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**Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender**

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

WHITE PAPER PROPOSAL BY CANADA

*Revision*

This 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 will be implemented at the beginning of the second meeting of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on 26 February 2021 and are aimed at helping identify potential content for a concrete MC12 deliverable.

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, would reference progress to date under the Buenos Aires (BA) Declaration, including the current Phase 2. 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 IWG 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 BA Declaration leading up to MC13.

The agenda for each substantive meeting of the IWG will include the four pillars. However, with the objective of trying to help focus discussions and identify tangible outcomes for MC12, each meeting would have a central theme (i.e. one of the pillars).

The Member leading the pillar will be responsible for curating the meeting. This includes:

1. Drafting high level questions before the meeting to help guide each thematic discussion;
2. Sharing the questions with all Members in advance of the meeting;
3. Sharing a background or non-paper on their presentation before each meeting so that Members have an opportunity to review and come prepared to engage substantively in the IWG discussion;
4. Summarizing the discussion and presenting it to IWG members at the following IWG meeting to ensure that everyone is on the same page and to give delegations the opportunity to provide new/updated information.

With a view to helping the IWG deliver an outcome at MC12, the four thematic substantive meetings will take place 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, 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 Member. However, in the spirit of flexibility and inclusivity, two or more developing/less developed Members 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;

- Recognizing 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), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and World Bank;
- Recognizing the different levels of ambition of Member.

Pillar	Activity	Lead for implementation	Timeline	Progress to Date
<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. OECD, ILO, World Bank, UNECLAC, ITC, etc.).</p>	<p><b>Potential presentations by the WTO Trade and Gender Focal Point on the recent analytical work:</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><b>Guiding Questions:</b> 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 Member:</b> Canada</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed Member:</b> TBC</p>	<p>26 February 2021</p>	<p>26 February 2021: Presentation by WTO Secretariat and the World Bank of the joint report on "Women and Trade: The role of trade in promoting gender equality" from July 2020</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>Guiding Questions:</b> What are important best practices to facilitate women's participation in trade? What concrete results have been achieved? What were the challenges in implementing this policy or program? What are the key domestic policies that must be in place to ensure coherence with trade policies?</p>	<p><b>Developed Member:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed Member:</b> TBC</p> <p>Expressions of Interest: Korea; Turkey; New Zealand; Canada.</p>	<p>28 April 2021</p>	<p>26 February 2021: Australia (Trade and Gender related policies and practices), Chile (Trade and Gender chapters in FTAs) and Canada (gender responsive standards) presented on some best practices.</p>

Pillar	Activity	Lead for implementation	Timeline	Progress to Date
<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>Guiding questions:</b> What is a gender lens? How could it be applied to WTO work? What are important considerations when applying a gender lens analysis? What concrete outcomes could result?</p>	<p><b>Developed Member:</b> European Union</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed Member:</b> TBC</p> <p>Expression of Interest: European Union</p> <p>Other Expressions of Interest</p>	23 June 2021	
<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>Guiding Questions:</b></p>	<p><b>Developed Member:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Developing/less developed Member:</b> TBC</p> <p>Expression of interest: Australia</p>	16 July 2021	