TRADE AND GENDER: AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

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Three economic roles of women through which to apply a gender lens

Trade policies:
- Such as: Transparency, Trade facilitation, tariffs, Non-tariff measures, Export promotion, PTAs, Stakeholder consultations

Domestic policies:
- Such as: Tax, Labor Market, Parental leave, Availability of childcare, Education, Competition, Tech / Digital, Ease of doing business

Roles:
- Workers
  - Employment opportunities
  - Pay
  - Work/life balance

- Consumers
  - Prices
  - Product variety

- Entrepreneurs
  - Wider access to markets
  - Access to financing
  - Access to digital
  - Gov’t Procurement rules
  - Work/Life balance

Impact:
Women and men work and lead businesses in different sectors

Share of firms with a Facebook presence in OECD countries in 2019

Women led firms
- Services, 80%
- Manufacturing, 8%
- Agriculture, 2%
- Other, 8%
- Construction, 1%

Men led firms
- Services, 67%
- Construction, 12%
- Manufacturing, 11%
- Agriculture, 5%
- Other, 6%

As such, women are less engaged in jobs impacted by trade

All sectors, 2015, per cent
Gender wage gaps can be substantial

2018 or latest available year, per cent

Note: The gender wage gap is defined as the difference between male and female median wages divided by the male median wages. Data refer to full-time employees.
Source: OECD (2020), Gender wage gap (indicator).
Trade policies affect women and men differently

• Women work in different sectors than men and earn less
• Market access through trade agreements will impact men and women differently

Ⅲ Gender-differentiated impacts of trade policies should be measured
Ⅲ Gender-differentiated impacts of trade agreements in partner countries could also be measured
Women consumers

- **Trade policies**
  - Such as:
    - Transparency
    - Trade facilitation
    - Tariffs
    - Non-tariff measures
    - Export promotion
    - PTAs
    - Stakeholder consultations

- **Domestic policies**
  - Such as:
    - Tax
    - Labor Market
    - Parental leave
    - Availability of childcare
    - Education
    - Competition
    - Tech / Digital
    - Ease of doing business

- **Roles**
  - Workers
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Lower income households are more affected by prices since they spend more of their income.

Household expenditure by income quintile, France

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Both women and men benefit from lower prices through trade but women benefit more.
No gender discrimination found in import tariffs in OECD …

Average import tariffs on gender-specific apparel, 2016, ad valorem
or in Latin America

Average import tariffs on gender-specific apparel, 2016, ad valorem
Policy implications: women consumers

- Trade lowers prices which is good for lower income groups where women are disproportionately represented.
- We do not find discrimination in import tariffs on women’s apparel vs. men’s in OECD and Latin America.

Price impacts of trade policies and agreements should be measured.
Women entrepreneurs and business owners

**Trade policies**
- Transparency
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- Tariffs
- Non-tariff measures
- Export promotion
- PTAs
- Stakeholder consultations

**Domestic policies**
- Tax
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**Roles**
- **Workers**
  - Employment opportunities
  - Pay
  - Work/life balance
- **Consumers**
  - Prices
  - Product variety
- **Entrepreneurs**
  - Wider access to markets
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Women-owned firms are smaller than those owned by men and generate less revenue.

Women owned firms trade less

Entrepreneurs’ answers to the question “Does your firm engage in international trade?”, per cent

- Women led firms
- Men led firms
- Equal

- No
- Yes, as an exporter
- Yes, as an exporter and importer
- Yes, as an importer
Women owned firms engage with clients digitally as much as men-owned ones.


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Trade policies that support MSMEs support women-owned firms

• Trade facilitating measures, in particular automation
  – Reforms that reduce time required to trade
• Greater transparency in regulation
• Lowering barriers to trade, especially in services
• Supporting an environment conducive to lower costs of internet access and logistics
OECD Framework of Analysis for Trade and Gender Reviews

• 1. Quantitative analysis
• 2. Stakeholder engagement
• 3. Whole of government approach
OECD Framework of Analysis for Trade and Gender Reviews (1)

• Measure impacts of trade and trade policies on women’s employment, wages and other job characteristics
• Measure price impacts of trade on consumers, esp. most vulnerable
• Ascertain indicators of trade facilitation and regulatory transparency
• Assess barriers to women’s participation in trade (access to credit and resources; networks; lack of time)
2. Ensuring the participation of women in trade policy-making

• Stakeholder consultations
  – incorporate gender perspectives
  – identify promising paths for gender-responsive outcomes
  – highlight potential unintended negative effects
• Active engagement with stakeholders
• Reaching out to less represented stakeholders
• Representation of women in trade policy development
OECD Framework of Analysis for Trade and Gender Reviews (3)

• Whole of government approach
• Coherence with domestic policies is fundamental
• Some areas of domestic policy that impact women’s ability to take advantage of trade opportunities:
  – Work/life balance
  – Tax
  – Access to credit, access to resources
Some countries include gender specific provisions in PTAs to:

• Reaffirm existing commitments
• Prevent adverse effects
• Actively promote gender-responsive policies or cooperation
• Dedicated gender chapters