

Expert Meeting on

TRADE AS A TOOL FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF
WOMEN

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**Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment in
The New Global Frameworks**

By

Ms. Isabel Ortiz

Director Social Protection, International Labour Organization (ILO)

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect
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**Isabel Ortiz, Director Social Protection
International Labour Organization**

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Women in the 2030 Development Agenda

- Women make up more than half the world's population
- They are less represented in power structures and often more deeply impacted than men by poverty, lack of healthcare, economic crises...
- Policy makers must redress this
- The Sustainable Development Goals provide an agenda to empower women, mainstreaming gender in development
- To have sex-disaggregated indicators will be crucial
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- But – will equal opportunity and rights be enough to empower women? which proactive policies/ investments to empowerment women?

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



SDG Goal 5 - Targets

5 GENDER
EQUALITY

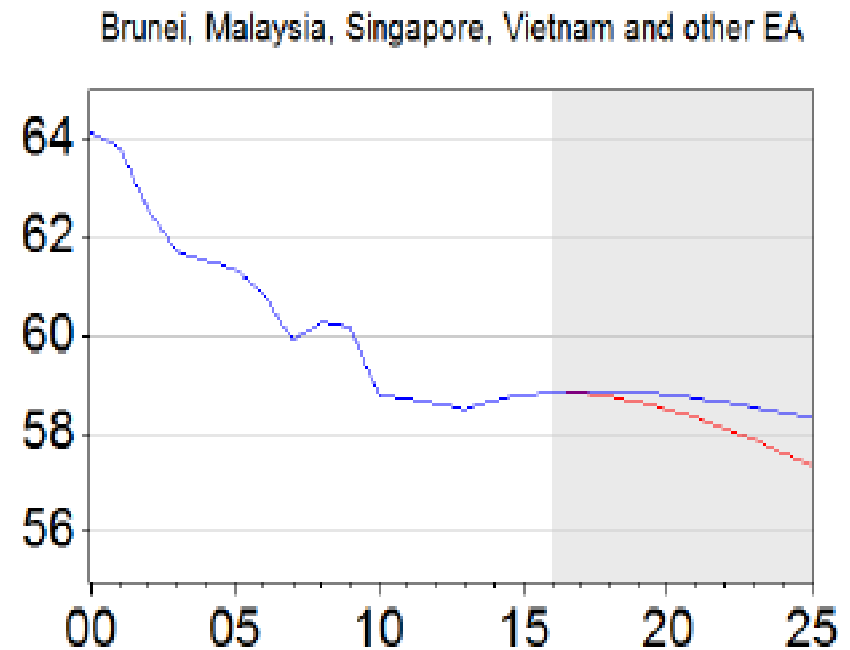
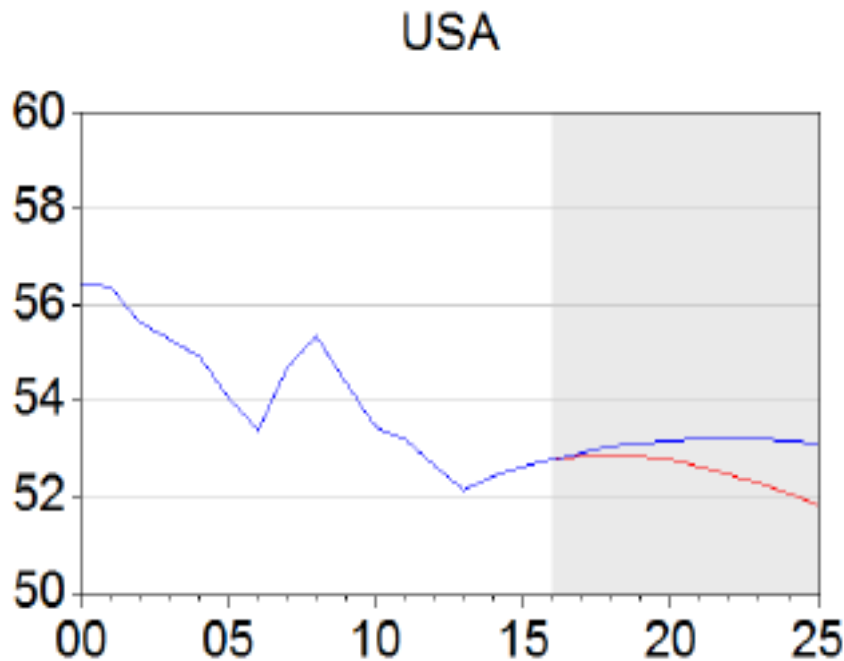


- **5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- **5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other
- **5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- **5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- **5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- **5.a** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- **5.b** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- **5.c** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Economic and Trade Policies have Social Impacts, Are not Gender Neutral...

