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Online course on trade and gender linkages  
with a focus on the least developed countries

13 JUNE–17 JULY 2022

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With support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework

**PROSPECTUS**

**Background**

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

The pandemic has served to provide new evidence of the fact that social and economic crises tend to exacerbate gender inequalities and risk 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 on formal employment. Moreover, women-dominated sectors, such as the services sector, have been the most affected during the pandemic. Finally, lockdown periods and other 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 powerful driving forces in supporting global efforts towards the realization of broader women's economic empowerment and gender equality goals. For these to be achieved, an in-depth understanding of the gender-related ramifications of trade policy is necessary, to make trade a tool for achieving more inclusive and gender-equal economies in the post-pandemic period. In an effort to increase awareness of the links between trade and gender among stakeholders in developing countries and the least developed countries, UNCTAD has 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 June to 17 July 2022.

The course is based on the following two teaching materials 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 the least developed countries. The latter includes case studies, data and coursework that address the contexts and particularities in this group of countries.



The course is open to stakeholders from developing countries and the 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. A detailed description of the course content and a timetable are provided in the annex.

### **Objective**

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:

- Consider 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 a lack of gender equality affects trade performance and competitiveness
- Illustrate how trade integration has influenced gender-related outcomes in different economic sectors
- Demonstrate awareness of the current debate on trade and gender taking place at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels and 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 interaction between trade and gender
- Contribute to mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies

### **Target audience and prerequisites**

The course targets policymakers, academics from universities and research centres and representatives of civil society, in developing countries and the 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 in order to ensure appropriate support throughout the course.

Applicants must:

- Hold a master's degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, gender studies or another related area
- Have excellent knowledge of English

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

### **Fees**

With support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework, selected participants will be exempt from fees associated with access to the course and the tutoring services provided. Participants may also receive, free of charge, a hard copy of the UNCTAD teaching material on trade and gender.

**Certificate of completion**

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

**Application information and deadline**

To apply, please follow the instructions and fill in the form at <https://www.research.net/r/C9SQ39J>.

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 their future work and the work of the institution. The deadline for applications is **29 May 2022**. Applications received after that date and incomplete applications will not be considered. For assistance with the online application process, please contact [elarningtrade@un.org](mailto:elarningtrade@un.org).

Requests for further information or clarification about the 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](mailto:simonetta.zarrilli@un.org).

A selection committee will review each application and select participants based on the supporting documents and the relevance of the course for the applicant's work. Participants will be advised of their selection by **5 June 2022**.



## Annex

### Course content and timetable

The online course on trade and gender linkages is divided into two parts, each of which is based on the following two teaching materials 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 the least developed countries. Each part includes the following:

- Accompanying multimedia lectures
- Suggested additional readings addressing the issues covered

To successfully complete the course, participants will be requested to pass multiple-choice tests and draft a final essay of approximately two pages in which they will apply their new knowledge to their national situation.

An Internet connection is required to take part in the discussions on the forum and to interact with the course tutor and other participants, as well as to complete the multiple-choice tests and submit the final essay. A flash drive containing the course material can be provided to participants with limited or no Internet connection.

The course content is as follows:

Date	Title	Content
Weeks 1 and 2 13–26 June 2022	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; effects of trade on gender equality and women's economic empowerment; effects of gender inequalities on trade performance and export competitiveness; trends in mainstreaming gender in trade policy; ex ante gender-related impact assessments of trade agreements; gender provisions in trade agreements; trade and gender under the World Trade Organization
Weeks 3 and 4 27 June–10 July 2022	Part 2 Linkages between trade and gender inequalities in the least developed countries	Trade and gender nexus in the least developed countries; socioeconomic outlook of the least developed country group; assessment of various dimensions of gender inequalities; gender-related analysis of trade policy and trade flows in the least developed countries
Week 5 11–17 July 2022	Final essay	Preparation of two-page essay explaining relevance of issues covered for participant's country and providing some options and suggestions on how to mainstream gender in trade policy of participant's country