

Youth Trade Summit on Gender Recommendations and pledges taken by the Summit delegates 14 November 2023

Background information

As part of their tasks with their working groups, the Summit delegates were asked to develop one **recommendation** to the WTO, its members, and/or its secretariat on what more could be done on trade and gender or how differently could the WTO handle the issues related to trade and gender. To guide Summit delegates in drafting this recommendation, they could answer the following question: *How would you like to see the issue of trade and gender evolve in the WTO in the future?*

They were also asked to develop one **pledge** collectively for each member of the working group to implement after the Summit (on voluntary basis). Summit delegates that would have taken the pledge will be invited to present their achievements in implementing the pledge at the 2nd edition of the World Trade Congress on Gender. To guide Summit delegates in drafting this pledge, they could answer the following question: *As a young professional, what positive difference would I like to make on trade and gender equality and how?*

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The informal working group on Trade and Gender of the WTO shall collaborate with academics, practitioners and members of the civil society working on issues of gender and trade to draft a Model Protocol on Trade and Gender, which shall then be included in negotiations for FTAs under the auspices of the WTO. The Model Protocol can also suggest provisions on monitoring implementation with the participation of civil society.

Recommendation 2: The WTO should cooperate with international organisations e.g., UN National Statistics Division and National Administrations to support developing a framework to help countries collect gender-disaggregated data to facilitate gender impact assessments.

Recommendation 3: The WTO should provide funds for data collection and research. A grassroots approach to capacity developing in the respective countries taking a multi-stakeholder approach should be a focus. At country level, governments should develop and implement a gender-equitable foreign policy.

Recommendation 4: The WTO should make a commitment on mainstreaming gender into the work of the Organization. To ensure gender is mainstreamed at national level, the IWG should pledge to: 1) Monitor and evaluate trade policies to ensure they are gender responsive; 2) Put in place frameworks for data collection on gender inclusion and women's participation in trade; 3) set up a capacity building programme to enhance women's trade participation; and 4) Leverage WTO technical assistance and capacity building programmes.

Recommendation 5: a) Modernize the RTAs and FTAs by mainstreaming gender throughout the agreements, both in substance and from negotiation to implementation, ensuring that gender provisions included in RTAs/FTAs are more specific and binding and ensuring that women are included in the conversations/negotiations of the RTAs/FTAs; b) Provide women with access to education on IP rights; c) Involve gender experts in designing trade policies and agreements - research institutions can conduct comparative studies on trade and gender issues in different contexts to inform policy decisions; d) Create a feminist foreign policy to help solve instability and promote security, peace, and trade.

Recommendation 6: In appreciation of the database on gender provisions in RTAs and the Trade4MSMEs website, we recommend the WTO Secretariat build a platform for sharing information containing policies, financing options, technical assistance, capacity building, research, and programs supporting communities that face gender-based barriers in international trade.

Pledges

Pledge 1: We pledge to map existing initiatives relating to women's empowerment in our institutions and to actively promote them; if there are no such initiatives, we pledge to advocate for the introduction of one such initiative.

Pledge 2: Create a shared blog which we will aim to update periodically in a rotating order on areas we individually choose/have expertise in.

Pledge 3: We pledge to transform trade policy by addressing grassroots challenges, engaging diverse actors, and prioritizing inclusivity. Additionally, we aim to promote trade facilitation measures, advance education, and enhance capacity development on trade-related matters, ensuring transparency and fostering a more gender-equitable trade policy that considers the needs of all.

Pledge 4: Apply a gender analysis in our work. Share what we have learned in the Summit with our community. Make use of the network established during the Summit to disseminate best practices, share information, promote collaboration, and more.

Pledge 5: We pledge to apply a gender lens to any aspect of our work where we can, especially in the areas of environment and intellectual property.

Pledge 6: We pledge to facilitate and/or conduct impact assessments, within the context of each of our roles, of the gender-related commitments taken by our respective entities (as academics, and national and international professionals).