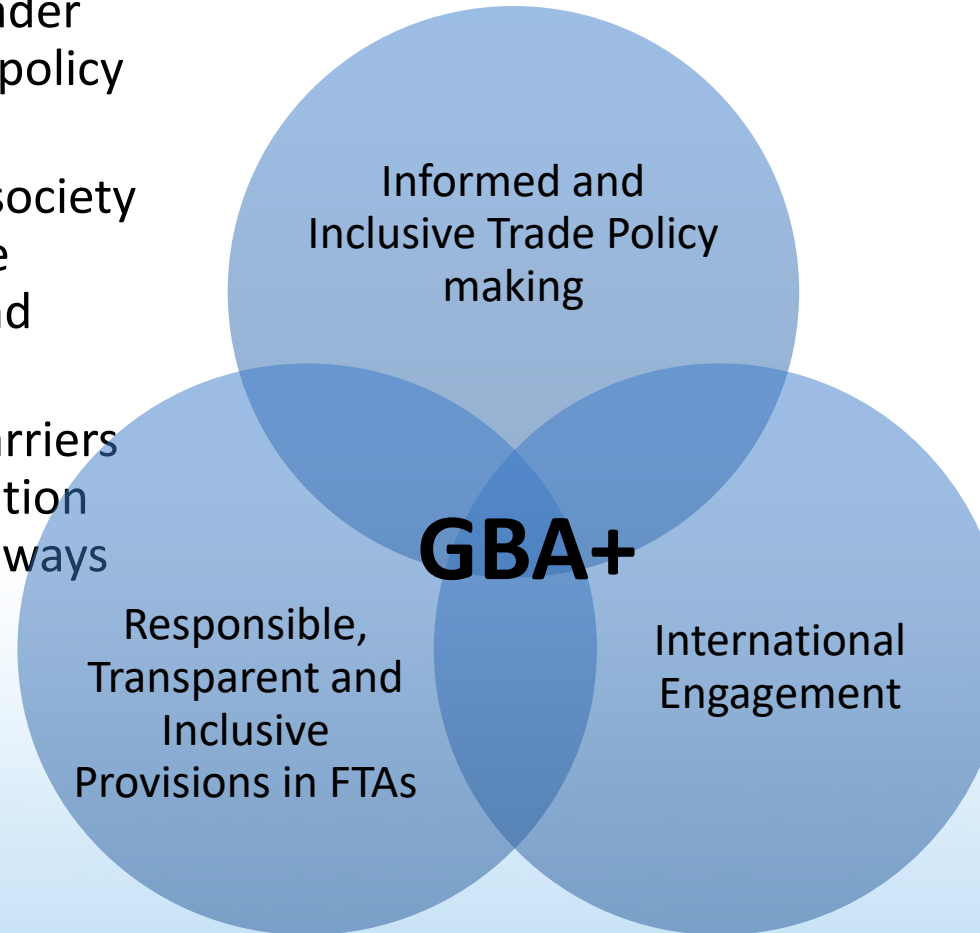
Andre Francois Giroux

Trade Agreements Secretariat, Global Affairs Canada

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# Gender.....a key part of Canada's Inclusive Approach to Trade

- Recognizes that trade policies need to contribute more meaningfully to broader economic, social, and environmental policy priorities
- Seeks to ensure that all segments of society can benefit and take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade and investment
- Acknowledges that gender-related barriers to trade exist and that trade liberalization affects men and women in different ways
- Consistent with and advances domestic policy priorities
  - Feminist Foreign Policy
  - Gender Equality
  - Inclusive Growth



# Trade and Gender

## Informing Our Approach



- Extensive collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data
- Extensive consultations
- Gender Based Analysis Plus
  - A whole-of-government approach to incorporating a gender lens in all policymaking

