What policy makers need to know about women and youth traders’ experiences.

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Outline

- Overview of Women and Youth Traders in Africa
- Challenges Faced by Women and Youth Traders
- Case Studies: Successful Policy Initiatives
- Recommendations for Policy Makers
- Conclusion
Overview of Women and Youth Traders in Africa

- **Women** and the **Youth** constitute a significant portion of traders in Africa.
- They play a vital role in informal and formal trade sectors.
- Key contributors to socio-economic growth in Africa.
- The AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade
  - Eliminate discrimination
  - Promote Equality
  - Foster inclusiveness
Experiences from Women and Youth-led Businesses

→ Informal Micro-Scale Business
→ Sources fish from Ghana, Côte d’ivoire and Nigeria.
→ Volatile exchange rate
→ She has no knowledge about any PTA and the AfCFTA agreement.

→ Medium Scale Exporter and Importer of fruits from SA, etc.
→ Long delays at the port
→ High cost of logistics and cold chain facilities.
→ No National Food Donation policy
→ Optimistic about the PAPSS
Challenges Faced by Women and Youth Traders

❑ Preferential Trade Area (PTA) utilization
  ▪ Women-owned businesses, mostly in informal trade under utilize PTA

❑ Non-Tariff Barriers
  ▪ SPS
  ▪ Technical requirement
  ▪ Customs procedures and
  ▪ RoO

❑ Information and awareness
  ▪ lower awareness of the available preferences
Case Studies: Successful Policy Initiatives

- SheGovern Trade Development program by tralac
- Capacity development activities and digitization processes under COMESA
- ITC SheTrades Ghana Hub: Expanding opportunities for women to trade
- Ghana Exim Bank credit facility for exporters
- GIZ-Ghana TVET Voucher Programme; 14,000 individuals including women and youth benefited
Recommendations for Policy Makers

- **Gender mainstreaming** eg. ITC SheTrades Initiative, tralac SheGovernsTrade
- **Education and awareness programs** that encourage public dialogue
- **Women and youth considerations in the AfCFTA**: from policy design to implementation and monitoring of actions
- **Address barriers to entry**- access to credit facilities, business training, and mentorship programs
- **Facilitate market access**- reduction in cross-border rates for Women and Youth-owned businesses
- Countries and RECs should **identify production and investment opportunities** for Women and Youth-owned businesses
- **Access to technology and skills** development to fully utilize digital trade
Conclusion

“The AfCFTA is not self-executing” Prof. Erasmus Gerhard

“Functional private sector participation key to AfCFTA success” Nana Akuffo-Addo, Ghana’s President

The African Woman and the Youth must drive and benefit from the AfCFTA

Thank you