

**Committee on Trade and Development  
Aid for Trade**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE**

Report and Recommendations arising from the Joint ITC-WTO Expert Roundtable Meeting  
on the Gender Dimension of Aid for Trade<sup>1</sup>

1. An Expert Roundtable on the Gender Dimension of Aid for Trade was jointly organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and World Trade Organization (WTO), with the support of the Governments of the Republic of Rwanda and the United Kingdom. The meeting took place at WTO on 25 October 2010, with over thirty-five expert resource persons and observers from the public and private sectors. The following is a report of the recommendations arising from the expert group.

**I. OBJECTIVE OF THE ROUNDTABLE: ENGENDERING AID FOR TRADE**

2. Aid for Trade helps developing countries address supply-side bottlenecks and boost their capacity to take advantage of expanded trade opportunities. Various studies have highlighted that trade impacts are not gender-neutral. Mainstreaming a gender dimension in support can improve the impact and effectiveness of Aid for Trade.

3. National development plans, poverty reduction strategies and national export strategies, that take into account gender realities and relationships are better placed to unlock women's export potential. Impediments typically include accessing the opportunities and resources necessary to trade and the capacity to leverage those. Examples range from access to trade information, transport and finance to not being included in consultative processes that lead to the selection of companies that participate in government sponsored trade missions. Building the capacity of women to make use of new opportunities is also an important success factor. Specific monitoring and evaluation indicators are also needed to evaluate the percentage of Aid for Trade funds that are allocated to tackle gender based constraints to trade; and to assess the gendered impacts of Aid for Trade interventions.

**II. WHAT DID THE ROUNDTABLE SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH?**

4. Experts at the Roundtable sought to highlight strategic actions for gender mainstreaming that could be used by stakeholders in the Aid for Trade initiative. The Roundtable was organized around the presentation of case stories to assist in identifying approaches to gender mainstreaming drawn from country-based and regional illustrations of how women in trade can be better integrated into and benefit from Aid for Trade. These can then be used by governments, agencies and others working to achieve positive outcomes that benefit women as well as men.

5. Case stories principally focused on overcoming gender based constraints in trade policy and regulations, trade development and in building productive capacities. Written as evidence-based

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<sup>1</sup> More information on the Expert Roundtable can be found on the ITC website at <http://www.intracen.org/projects/women-and-trade/aidfortrade/>.

experiences of women in trade, they will be submitted as part of the WTO/OECD call for case stories in preparation for the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade.

6. The experts identified potential ways for enhancing gender responsive approaches to utilizing Aid for Trade and call upon Governments, in their resource allocation to consider:

- Equitable and sustainable Aid for Trade delivered through a deeper consideration of women's contributions to trade, and what can be done to overcome gender-based constraints.
- Regional integration policies include an acknowledgement of informal women cross border traders.
- Undertake quantified analyses of women's contribution to formal and informal economies.
- Trade infrastructure and trade facilitation initiatives meet the needs of both men and women traders.
- Commitment to supplier diversity as a mechanism for delivering development objectives through global supply chains.
- Undertake gender sensitive value chain analyses to inform the development of Aid for Trade projects and programmes.
- Build the capacity of rural women and vulnerable groups to access the resources and opportunities they need to trade.
- Earmark funds for women in all responses to the global economic crises; and ensure appropriate delivery mechanisms are in place and functioning to channel trade finance to women.
- Build the capacity of Member States of the WTO to respond to their concomitant obligations under international economic and human rights laws, particularly with regard to the realisation of women's economic rights, in the trade domain.

### **III. OUTPUT**

7. The Expert Roundtable highlighted the important role of partnerships and consultative practices. As such the meeting resulted in the establishment of an open network of gender and trade experts that governments, intergovernmental organizations and others could engage to provide advice/implement activities/and work on monitoring and evaluation to secure benefits to women under Aid for Trade.

8. A compendium of case stories prepared by experts, that can be found on-line at <http://www.intracen.org/projects/women-and-trade/aidfortrade/>.

9. The Expert Roundtable allowed for a preliminary process to emerge towards a methodology or results framework with suggested indicators to track impacts upon women, and better monitor how women can benefit more from activities, practices and processes inherent in the Aid for Trade initiative. Case stories and discussion allowed for the emergence of many of these potential indicators

that could be useful as models to be replicated by others. It was acknowledged that this area requires further work.

10. Reporting to the Committee: The outputs arising from the "Expert Roundtable on the Gender Dimension of Aid for Trade" were shared with the Committee on Trade and Development in a specific session on gender mainstreaming as part of the "Workshop on Mainstreaming of Aid for Trade" on 26 October 2010.