# Role of GBA+ in Canada's Approach

- Helps identify potential positive and negative effects of FTA on people in Canada
- Helps to support continual strengthening and innovating of Trade and Gender chapter
- Helps identify new opportunities for mainstreaming new gender responsive and inclusivity provisions in FTAs through consistent and regular updating of GBA+ of FTA chapters before each round of negotiations
  - Goal to influence negotiation strategy
- Helping identify new areas of strategic data collection and analysis
- Helps identify what domestic flanking policies and programs need to be developed or re-oriented to address potential negative effects that cannot be addressed in trade policy

# GBA+ for Trade Policy

## Key Questions

- What is the purpose of the chapter and what are the expected socio-economic effects of it in Canada?
- What are the gender targeted and gender-related provisions in the chapter?
- What are the top industries effected by the chapter and what is the gender make-up of them?
- Are there important different gender effects which need to be managed?
- What are the new trade policy provisions that could address the differential effects?

## Key Considerations

- Women's roles in Canadian economy
- On the Plus: Indigenous, youth, immigrants, LGBTQ
- Various Key Effects:
  - Direct (primary) and Indirect (secondary/tertiary)
  - Intended and Unintended
  - Positive and Negative (opportunity to enhance or mitigate)
- Recognize that trade policy can not address all findings

# Challenges

- GBA+ disrupts traditional approach to trade policy
- Overcoming resistance
  - View that trade is gender neutral
  - FTA is no place for gender considerations
  - FTA is not a tool to advance social issues
  - Some trading partners do not want to talk about gender
- Lack of adequate gender disaggregated data and capacity to interpret it in a trade policy context
  - Indirect employment effects, supply chains effects, consumer data by gender
- Some see application of GBA+ as a zero sum game
  - that men will lose if women receive equitable access
- Proving positive gender outcomes from GBA+ of trade policy and gender responsive trade FTAs

# Benefits of GBA+

- Helps design and strengthen trade policies and FTAs that are more gender responsive and inclusive
- Helps deliver on Canada's inclusive approach to trade as a force for positive change in the global trading environment
- Supports continuous strengthening and innovating of FTA chapters
  - helps identify new opportunities for mainstreaming new inclusivity provisions in FTAs
- Identifies areas for more strategic data collection and analysis

# Addressing Gender in Trade Agreements

## Canada's Two-Pronged Approach

Trade and  
Gender  
Chapters

Gender  
Mainstreaming



# Trade and Gender Chapter

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Acknowledges the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into economic and trade issues to ensure that economic growth is inclusive.

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Reaffirms commitment to implement UN Conventions against gender discrimination, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and other relevant international instruments.

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Provides a framework for Parties to undertake cooperation activities and capacity building on issues related to Trade and Gender.

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Establishes a Committee that oversees cooperation activities, reviews operation of the Chapter, reports on implementation of activities, and monitors other Chapters for their effects on gender.

# Standard provisions sought by Canada in Trade and Gender chapters

- Ensure all gender equality laws are effectively enforced
- Ensure women have access to, ownership of and control over economic resources required for economic empowerment
- Ensure that gender equality laws and standards are not lowered to attract trade and investment
- Work together multilaterally to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment
- Listing all gender responsive provisions across FTA for transparency and communication purposes
- Illustrative list of co-operation activities

# Seven Proven and Promising Drivers to Expand Women's Economic Empowerment



# Examples of Co-operation Activities

Developing programs, sharing best practices, exchanging information on a variety of issues to advance and to promote women's full participation in the economy--public and private sector--women's economic empowerment (including decision-making opportunities) and gender equality, including:

- financial inclusion, access to financing, including export financing and venture capital
- participation in government procurement markets;
- use of diverse suppliers, including women-owned businesses;
- undertaking trade missions for business women and women entrepreneurs;
- advancing care policies and programs with a gender and shared social responsibility perspective;
- enhancing competitiveness and participation in local, regional, and global supply chains;
- participation in standards and conformity assessment development and implementation
- closing gender the gender wage gap and gender digital divide, and advancing the use of e-commerce;
- facilitating women-owned cooperatives and access to international networks, markets, and supply chains
- conducting GBA+ and sharing best practices, procedures for sex-disaggregated data collection, and use of indicators

