

Gender Considerations in Trade Agreements
28 March 2019, Geneva, WTO – Room W

Programme Timetable

10.00-10:30 Opening session

- Roberto Azevêdo, Director General, WTO
- Harald Aspeland, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Iceland
- Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD
- Sefatlhego Matebekwane, Agricultural Attachée, on behalf of Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Botswana
- Arancha González, Executive Director, ITC

**10.30-11.45 Session 1 - What role for trade agreements in promoting gender equality:
A dialogue**

Issues for discussion

The trade community is recognizing that trade policy can be used as a tool to empower women. This represents a drastic change in mindset. There is a rather long tradition to include "non-trade concerns" - such as labour rights, human rights and environmental protection, in trade agreements. The session will discuss the similarities and the differences between "non-trade concerns", including gender equality and women's empowerment, and the lessons learned from previous experiences. It will also discuss how an inclusive trade negotiations process affects the outcome.

Moderator

Susan Barton, Head of Trade Policy and Gender Strategy, Department for international Trade, United Kingdom

Speakers

1. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Fiji
2. Mariama Williams, Senior Programme Officer, Global Governance for Development Programme, South Centre
3. Lorand Bartels, Reader in International Law, Fellow of Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
4. Elizabeth Echeverria Manrique, Research Officer on Labour Law, Research Department, ILO

Q&A Session

11.45-13.00 Session 2 - Gender considerations in FTAs, regional integration agreements and preferential trade schemes. What are the provisions and what has been achieved so far?

Issues for discussion

The session will look at what are the most common gender commitments included in trade agreements and analyse the new trend of addressing gender equality issues in specific trade and gender chapters. In addition to FTAs, several regional integration treaties include commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. The session will explore the similarities and differences in the gender results across regions and single out possible drivers. The session will also take stock of what has been achieved so far through different initiatives.

Moderator

Ruth Rubio Marin, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Speakers

1. José Antonio Monteiro, Research Economist, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
2. Simonetta Zarrilli, Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme, UNCTAD
3. David Luke, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa

Q&A Session

13.00-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.15 Session 2 (continued): Gender considerations in FTAs, regional integration agreements and preferential trade schemes. What are the commitments and what has been achieved so far?

Speakers

4. André-François Giroux, Director, Inclusive Trade Division, Global Affairs Canada
5. Carlos Amorín, Ambassador and Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay
6. Ignacia Simonetti, Head, Gender Department, Directorate of International Economic Relations, Chile (via video link)

Q&A Session

16.15-17.30 Session 3 - Reflections on new ideas on gender in trade agreements

Issues for discussion

Many countries have a strong political will to use trade agreements to contribute to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The session will discuss how the gender commitments included so far in trade agreements could be made bolder and what will be needed to make the inclusion of gender considerations in trade agreements a "game changer" for women.

Moderator:

Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Speakers

1. Madeleine Tuininga, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission
2. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Director, FAO Liaison Office in Geneva
3. Barbara MacLaren, Gender specialist, The Conference Board of Canada (via video link)
4. Jaime De Melo, Senior Fellow, Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (FERDI), and emeritus University of Geneva

Q&A Session

17.30-18.00 Wrap up and Closing Session

Moderator

Harald Aspelund, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Iceland

Speakers – Moderators from each session:

- Susan Barton, Head of Trade Policy and Gender Strategy, Department for international Trade, United Kingdom
- Ruth Rubio Marin, Professor, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

18.00-19.00 Reception