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**Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender**

Original: Spanish

**ACCESSION OF ECUADOR TO THE INCLUSIVE TRADE ACTION GROUP (ITAG) AND  
GLOBAL TRADE AND GENDER ARRANGEMENT (GTAGA)**

COMMUNICATION FROM ECUADOR

The following communication, dated 20 June 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Ecuador.

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As part of efforts to incorporate a gender focus into its production and trade policy, Ecuador officially acceded, on 15 May 2023, to the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) and Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA).

The accession process began on 9 November 2021, when Ecuador was invited by New Zealand to join both initiatives, within the framework of the first bilateral political consultations meeting between the two countries. Subsequently, at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva, the Ecuadorian delegation formally notified the members of both initiatives of Ecuador's interest in joining the ITAG/GTAGA.

At the ceremony marking Ecuador's accession, ITAG/GTAGA members highlighted the importance of the international coordination of efforts to promote more inclusive trade and the need to encourage further action in this regard. In addition, they expressed their hope that the accession of new participants to the ITAG/GTAGA would encourage more countries to join the initiatives.

In communicating its desire to join the ITAG/GTAGA, Ecuador emphasized the fundamental and growing role of women in trade and the relevance of transforming this role into a more inclusive reality by boosting women's personal and economic empowerment and actively seeking the elimination of inequality gaps.

One of Ecuador's intentions, as a member of the ITAG/GTAGA, is to design and implement mechanisms and measures that support the activities of female entrepreneurs, businesswomen, women producers and farmers, and all those involved in trade processes, so as to enable them to achieve their professional, economic and social goals. At present, among other actions, Ecuador has undertaken and is pursuing efforts to train thousands of women and to create both collaborative spaces and specific events aimed at promoting their enterprises and the diversification of their products.

Ecuador reiterates its commitment to work resolutely in a coordinated and joint manner with all ITAG/GTAGA members, in order to ensure more inclusive trade, foster the strengthening of gender policies and promote women's economic empowerment.

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