# Accountability and Monitoring Mechanisms in the Chapter

- Ensured through institutional provisions through Trade and Gender Committee:
  - Annual Committee meetings
  - Working with other committees to integrate gender-related commitments, considerations and activities into their work
  - Reporting and making recommendations to the Commission on any matter related to Trade and Gender
  - Seeking advice and participation of outside experts such as civil society organizations and academics
  - Undertake a review of the implementation of the Chapter within five years of the entry into force of the Agreement, and periodically thereafter
  - Annual reports published on activities undertaken and results achieved

# Gender mainstreaming (1\3)

## Labour

- Prohibit gender-based discrimination in the labour market
- Address barriers to the full participation of women in the workforce and the gender wage gap
- Propose cooperation activities that address gender equity in labour
- Reference the specific requirements in the ILO Conventions dealing with fundamental labour rights

## Government Procurement

- Social Procurement: Proposal that makes it clear that procuring entities can use technical specifications in bids that promote socio-economic development opportunities for socially or economically disadvantaged people, including women, as long as they don't favour domestic suppliers
- Procurement set-asides for women-owned businesses

# Gender mainstreaming (2\3)

## Investment

- Perform Corporate Social Responsibility – that gender equality be included in the illustrative list of corporate social responsibility areas where the Parties encourage adherence of enterprises operating within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction
- Selection of Arbitrator in ISDS - when appointing arbitrators, the Parties encourage greater diversity, including by appointing women

## Trade in Services

- Prohibit gender-based discrimination related to licencing and qualification requirements

## Temporary Entry

- Coverage for the temporary entry of spouses for certain business persons entering under the FTA Temporary Entry chapter which grants work permit to spouses who wish to work while accompanying their partner in another FTA Party's territory for the duration of a contract (spouse in Canada includes same-sex couples)

# Gender mainstreaming 3/3

## Institutional

- Encourage membership on committees from a diverse pool of candidates, including with respect to gender balance

## SMEs

- All co-operation activities will include the participation of women

## E-Commerce

- promote access to information and communications technologies and e-commerce for women and girls



# Successes

- Canada-Chile FTA (June 2017)
  - Trade and Gender Chapter for Canada
- CIFTA (Israel modernization):
  - Trade and Gender chapter (May 2018)
- CETA--Canada -EU Declaration on Trade and Gender (Sept. 2018)
- Ongoing Mercosur and Pacific Alliance negotiations
- Championed WTO Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, Buenos Aires (December 2017)

# Implementation Experience

- Developing detailed work plans for Committees
  - Includes description of action item, objectives, implementation plan, expected results, leads, timelines
  - Includes a commitment to public reporting on activities and results
- Examples:
  - Exchanging information on gender equality laws, policies and programs, and women's economic empowerment policies and programs
  - Exchange experiences and practices on GBA of trade policy and the collection and analyses of gender disaggregated data
  - Exchanging information and practices on crafting gender responsive trade agreements
- Activities to date:
  - Chile—
    - GBA+ workshop for APEC lead officials (Jan. 2019)
    - APEC Women and Trade Workshop (March 2019)
  - EU—
    - Business Women in International Trade (BWIT) mission to EU in 2018
    - Video conference to exchange information on gender equality laws, policies and programs in Canada and the EU (Feb. 2019)
    - Workshop on Trade and Gender (April 2019)

# Next Steps for Canada

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Continue to strengthen and innovate the chapter.

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More mainstreaming = more enforceability.

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Cooperation activities' trickle down effect in all parties to the FTA.

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Measuring the effects of Trade and Gender chapters over time.

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Increased international engagement on trade and gender.

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Gain experience on implementing chapters and how to deliver results and prove success.

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Increase focus of chapter on women as workers and consumers.