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Women's Economic Empowerment at the WTO

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Women's Economic Empowerment and the 5th SDG

- **SDG n.5**
- **5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws:**
- **5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women**
- **5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels**



Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment on the Occasion of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017

(...) Recalling Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (...) Reaffirming our commitment to effectively implement the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (..)

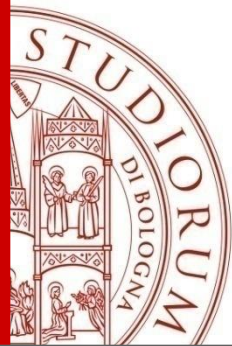
We have agreed to collaborate on making our trade and development policies more gender responsive, including by:

1. Sharing our respective experiences relating to policies and programs to encourage women's participation in national and international economies through World Trade Organization (WTO) information exchanges, as appropriate, and voluntary reporting during the WTO trade policy review process;
2. Sharing best practices for conducting gender-based analysis of trade policies and for the monitoring of their effects;



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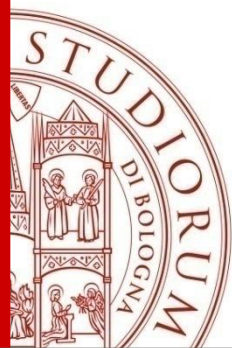
3. Sharing methods and procedures for the collection of gender-disaggregated data, the use of indicators, monitoring and evaluation methodologies, and the analysis of gender-focused statistics related to trade;
4. Working together in the WTO to remove barriers for women's economic empowerment and increase their participation in trade; and
5. Ensuring that Aid for Trade supports tools and know-how for analysing, designing and implementing more gender-responsive trade policies.



WTO members who have endorsed the WTO Buenos Aires Declaration

- Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Zambia.

The Protagonist Role of the Secretariat



WOMEN AND TRADE

[INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ▾](#)[CAPACITY BUILDING](#)[DATABASES ▾](#)[RESEARCH & DATA ▾](#)[WEIDE FUND](#)

Trade policies can affect men and women differently, with women facing higher obstacles to taking part in the global economy and world trade. Increasing women's participation in the labour market could increase countries' productivity and trade opportunities, leading to greater economic diversification, innovation and poverty reduction. Activities of the Informal Working Group and the WTO Secretariat are aimed at incorporating gender issues into the organization's work and promoting women's participation in global trade.

▣ [State of play briefing note](#)

NEWS



WEIDE Fund for women entrepreneurs to start roll-out in four beneficiary countries

7 MARCH 2025

The Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund, launched by the WTO Secretariat and the Int...

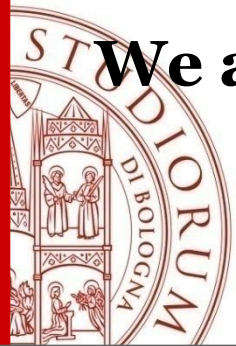
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Outcome from the Buenos Aires Declaration

- - Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender (established in 2020);
- - WTO Gender Research Hub (2021), which serves as a knowledge-gathering platform where the latest research is shared;
- - WTO Database on gender provisions in RTAs (2021);
- - Trade&Gender 360° Strategy (2022), which is a capacity-building programme on trade and gender for government officials and women entrepreneurs;
- WTO BRIDGE (2022) - “Bringing the Rules of International trade to businesswomen and Delivering Gender Equality”
- -Held the 1st WTO Congress on Trade and Gender (2022);
- - Held the 1st WTO Trade and Gender Young Summit (2023);
- - The WTO and the ITC launches at the MC 13th the Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund to help women-led businesses and women entrepreneurs in developing economies and least-developed countries adopt digital technologies and expand the online presence of their enterprises.



We are living an unprecedented momentum for the women's economic empowerment agenda!



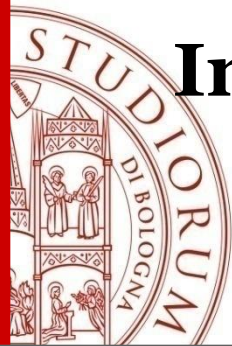
Mrs. Pamela Coke-Hamilton (Jamaica), Executive Director of the International Trade Center (2020).



Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) as the Director General of the WTO (2021).



Mrs. Rebeca Grynspan from Costa Rica - Secretary General at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2021)



Increase of Women's Representation in International Trade

(data of the IWG on Trade and Gender – July 2024)

- **Women representing WTO members:**

- 36% of WTO Ambassadors are female.

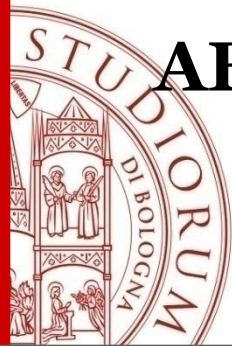
Female leadership in National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) – supporting the implementation of the Trade and Facilitation Agreement (2017)

- On average, 37% of NTFCs' members are women; 40% of NTFCs are chaired or co-chaired by women.

- **Women in the Dispute Settlement**

Between 1 January 2022 and October 2023, 10 panels – out of the 30 panellists appointed, 40% were women.

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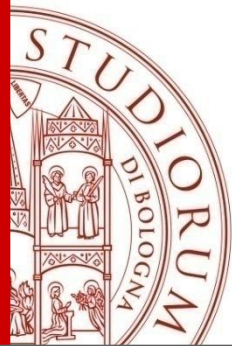
ABU DHABI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ADOPTED ON 2 MARCH 2024

- “16. We recognise that women's economic empowerment and **women's participation in trade contributes to economic growth and sustainable development.** We take note of WTO work, **including in collaboration with other relevant international organizations,** through activities such as capacity-building initiatives and sharing experience to facilitate women's participation in trade.”



Plurilateral Initiatives under the WTO

- Join initiative on Electronic Commerce - which reached on 24.07.2024 an stabilized text for an Agreement on electronic commerce (AEC);
- Join initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development - from which was drafted the Investment Facilitation and Development (IFD) Agreement;
- Joint initiative on Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMs), establishing an Informal Working Group for MSMEs, sector that comprise a considerable number of women led-business.
- Join initiative on Services Domestic Regulation (SDR), which concluded the agreement in December 2021 which entered into force in February 2024.

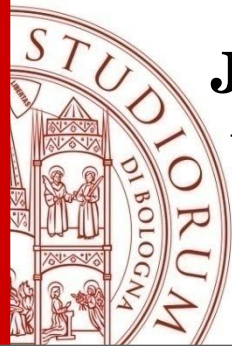


Join initiative on Electronic Commerce - from which was drafted the Agreement on electronic commerce (AEC).

Preamble: (...) “Determined to **further narrow the digital divide**, and to enhance the benefits and opportunities provided by electronic commerce for businesses, consumers, and workers in the global economy, and particularly in developing and least-developed countries.

SECTION E TRANSPARENCY, COOPERATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

Article 19: Cooperation 19.1 Recognizing the global nature of electronic commerce, Parties shall endeavour to: (a) **work together to facilitate the use of and access to electronic commerce by all peoples, particularly under-represented groups and MSMEs**; (b) exchange information and share experiences on laws, regulations, and policies relating to electronic commerce; and (c) participate actively in regional and multilateral fora to promote the development of electronic commerce.”



Join initiative on Electronic Commerce - from which was drafted the Agreement on electronic commerce (AEC)

Article 26: Indigenous Peoples

26.1 Provided that such measures are not used as a means of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination against persons of another Party or as a disguised restriction on trade by electronic means, nothing in this Agreement shall preclude a Party from adopting or maintaining measures it considers necessary to accord more favourable treatment to Indigenous Peoples in its territory in respect of matters covered by this Agreement, including in fulfilment of its obligations under its legal, constitutional, or treaty arrangements with those Indigenous Peoples.

26.2 The interpretation of a Party's legal, constitutional, or treaty arrangements with Indigenous Peoples in its territory, including as to the nature of the rights and obligations arising under such arrangements, shall not be subject to dispute settlement under Article 27. Article 27 shall otherwise apply to this Article.



