



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

#trade
for women

Gender Dimension of Trade Facilitation in the BBIN sub region

*CUTS International
Webinar
30 October 2020*

*Anoush der Boghossian
Head of Trade and Gender
World Trade Organization*

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- I. **What is the situation of women entrepreneurs in the BBIN region with regards to trade facilitation**

- II. **What can be done to support women in trade facilitation?**

- III. **How the WTO can help**

I. The situation of women entrepreneurs in the BBIN region with regards to Trade Facilitation

1. Women entrepreneurs are mostly in **manufacturing** (handicraft)
2. **Intention** for future **exports** is **high** (with 1 caveat: COVID 19)
3. **Trading difficulties** in the BBIN region are **high** too
4. Other important **challenges preventing women entrepreneurs from trading internationally**, and which are also direct or indirect **TF costs**
5. These Trade Facilitation costs and difficulties were exacerbated by the **COVID19 crisis**.

II. What can be done to support women in trade facilitation?

1. Create concrete Trade Facilitation indicators

- The **WTO** is currently working on **detailed and concrete Trade Facilitation indicators for governments** to integrate gender into trade facilitation policies

➤ *Building these indicators in 5 steps*

II. What can be done to support women in trade facilitation?

- Step 1: Acquiring a **good and detailed understanding** of the concrete **hurdles faced by women** traders and concrete situations on the ground.
- Step 2: **Categorising** trade policy **measures**
- Step 3: **Categorising** the types of **female traders**
- Step 4: **Identifying trade rules** and provisions in the WTO TF agreement corresponding to the indicators
- Step 5: Making **links with other non-trade policies**: such as ICT

II. What can be done to support women in trade facilitation?

2. Train women in trade rules

- The lack of knowledge on trade rules and procedures is a TF cost
- 2019-2020 WTO Surveys
- Gap in the capacity building programmes offered to women entrepreneurs internationally/regionally

-> NEW WTO programme for women entrepreneurs 2021

3. Better knowledge of what women are facing

4. Involve customs officials or how to best promote women's economic empowerment in customs and border agencies

II. What can be done to support women in trade facilitation?

4. **Involve customs officials or how to best promote women's economic empowerment in customs and border agencies**
 - Investing in female officials (HIRING MORE WOMEN IS NOT ENOUGH) Focus on female Border and Customs Officers
 - Involving women entrepreneurs directly with border agencies and officers
 - Training male customs officials

III. How the WTO can help

In addition to the indicators

Raising the issues in the

WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender

- Established on 23 September 2020
- By 127 WTO Members and Observers
- WTO/L/1095/Rev.1

THIS CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION

THANK YOU

ANOUSH.DERBOGHOSSIAN@WTO.ORG