



DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND GENDER

WHITE PAPER PROPOSAL BY CANADA

The following proposed work plan outlines four activities aligned with the four pillars (Aid for Trade, Gender lens, Research and data, best practice workshops/webinars) identified in the "[INTERIM REPORT FOLLOWING THE BUENOS AIRES JOINT DECLARATION ON TRADE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT](#)". These activities could be implemented beginning at the first meeting of the Informal Working Group (IWG) in 2021 and is aimed at helping participants identify potential content for an MC12 deliverable.

In Canada's view, the deliverable could take the form of a Ministerial Statement that recognizes, for the first time, the importance of the WTO role in removing barriers to women's participation in trade. Modelled on the MSME Declaration approach, the Statement could include a series of recommendations on key actions that will be implemented by the WTO strengthen its work, build knowledge and understanding of the trade and gender nexus among members. These recommendations would be drawn from the work of the IWG in 2021, including through experience sharing and lessons learned.

We agree with the Co-Chairs' suggestion that the Agenda for each substantive meeting of the IWG include the four pillars included in the interim report. This said, and with the objective of trying to help focus discussions, we would propose that each meeting have a central theme (i.e. one of the pillars). We would also suggest that with a view to helping the IWG deliver an outcome at MC12, that the four thematic substantives meetings take place ideally in the first three quarters of 2021 so as to allow for work in the fourth quarter to focus on MC12 deliverables. In this context, we believe it would be important to remain flexible and pragmatic in terms of scheduling and keep open the possibility of holding additional substantive meetings in late 2021 to focus on MC12 deliverables.

Guiding Principles:

- Each activity will be jointly sponsored by a developed and developing country;
- Recognition of the important and continuing role of the International Trade Centre (ITC) in helping deliver on this work, as well as other organizations and experts such as The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
- Recognizing the different levels of ambition of Member states.

Pillar	Activity	Lead for implementation	Timeline
RESEARCH AND DATA: Review and discuss gender-related analytical work produced by the WTO Secretariat.	Potential presentations by the WTO Trade and Gender Focal Point on the recent analytical work on Trade and Gender. This could be followed by other presenters on what they are doing in this space. Potential to include a presentation on the WTO/World Bank joint report on trade and gender of July 2020.	Developed country: TBC Developing country: TBC	First Meeting of 2021

Pillar	Activity	Lead for implementation	Timeline
	<p>Key data/indicators to measure results and do gender impact assessments of trade agreements? What is the key data that needs to be collected to tell a trade and gender story in developed and developing markets?</p> <p>Can we establish a minimum standard of key gender disaggregated data that needs to be collected?</p>		
<p>BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOPS/WEBINAR:</p> <p>Share best practices, information and exchange views on removing trade-related barriers and increasing the participation of women in trade. As a first step, Members that have adopted ambitious or innovative initiatives would be invited to showcase their national and/or regional approaches and experiences as potential inspiration and guidance to others.</p>	<p>Potential presentations:</p> <p>Global Trade and Gender Arrangement by members of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (Canada, Chile and New Zealand)</p> <p>Others TBC</p>	<p>Developed country: TBC</p> <p>Developing country: TBC</p>	<p>Second Meeting in 2021</p>
<p>GENDER LENS:</p> <p>Consider and clarify what a 'gender lens' is and how it could be applied to trade, and consider how a gender lens could usefully be applied to the work of the WTO, with a view to presenting a concept and work plan to members at MC12.</p>	<p>Potential presentations:</p> <p>Potential presenters could include: ITC, WTO, UNCTAD (e.g. tool box), EU, Australia and Canada.</p> <p>Presentations by Canada and the EU to share their experiences on conducting impact assessments of trade agreements on both an ex-ante and ex-post basis.</p> <p>Objective would be to demonstrate what applying a gender lens means in practical terms, make it accessible to WTO Members, and demonstrate its potential value added.</p> <p>Consideration could be given to bringing a gender lens to WTO agreements (e.g. services, IP, TBT, GP) and functions (e.g. committees, negotiations, accessions) and propose options to advance a gender responsive approach.</p>	<p>Developed country: TBC</p> <p>Developing country: TBC</p>	<p>Third Meeting in 2021</p>
<p>AID FOR TRADE:</p> <p>Explore how best to support the delivery of the WTO Aid for Trade Work Programme.</p>	<p>Potential activity could consider the impact of COVID-19 on women's participation in trade and the importance of digital trade/e-commerce to address issues and capture opportunities. Potential leads could be ITC, UNCTAD and others.</p>	<p>Developed country: TBC</p> <p>Developing country: TBC</p>	<p>Fourth Meeting in 2021</p>