#### **IV. THE WAY FORWARD: LINKING TO THE AID-FOR-TRADE INITIATIVE**

11. It is hoped that through the case stories and recommendations, governments would be inspired to take the necessary next steps to unlock women's export potential so that they can better contribute to economic and human development. It was hoped that the recommendations of the Roundtable could provide useful input into subsequent meetings on Aid for Trade both at the regional and global levels, including the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, and be utilized by this Expert Network.

12. The International Trade Centre committed to facilitating exchanges amongst the Gender and Aid for Trade Expert Group and reporting to the WTO Committee on Trade and Development progress made and results achieved.<sup>2</sup>

13. Case stories included:

- Engendering National Export Strategies: The case of Uganda.
- Increasing the numbers of women agronomists to better address gender issues: CGIAR.
- Making trade organizations more gender responsive: The case story of ATPC.
- Investing technology in poor women: cell phones, for business transactions.
- Assisting Banks and Finance companies to assist women's small businesses: IFC.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat advances trade and gender.
- Lessons learned from trade policies and their impacts on women.
- Building capacity for linking women with export markets.
- Designing Regional Economic Integration Trade mechanisms that work for women.
- Targeting Women in building productive capacity can make a difference. DMT.
- Building capacities for linking women with Export Markets: ACCESS.
- Empowering Young Women in better trade paradigms through technology: PLAN.
- Special Export Zones and their impact upon women in the garment industry: The case story of garments in Andhra Pradesh in India.
- Women Informal Traders Transcending African Borders; Myths Facts and Ways Forward for ICBT.
- Gender Mainstreaming through Training of SADC Trade officials and policy makers.
- Gender Budgets and the Government of India.
- Support to agricultural sector supply chains in Mali.
- Entrepreneurial Development of Cooperative Federations in Guatemala.
- Pro-poor Horticultural Export Value Chains in Egypt
- Banking on Women Pays Off: Creating Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs

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<sup>2</sup> For further information please contact Meg Jones, Women and Trade Programme Manager, International Trade Centre, E-mail: [jones@intracen.org](mailto:jones@intracen.org).

ANNEX

GENDER EXPERT GROUP MEMBERS (AND TOPIC OF CASE STORY)  
AS AT 25 OCTOBER 2010

[MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP IS OPEN]

<b>Bangladesh</b>	Ms. Naila Chowdhury, Chairman, TeleConsult Group Bangladesh <b>'Telecommunications: A way forward for women in business and banking'</b>
<b>Botswana</b>	Ms. Magdeline Matibela, Head of Gender Unit SADC
<b>Canada</b>	Ms. Nancy Spence, Consultant, Canada
<b>Egypt</b>	Dr. Maya Morsy, Programme Coordinator, UNIFEM Egypt <b>'Leveraging government procurement spending to empower women in Egypt'</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Ms. Amal Elbeshbishi, Regional Advisor on Trade, UNECA Ethiopia <b>'Building Productive Capacities and Economic Infrastructure: Integrating the Gender Dimension' - Chair</b>
<b>India</b>	Ms. Rashmi Banga, Senior Economist, UNCTAD India <b>'What is measured, matters': Baselines, targets and indicators tracking the results of trade-related policies and activities'</b> Ms. Benita Sharma, Minister of Women and Children, Government of India <b>'Gender budgeting in India and the impact on integrating gender in trade'</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	Mr. Joseph Masinjila, Executive Director CCGD Kenya
<b>Rwanda</b>	Ms. Oda Gasinzigwa, Chief Gender Monitor, Gender Monitoring Office, Government of Rwanda <b>'Gender and Trade: The Challenges Ahead'</b>
<b>Switzerland</b>	Ms. Meg Jones, Women and Trade Programme Adviser, ITC Ms. Mariama Williams, Senior Research Fellow, South Centre, Geneva
<b>Uganda</b>	Ms. Rosemary Mutyabule, Director, Business Advisory Services, Enterprise Uganda <b>'Integrating Gender into a National Export Strategy – the Ugandan Experience'</b> Ms. Dorothy Tuma, Consultant DMT Consultants Ms. Vanessa Erogbogbo, Development Economist, Independent Consultant <b>'Financing the Work through Aid for Trade: Gender as a Priority for Donor and Beneficiary Governments'</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Ms. Marilyn Carr, Development Economist, Independent Consultant <b>'Lessons Learned in Building Productive Women's Capacity'</b> Ms. Esther Eghobamien, Head of Gender <b>'Gender Budgeting and its Impact on Integrating Gender in Trade'</b> Ms. Susan Lawton, CEO, WEConnect, Europe Ms. Lindsay Napier, Private Sector Development Adviser, DFID, Government of the United Kingdom Ms. Keshet Bachan-Dovrat, Project Coordinator – Because I am a Girl Project, Plan International
<b>United States of America</b>	Ms. Irene Natividad, President, Global Summit of Women Ms. Tacko Ndiaye, Programme Specialist Africa Section, UNIFEM NY <b>'Considerations for Women Cross Border Traders in Aid for Trade'</b>