

# WORLD TRADE CONGRESS ON GENDER

## *GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND RECOVERY*

### BACKGROUND NOTE

#### General information

<b>Date</b>	5-7 December 2022
<b>Location</b>	World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
<b>Organisers</b>	WTO Gender Research Hub and WTO Trade and Gender Unit
<b>Format</b>	Hybrid: in person and online
<b>Theme</b>	Gender Equality for Sustainable Trade and Recovery

#### Key features

- The Congress is the 1<sup>st</sup> international research conference on trade and gender. It takes place on a biennial basis with the objective to release research work conducted by trade and gender experts, showcase new research initiatives and promote innovative research on this field.
- Innovative thinking will be at the heart of the Congress. Thirty top researchers from all over the world will present their latest findings on trade and gender under the theme "Gender Equality for Sustainable Trade and Recovery".
- Research discussions will cover a wide range of issues, including gender-responsive trade agreements, solutions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on women, or how to facilitate trade for women and female entrepreneurs. Experts will highlight how their findings can support sustainable trade and create a more targeted recovery in favour of women. Governments will also contribute to these debates and bring their policy making expertise and perspective.
- The Congress will also include 2 plenary sessions on gender-based violence and the role of trade, and the impacts of crisis on women and how trade policy can better address women's needs.
- A "Speed Meeting" will be held at the Congress between researchers and policy makers to foster partnerships.
- The World Trade Institute will launch a book on trade and gender, specifically examining the limits of women's economic empowerment.
- The Congress will also include an "ideas bar" to encourage innovative thinking and research.
- Various governmental and international programmes in support of women and research will be showcased in the Atrium.
- Participants will get a taste of resilience during the networking reception on the first day and organisers are planning a surprise for participants during this event.

## High level speakers

- WTO Director-General will open the Congress along with high level speakers from governments, the private sector and international organisations.
- Renowned researchers and high-level experts on trade will bring a substantive layer to the discussions, looking at trade and gender issues from a different perspective, and strengthening the debates.

## More information on the organizers

- The [WTO Gender Research Hub](#) was launched on [31 May 2021](#) with the objective to deepen the understanding of the trade and gender nexus and further foster research and data collection efforts. The Hub serves as an information-sharing and knowledge-gathering platform where the latest findings of researchers and experts can be shared and disseminated globally. It also aims to foster research partnerships, help collect published research for easier access to experts' findings, bring visibility to the work on trade and gender and promote the topic as a recognised field of research and expertise. 40 researchers from international and regional organisations, WTO Chairs Programme and academia. The Hub's research work is compiled in the [WTO Research database on trade and gender](#).
- The [WTO Trade and Gender Unit](#) is the WTO's trade and gender expert team. Its work is driven by the WTO's [Action Plan on Trade and Gender 2021-2026](#).

## For more information

Please contact the WTO at: [trade-gender@wto.org](mailto:trade-gender@wto.org)