



**INTERIM REPORT FOLLOWING THE BUENOS AIRES JOINT DECLARATION
ON TRADE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

Revision

This document is issued at the request of Iceland and Botswana on behalf of the International Gender Champions Trade Impact Group.¹

In December 2017, the 118 WTO Members and Observers supporting the **Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment** agreed to report on progress towards implementation of the joint declaration. The report on progress during this first phase of implementation is in its final stage.

Acknowledging the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and trade-related activities, as markets and supply chains around the world have been disrupted. Recognising that the effects of crises and economic downturns vary by gender and that women are often differently affected.² Recalling the importance of the promotion of inclusive economic growth and trade policies contributing to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment as part of a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

During the next phase of implementation, the now 127 Signatories of the Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment³ will continue to implement the joint declaration in line with the objectives agreed in 2017:

1. Sharing our respective experiences relating to policies and programs to encourage women's participation in national and international trade 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;
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;
5. Ensuring that Aid for Trade supports tools and know-how for analysing, designing and implementing more gender-responsive trade policies.

¹ <https://genderchampions.com/impact/trade>

² https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/covid_05aug20_e.htm

³ <https://genderchampions.com/impact/trade>

To advance the implementation of these objectives we will work collaboratively in an informal, open and transparent working group at the WTO where members will:

- continue to share best practices, information and exchange views on removing trade-related barriers and increasing the participation of women in trade. As a first step, and recognising that some members have adopted more ambitious or particularly innovative initiatives, these members would be invited to showcase their national and/or regional approaches and experiences as potential inspiration and guidance to others;
- consider and clarify, what a 'gender lens' as a concept applied to international trade would entail, and, secondly, consider specifically 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;
- review and discuss gender-related analytical work produced by the WTO Secretariat;
- explore how best to support the delivery of the WTO Aid for Trade work programme.

The working group will convene for its first meeting in the second half of 2020 and establish a notional schedule of activities and themes for the period until MC12.

Consistent with the first period of implementation, the activities will be voluntary, transparent and inclusive. At MC12 we will provide a second progress report towards implementation of Buenos Aires declaration, including a forward looking roadmap and implementation plan.

Furthermore, the signatories of the Buenos Aires Declaration recognize the importance of continuing to broaden, deepen and coordinate efforts to integrate women's economic empowerment therefore reaffirm their commitment to:

- work together with relevant international organisations involved in international trade capacity building, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank (WB) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts, initiatives and tools;
 - to ensure that technical assistance and Aid for Trade is available to support the analysis, design and implementation of an inclusive trade agenda.
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