



# **Gender Considerations in RECs: The Cases of EAC and MERCOSUR**

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# The case of MERCOSUR

- 1991 Asunción Treaty & 1994 Ouro Preto Protocol
  - *Gender mainstreaming was not included*
- Civil society engagement - UN Conferences - Governments' orientation
  - → Social & Employment Declaration (1988); Specialized Meeting of Women (1988); Women's Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities (2011); CMC recommendation (2012); Policy Guidelines for Gender Equality (2014)
- GE policies from employment to broader issues
- Mercosur's policies address GEWE through international trade only indirectly



# The case of EAC

## EAC Treaty (2000)

→ *Gender mainstreaming and GE as fundamental principles of the community. No detailed provision or chapter on gender and trade specifically*

- Common Market Protocol → coordination and harmonization of member countries' social policies to promote equal opportunities & GE
- 2017: Gender Equality and Development Bill → uniform approach to promoting equal rights and GE; harmonization; gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes, and projects at national and regional levels
- 2018: Gender Policy → institutionalizing gender strategies in the EAC integration process. Strengthen gender mainstreaming in the planning & budgetary processes at the regional/national levels



# A Comparative Assessment

**Key question - Has the inclusion/exclusion of gender provisions played a major role?**

- **Difficult to form direct links between gender-related outcomes and GE provisions in the RECs**
- **Progress, but still gender gaps in both regions**
- **Possible inhibiting factors:**
  - Legal nature of gender provisions
  - Different level of commitment among members
  - Inclusion of gender provisions to meet other goals
  - Accountability of member countries
  - Social norms

# What could help



## Potential policy tools at the regional level:

- Regional funds
- Collection of gender-disaggregated data
- Platforms to exchange good practices and peer learning
- Accountability & annual reviews



**Thank you for your attention!**

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