

## **NTFC Session 10: Inclusivity in trade facilitation - The role of National Trade Facilitation Committees**

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### **Moderator (Victoria Tuomisto, ITC): Peru is addressing trade facilitation through a gender and SME-specific lens, in what specific ways is the NTFC and Mincetur achieving this?**

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, which presides over the National Committee of Trade Facilitation (COMUFAL), is taking specific steps to reduce gender disparities in trade and encourage the inclusion of women and SMEs in initiatives aimed at increasing exports.

We are introducing discussions on the role of women as government officials and trade operators, the border conditions they face, and the challenges they encounter. In April of this year, we organized a panel discussion with the participation of UNCTAD, where these topics were addressed. During this event, women who have played prominent roles in facilitating foreign trade in both the public and private sectors shared their experiences, highlighting their achievements, challenges overcome, and lessons learned.

As part of these efforts, we are about to initiate a study in collaboration with UNCTAD and HM Revenue and Customs of the United Kingdom to develop a diagnostic on the border situation and the issues women encounter while conducting operations at the borders of Peru with Ecuador and Bolivia. This study aims to precisely identify the obstacles women face in these border areas and to develop effective strategies to overcome them.

Additionally, as part of our efforts to facilitate operations, especially for SMEs, we are implementing a sanitary risk management system in our single window. We have established an institutional framework and are currently analyzing risk contexts while addressing risks through a risk profile. This tool, which prioritizes risk criteria, aims to identify, analyze, evaluate, and mitigate existing risks across various foreign trade procedures in a timely and intelligent manner. It will become a valuable resource for SMEs, allowing them to save both time and money in their operations.

Some specific programs and projects we are currently developing are:

- “Pisco para el mundo” or “Pisco for the World”: Recognizing the need to boost exports of Pisco, our national drink, we have launched this project which aims to promote and simplify the export management of Pisco by strengthening the relationship between public entities and the business sector.

- “Ella Exporta” or “She Exports”: This program provides capacity-building in both technical and soft skills for leading businesswomen, with the aim of integrating women entrepreneurs into international trade and reducing occupational gaps across different regions of the country.
- “Programa de Apoyo a la Internacionalizacion” or “Internacionalization Support Programme”: This program promotes the internationalization of companies (PAI) by providing non-refundable co-financing for projects of Peruvian companies to strengthen, promote, and accelerate their internationalization process. The PAI targets exporting companies and those with export potential nationwide, especially SMEs, and includes differentiated scores for companies led by women. As of today, 27% of the beneficiary companies of the PAI are led by women, meaning that more than 50% of the ownership of each company is held by women. In absolute terms, 89 out of a total of 331 beneficiary companies are led by women. Additionally, 42% of the workers in these companies are women.
- Also, we have a commercial platform called "Peru Marketplace" which has been integrated into the single window. This platform allows SMEs to showcase their products, connect with foreign buyers, and conduct transactions.
- Finally, another component of the single window is "E-pymex," an electronic platform that enables SMEs to manage and control their productive activities and documents related to foreign trade operations in an orderly manner.

**Moderator (Victoria Tuomisto, ITC): How are you looking to overcome the challenge of lacking granular level data on the specific challenges and issues faced by women traders?**

We hope that the project we will carry out with UNCTAD provides us with specific and relevant information to better understand the barriers women face in trade. Based on this data, we will be able to implement measures to promote their greater inclusion in foreign trade operations.

Furthermore, we will continue to establish spaces for discussion between private trade operator organizations and women traders at the national level. These associations can provide valuable insights into the specific challenges women face in different sectors and regions. Additionally, we are constantly evaluating and adopting best practices that fit our reality, aiming to improve conditions for the incorporation of women in trade.