Investment Facilitation and Development (IFD) Agreement

Preamble: Recognizing the importance of investment in the promotion of sustainable development, economic growth, poverty reduction, job creation, technology transfer, the expansion and diversification of productive capacity and trade, as well as for the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

SECTION VI SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

Article 37: Responsible Business Conduct 37.1. With a view to promoting sustainable development, each Party shall encourage investors and enterprises operating within its territory or subject to its jurisdiction to voluntarily incorporate into their business practices and internal policies internationally recognized principles, standards and guidelines of responsible business conduct that have been endorsed or are supported by that Party.



Investment Facilitation and Development (IFD) Agreement

37.2. In accordance with its legal system, each Party should encourage investors and enterprises operating within its territory to undertake and maintain meaningful engagement and dialogue, in accordance with international responsible business conduct principles, standards and guidelines that have been endorsed or are supported by that Party, with Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and local communities.

37.3. Each Party recognizes the importance of investors and enterprises implementing due diligence for responsible business conduct in order to identify and address adverse impacts in their operations, their supply chains and other business relationships. 37.4. The Parties agree to exchange any information and best practices available on issues covered by paragraphs 37.1 and 37.2, including on possible ways to facilitate the uptake by enterprises and investors of responsible business practices and reporting, in the Committee.



Services Domestic Regulation (SDR)

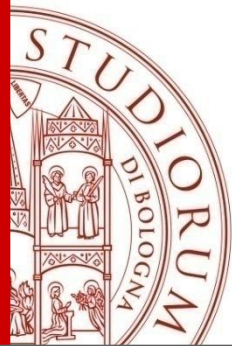
Development of Measures 22. If a Member adopts or maintains measures relating to the authorization for the supply of a service, the Member shall ensure that:

(...)

(d) such measures do not discriminate between men and women.

[Differential treatment that is reasonable and objective, and aims to achieve a legitimate purpose, and adoption by Members of **temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women**, shall not be considered discrimination for the purposes of this provision].

= regulation financial services



Women Empowerment in Italy!

Sistema di certificazione della parità di genere



L'investimento del Pnrr "[Sistema di certificazione della parità di genere](#)" ([Missione 5 Coesione e Inclusione – Componente 1 Politiche attive del lavoro e sostegno all'occupazione – Investimento 1.3](#)), a titolarità del Dipartimento per le pari opportunità, mira ad accompagnare ed incentivare le imprese ad adottare *policy* adeguate a ridurre il divario di genere in tutte le aree maggiormente critiche, quali ad esempio, **opportunità di crescita in azienda, parità salariale a parità di mansioni e tutela della maternità**. Per la realizzazione di questo intervento le risorse totali assegnate al Dipartimento per le pari opportunità in base al decreto del Ministro dell'economia e delle finanze del 6 agosto 2021, ammontano a **euro 10.000.000**.

Available at: <https://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/it/attuazione-misure-pnrr/sistema-di-certificazione-della-parita-di-genere/>

Initiatives for women Entrepreneurship in Italy!

IMPRENDITORIA FEMMINILE

Cos'è | Progetti | Partner | Comitato impresa donna | Normativa

Cos'è

Imprenditoria Femminile è il programma che punta a diffondere la cultura imprenditoriale tra le donne e ad aumentare la loro presenza nel mondo del lavoro e dell'impresa, soprattutto negli ambiti scientifici e tecnologici.

È gestito da Invitalia, per conto del Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy e del Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità della Presidenza del Consiglio.



Comitato impresa donna

Il ruolo dell'organismo istituito presso il Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy.



Progetti

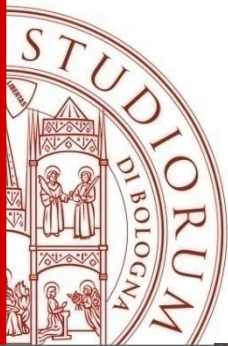
Le iniziative, gli eventi, le opportunità nell'ambito del programma Imprenditoria Femminile.



Partner

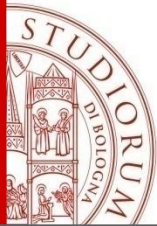
Guarda quali sono i partner istituzionali. 





Women are part of the new WTO that is coming!





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Grazie per l'attenzione!

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