



ONLINE COURSE

TRADE AND GENDER LINKAGES

WITH A FOCUS ON E-COMMERCE FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

15 MAY – 18 JUNE 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. 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.

Trade and trade policy can play a key role in supporting global efforts towards the realization of women's economic empowerment and gender equality, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For this to happen, an in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is necessary.

The digital transformation of the economy and society has opened new business, educational, and skill development opportunities. However, some preconditions are needed to have access to and benefit from them. Inclusive e-commerce policies and strategies can ensure that nobody is left behind.

In an effort to increase awareness of the links between trade and gender and of the opportunities and challenges presented by e-commerce, especially to women-led small enterprises, UNCTAD developed this new online course that will be offered in English over a period of five weeks, from **15 May to 18 June 2023**. The course is addressed to stakeholders in developing and the least developed countries and is part of UNCTAD's portfolio of online courses on trade and gender.

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 "E-commerce from a Gender and Development Perspective".

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
- Identify the challenges and opportunities that e-commerce can provide to women-owned small enterprises
- Be familiar with the ongoing debate and rulemaking on trade and gender at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels
- 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

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 an advanced degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, gender studies or related areas
- 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.

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/C99WLMR>

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 **30 April 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 **8 May 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 “*E-commerce from a Gender and Development Perspective*”. Each part includes the following:

- Multimedia lectures;
- Suggested reading on issues covered in the course;
- Live sessions.

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’s 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: 15 - 28 May 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: 29 May - 11 June 2023	Part 2 E-commerce from a gender and development perspective	The challenges and opportunities of e-commerce for women-owned small enterprises in developing countries, as well as, the ongoing debate and rulemaking around e-commerce at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.
Week 5: 12 - 18 June 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.