Example: Social Impacts of the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement

Income from employment (%GDP), baseline scenario (blue) and after TTP (red line)



Note that this does not differentiate the significant gender wage gap

Source: UN Global Policy Model

In Sundaram, Capaldo and Izuerrieta. 2016: [Trading Down: Unemployment, Inequality and Other Risks of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#), GDAE, Tufts University.

...Ex-Ante Impact Assessments need to be conducted and Economic/Trade Policy Options discussed in National Dialogue

- Decisions affecting people's lives are often taken behind closed doors, without adequate consideration of their distributional impacts
- Who benefits? An assessments of distributional impacts, including gender impacts, must be carried out
- Ministers of Finance/Planning/Trade should have all possible fiscal scenarios and options, associated social impacts, including gender impacts, as well as risks and trade-offs, fully explored
- A set of alternative policy options for inclusive development should be discussed in national dialogue

Financing for Development - AAA Global Social Compact

- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) agrees to a new social compact to deliver social protection and essential public services for all – all areas need domestic and ODA financing, should not compete against each other
- Fundamental for SDG 5.4 “Recognize unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies”

Social Compact				
Social Protection for All	Social Services for All			
<p>Transfers in cash/in kind pensions for older persons, disability benefits, maternity/child allowances, support for those poor/without jobs (social protection floors)</p> <p>Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare SDGs 1, 8, 10</p>	<p>Health</p> <p>Ministry of Health SDG 3</p>	<p>Education</p> <p>Ministry of Education SDG 4</p>	<p>Water & Sanitation</p> <p>Ministry of Public Works SDG 6</p>	<p>Housing slum upgrading</p> <p>Ministry Housing SDG 11</p>

Fiscal Space for Women's Empowerment Exists Even in the Poorest Countries

- Empowering women requires the aggressive exploration of fiscal space to develop women-specific investments, from higher education to entrepreneurial credit
- **There is national capacity to fund investments to empower women in virtually all countries. There are many options,** supported by UN and IFIs policy statements:
 1. Re-allocating public expenditures eg. fuel subsidies
 2. Increasing tax revenues
 3. Eliminating illicit financial flows (eg fight tax evasion)
 4. Using fiscal and foreign exchange reserves
 5. Managing debt: borrowing or restructuring debt
 6. Adopting a more accommodative macroeconomic framework (e.g. tolerance to some inflation, fiscal deficit)
 7. Development Aid, particularly in LDCs

Examples: Countries Creating Fiscal Space for Women

- Costa Rica and Thailand reallocated military expenditures for universal health
- Brazil used a financial transaction tax to expand social protection coverage
- Bolivia is taxing hydrocarbons to finance “*Renta Dignidad*”, a universal social pension for all older men and women
- Mongolia finances a universal child benefit from a tax on copper exports
- Botswana and Zambia are taxing mineral extraction for social investments
- Ghana, Liberia and Maldives have introduced taxes on tourism
- Chile, Norway and Venezuela, among others, are using fiscal reserves to support women’s empowerment, including credits to women’s enterprises
- South Africa issued municipal bonds to finance urban services
- Ecuador and Iceland restructured their sovereign debt and are using savings from debt servicing for social programs
- Argentina, Brazil, Tunisia, Uruguay, and many others expanded social security coverage, formalizing women in the informal sector

FfD Discussion: Innovative Sources of Development Finance could support Women's Empowerment

To complement -- never replace – ODA. Examples:

- Financial Transaction Taxes (FTT), already exist in some G20 countries (EU 2011 estimates FTT could raise between €16-€400 billion)
- Airline ticket levy, exists in about 9 countries, earmarked for global health initiative UNITAID
- Environmental taxes (eg developed countries' carbon-use tax)
- Issuing new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), UN proposals, would also serve to protect countries from the risk of financial crisis
- Voluntary donations using new methods (percentage of credit card sales, lotteries, etc)



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**The world does not lack the resources
empower women, it lacks the right priorities**

Thank You

**Contact: Isabel Ortiz
Social Protection Department
International Labour Organization
Email: ortizi@ilo.org
Visit: www.social-protection.org
<http://www.ilo.org/>**