



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

WHITE PAPER PROPOSAL BY CANADA

*Revision*

The 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) on 26 February 2021 and are aimed at helping identify potential content for an MC12 deliverable.

In Canada's view, the deliverable could take the form of a Ministerial Statement (MS) that recognizes the importance of the WTO role in removing barriers to women's participation in trade. Modelled on the MSME Declaration, the MS could include a series of recommendations on key actions that will be implemented by the WTO to 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. The MS and the Recommendations together would serve as a Road Map to deliver on the Buenos Aires Declaration.

We agree with the Co-Chairs' suggestion that the agenda for each substantive meeting of the IWG include the four pillars. This said, and with the objective of trying to help focus discussions, we would propose that each meeting has a central theme (i.e. one of the pillars) and that high-level questions be drafted before the meeting to help guide each thematic discussion. We would also suggest that, with a view to helping the IWG deliver an outcome at MC12, the four thematic substantive 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/less developed country. However, in the spirit of flexibility and inclusivity, two or more developing/less developed countries could also sponsor an activity. The goal is to ensure that different voices are heard and recognize that all members have perspectives to provide and experiences to share;
- Each activity will start with a recap of what was discussed at the previous meeting in order to give delegations the opportunity to provide new/updated information;
- 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
<p><b>RESEARCH AND DATA:</b></p> <p>Review and discuss gender-related analytical work produced by the WTO Secretariat and other actors active on women's economic empowerment (e.g. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank etc.).</p>	<p><b>Potential presentations by the WTO Trade and Gender Focal Point on the recent analytical work on Trade and Gender</b></p> <p>This could be followed by other presenters on what they are doing in this space.</p> <p>Potential to include a presentation on the WTO/World Bank joint report on trade and gender of July 2020.</p> <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? Can we establish a minimum standard of key gender disaggregated data that needs to be collected?</p>	<p><b>Developed country:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed country:</b> TBC</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>
<p><b>BEST PRACTICE WORKSHOPS/WEBINAR:</b></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><b>Potential presentations:</b></p> <p>Global Trade and Gender Arrangement by members of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (Canada, Chile and New Zealand)</p> <p>The experience of the Economic Community of West African States following the interesting information contained in the ITC report.</p>	<p><b>Developed country:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed country:</b> TBC</p>	<p>28 April 2021 (TBC)</p>

Pillar	Activity	Lead for implementation	Timeline
<p><b>GENDER LENS:</b></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><b>Potential presentations:</b></p> <p>Potential presenters could include: ITC, WTO, UNCTAD (e.g., tool box), European Union, Australia and Canada.</p> <p>Presentations by Canada and the European Union 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 MS, 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><b>Developed country:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed country:</b> TBC</p>	<p>23 June 2021 (TBC)</p>
<p><b>AID FOR TRADE:</b></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><b>Developed country:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed country:</b> TBC</p>	<p>16 July 2021 (TBC)</p>