



ONLINE COURSE

“TRADE AND GENDER LINKAGES WITH A FOCUS ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES”

13 MARCH - 16 APRIL 2023

With support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)

PROSPECTUS

Background

Economic development and social and cultural shifts have contributed to a decrease in gender-related inequalities across the world. Among the major shifts are the rise in female educational enrolment compared with male enrolment, and the increase in women’s participation in the labour force. However, these shifts cannot be considered an automatic outcome of development but rather the result of concerted policy action and resource allocation for gender equality. Taking a gender perspective has helped to reveal a number of structural inequalities between men and women in the social, economic and political spheres, and encouraged the implementation of measures to redress them. Efforts to mainstream gender equality in policymaking have been important in this regard.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided new evidence of the fact that economic and social crises tend to exacerbate gender inequalities, risking reversing decades of progress: women are more at risk of losing jobs because their participation in the labour market is often in the form of temporary and part-time employment, and they are often less entitled than men to social protection, as eligibility frequently depends upon formal employment. Moreover, female-dominated sectors – such as the services sector, have been the most affected by the pandemic. Finally, containment measures have contributed to an increase in the already heavy burden of unpaid work borne by women, and in the rates of domestic violence.

Trade and trade policy can play a key role in fostering a more sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. They also remain a powerful driving force in supporting the global efforts towards the realization of broader women’s economic empowerment and gender equality goals. For this to happen, an in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is necessary to make trade a tool for achieving more inclusive and gender-equal economies after the pandemic.

In an effort to increase awareness of the links between trade and gender among stakeholders in developing and least developed countries, UNCTAD developed a portfolio of online courses on trade and gender. This edition of the course will be offered in English over a period of five weeks, from **13 March to 16 April 2023**.

The course is based on two teaching modules published by UNCTAD: *“Looking at the trade and gender nexus from a development perspective - A brief overview. Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks”*; and *“Trade and Gender linkages: an analysis of Least Developed Countries”*, which includes case studies, data and coursework that address contexts and specificities of this group of countries.

The course is open to stakeholders from developing and least developed countries and to a limited number of stakeholders from developed countries. It will be managed and tutored by the Trade, Gender and Development Programme of UNCTAD.

Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge needed to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and ultimately produce gender-aware policy recommendations. To this end, the course introduces the concepts of trade and gender, and combines theory on the interaction between trade and gender with empirical evidence. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- Look at the economy from a gender perspective
- Identify the channels through which trade affects women's economic empowerment and well-being, and the channels through which gender inequality affects trade performance and competitiveness
- Illustrate how trade integration has influenced gender outcomes in the different economic sectors
- Be aware of the current debate on trade and gender taking place and the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels and be able to contribute to this area of research and policy-oriented work
- Use the knowledge acquired to produce policy-oriented research and strategies that could be used by national and regional policymakers, and academic papers investigating the interplay between trade and gender
- Contribute to mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies

A detailed description of the course content and timetable is provided in the annex.

Target audience and course prerequisites

The course targets policymakers, academics from universities and research centres, and representatives of civil society in developing and least developed countries involved in policy formulation and implementation, research, teaching, advocacy or field work in the area of trade and gender. The number of participants is limited to ensure appropriate support throughout the course.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a Master's degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, gender studies or related area
- Possess excellent knowledge of the English language

To successfully complete course activities, participants should plan to devote 10–12 hours a week to the course.

Course fees

Thanks to support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), selected participants will be exempt from fees associated with access to the course and tutoring services.

Participants who so wish will receive free of charge a hard copy of UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender and of the module devoted to the LDCs.

Certificate of completion

Participants with passing grades in the course will receive a certificate of completion. Outstanding participants will also receive a distinction letter.

Application information and deadline

Applications should be submitted by following the instructions at the links below:

<https://www.research.net/r/TRXC66W>

Applications must include a detailed curriculum vitae and a letter of nomination from the applicant's institution indicating its support for the application and explaining how the applicant's participation in the course will contribute to his or her future work and the work of the institution.

The deadline for application is **26 February 2023**. Incomplete applications or applications received after that date will not be considered. For assistance with the online application process, please contact elarningtrade@un.org.

Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to:

Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli
 Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme
 Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
 Email: simonetta.zarrilli@un.org

A selection committee will review each application and select the course participants based on the supporting documents and the relevance of the course to their work.

Participants will be advised of their selection by **6 March 2023**.

Annex: Content and timetable of the courses

The course is divided in two parts, each of which is based on the teaching modules “*Looking at the trade and gender nexus from a development perspective - A brief overview. Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks*”; and “*Trade and Gender linkages: an analysis of Least Developed Countries*”. Each part includes the following:

- Accompanying multimedia lectures;
- Suggested additional reading on issues covered in the course.

To successfully complete the course, participants will be requested to pass multiple-choice tests and draft a final essay of approximately 1 000 – 1 500 words in which they will apply their new knowledge to their country situation.

An Internet connection is required to take part in the discussions in the forum and to interact with course tutor and other participants, as well as to complete multiple-choice tests and submit the final essay.

The course is structured as follows:

Dates	Title	Content
Weeks 1 and 2: 13 – 26 March 2023	Part 1 The trade and gender debate: Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks	The economy as a gendered structure; The two-way relationship between trade and gender: the effects of trade on gender equality and women’s economic empowerment; the effects of gender inequalities on trade performance and export competitiveness; trends in mainstreaming gender in trade policy: ex-ante gender impact assessments of trade agreements; gender provisions in trade agreements; trade and gender in the World Trade Organization.
Weeks 3 and 4: 27 March– 9 April 2023	Part 2 Linkages between trade and gender inequalities in Least Developed Countries	Trade and gender nexus in LDCs; socio-economic outlook of the least developed country groups; an assessment of the various dimensions of gender inequalities; a gender analysis of trade policy and trade flows in the least developed countries
Week 5: 10 – 16 April 2023	Final essay	An essay of about 1 000 - 1 500 words explaining the relevance of the issues covered by the course for the participant’s country and providing some options and suggestions on how to mainstream gender in the trade policy of the participant’s country