

## MAKING TRADE WORK FOR WOMEN

### WTO PRIORITIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

#### PRIORITY 1: PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE TRADE POLICY-MAKING

With its **Trade&Gender360° Strategy**, the WTO is working to enhance members' knowledge of trade and gender equality and providing **training programmes for government officials**.

These courses specifically cover gender concepts and their relevance to trade. They focus on gender-responsive trade policies and gender provisions in free trade agreements, and also include an introduction to specialized and thematic trade and gender issues.

The aim of these training programmes is to build WTO members' knowledge of the trade and gender nexus, as well as to support the implementation of trade and gender concepts and tools in analysing and developing trade policies.

The courses are designed to enable government officials to address women's trade-related challenges and to contribute to the formulation and implementation of gender policies, strategies and programmes, in order to leverage opportunities in regional and international markets.

The training also supports the work of trade delegates by giving them access to information and mechanisms to help them better serve their governments in terms of work on trade and gender issues, decision-making processes and trade negotiations.

The WTO is developing **a set of 12 gender-responsive trade policy tools** designed to support WTO members' data collection, monitoring and reporting activities, as well as to render trade policy-making more inclusive. As part of this work, the WTO is developing **a package of three databases**:

1. The WTO gender-responsive trade policy database, which is currently under construction, compiles and categorizes gender-responsive trade policies.
2. The WTO gender-responsive trade agreement database, to be launched at the [Aid for Trade Global Review 2022](#) in July, maps and analyses gender provisions in trade agreements.
3. The [WTO research database on trade and gender](#), which was launched in April 2022 and is available on the WTO website, compiles more than 120 published research papers, articles and publications on trade and gender by the WTO, other international and regional organizations, institutions in the WTO Chairs Programme, and other academic institutions.

As one-stop sources, these databases are helping members to share practices, providing access to information that is otherwise not accessible, supporting trade and gender policymaking, and building WTO members' expertise in trade and gender.

#### PRIORITY 2: DRIVING RESEARCH ON TRADE AND GENDER GLOBALLY

The **WTO Gender Research Hub** was created in May 2021 with the aim of deepening understanding of the trade and gender nexus and encouraging research and data collection efforts. The Hub serves as an information-sharing and knowledge-gathering platform from which the latest findings of researchers and experts can be disseminated globally. It aims to foster research partnerships, help collect published research to enable easier access to experts' findings, bring visibility to work on trade and gender, and promote the topic as a recognized field of research and expertise.

As part of this work, the **WTO Research Database on Trade and Gender** was launched in 2022. It compiles more than 120 research papers examining the trade and gender nexus from various angles. This database, compiled by the Trade and Gender Unit in collaboration with the WTO Gender Research Hub, is intended to improve access to research concerning trade and gender equality and to help WTO members design gender-responsive trade policies.

As part of its work plan, and with the purpose of deepening the analysis of trade and gender issues, the Hub will be organizing **three “Think Up!” events annually**, at which the Hub’s trade and gender experts and external stakeholders will present and discuss specific, current issues pertaining to trade and gender, and share different perspectives and concrete examples. The [first “Think Up!” event](#) took place on 9 March 2022 and its theme was “Financing Change: Trade Finance to Women Entrepreneurs’ Rescue”.

On 5-7 December 2022, the WTO and the Gender Research Hub will hold the **World Trade Congress on Gender** in Geneva. This will be the first global research conference dedicated to trade and gender. To be held biennially from 2022 onwards, the Congress will promote research on trade and gender, release new findings and anchor them in women’s reality as entrepreneurs, employees and consumers. The 2022 Congress will focus on “Gender Equality for Sustainable Trade and Recovery.”

By means of the WTO Gender Research Hub and its actions, the **WTO is bringing a new legal and economic perspective** to the trade and gender nexus, with a particular emphasis on the real-life impacts of trade on women’s lives and on how trade policies can help women. The **WTO is also gathering legal, economic and evidence** of gender as a cross-cutting issue in trade-related matters, and of how non-trade issues can impact women’s ability to integrate into the global market. This work is conducted by the WTO Trade and Gender Unit.

### **PRIORITY 3: MAKING AID FOR TRADE WORK FOR WOMEN**

In 2021-22, the **WTO reformed its [Aid for Trade Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise](#)** to better integrate gender considerations into its data and information collection processes.

Based on this work, the WTO has been gathering new data on how members are integrating gender considerations into their Aid for Trade programmes. These new data show that almost all donors and recipients of Aid for Trade are integrating gender issues into their programmes and projects, which are often used to boost the trade capacity of female entrepreneurs and farmers. These programmes and projects specifically target sectors where women are overrepresented, such as agriculture and fisheries, tourism, and the manufacturing of textiles and apparel, and focus on specific areas of policy intervention, such as infrastructure development, access to finance, adaptation to climate change, digitalization, female leadership and preventing gender-based violence. Most developing countries intend to focus their future Aid for Trade support for women mainly on services while maintaining their focus on agriculture.

The WTO will continue to reform its approach to Aid for Trade and to **develop other Aid for Trade tools and methodologies** to support members in integrating gender considerations into their Aid for Trade programmes.

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**For more information**, visit the [WTO Women and Trade webpage](#) or contact the WTO Trade and Gender Unit: [trade-gender@wto.org](mailto:trade-gender@wto.org)