



27 September 2021, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. (CEST)

High-level Panel: Shaping gender-responsive economies and societies: What role for trade?

Key issues

As governments worldwide seek to “build back better” from the pandemic, it appears evident that the goal of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies cannot be achieved if the gap between women and men, which pre-existed the pandemic and was magnified by it, persists. Addressing and overcoming the longstanding barriers women face in public and economic life must be at the top of the new agenda and should be incorporated into a wide range of policies. Increasing women's beneficial participation in trade will result from appropriate domestic policies, and from trade policies that support more inclusive outcomes for all.

Objectives

The high-level panel will be result-oriented. Speakers will share their experience in dealing with gender and economic issues. They will present the goals achieved and the shortcoming faced during their journey, be it in policymaking, advocacy, business, or research. They will also provide concrete ideas on how UNCTAD work on trade and gender may further contribute to the goal of empowering women and creating equal opportunities for all in the current economic and social environment.

Structure of the Event and Programme

The event will revolve around two components: i) a high-level panel discussion with policymakers, representatives of civil society, private sector, the academia, and intergovernmental organizations; and ii) the announcement of the winners of an essay competition launched by UNCTAD among the alumni of its online courses on trade and gender.

Languages

Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish



Moderator: **Ms. Eleanor Wragg**, Senior Reporter, GTR – Global Trade Review

4:00 – 4:10 *Welcome and opening remarks*

Ms. Isabelle Durant, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General

4:10 – 4:45 **Session I - Gender equality and trade policymaking: the role of bilateral, regional and global trade policy initiatives alongside domestic policies**

The session will discuss examples where a combination of domestic policies and bilateral, regional or global trade policy initiatives have brought positive results towards gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and which major challenges have been encountered. It will also delve into whether different levels of economic development have an impact on the capacity of countries to deliver on gender equality and women's empowerment goals.

Speakers: **H.E. Ms. Béata Habyarimana**, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Mr. Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Finland

Ms. Ana Gúezmes, Chief, Gender Affairs Division, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC

4:45 - 5:05 *Q&A session*

5:05 – 5:25 **Session II - Announcement of the winner of the alumni essay competition on trade and gender**

This session will briefly introduce the three finalists of an essay competition among the alumni of UNCTAD online courses on trade and gender and will announce the winner of the competition.



5:25 – 6:00 Session III - Trade as a driver of gender equality in the post-pandemic recovery: perspectives from civil society, the private sector and the academia.

The session will discuss the power of civil society, the private sector and the academia in furthering gender equality. Notable achievements have been made in this regard by leading global firms and advocates of social justice causes, while research and academic institutions, alongside international organizations, have been playing a key role in generating the analysis to inform policymaking.

Speakers: **Ms. Trudi Hartzenberg**, Executive Director, Trade Law Centre (tralac), South Africa

Mr. Andrew Dunnett, Director for SDG, Sustainability and Foundations, Vodafone Group Plc

Ms. Eudine Barriteau, Professor of Gender and Public Policy, University of West Indies Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

6:00 – 6:20 *Q&A session*

6:20 – 6:30 Closing session - Gender and Trade at UNCTAD: Future prospects

In a final round of short interventions, speakers will be asked to share their views on the future role that UNCTAD should play in the global debate on trade and gender and the initiatives in which it should be involved tapping on its expertise and achievements. **Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli**, Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme, UNCTAD, will lead the Closing session.