



**Gender Mainstreaming in Trade  
Policy-Making: Lessons learned of  
relevance for standard-setting**

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## The Trade and Gender Nexus



1

Gender inequality as a growth strategy



2

Gender inequality as a burden on countries' competitiveness

If female farmers in developing countries had the same access to productive resources as men



- ❑ Yields: (+) 20-30%
- ❑ Agricultural output in developing countries: (+) 2.5- 4%
- ❑ Global number of hungry people: (-) 12-17%

Source: UN Task Force on Rural Women, 2011



# Trade affects women's opportunities





## Gender and Trade Policy-making: Many similarities with standard-setting



Trade & gender  
nexus not as known  
as it should be



Gender  
considerations  
rarely taken into  
account in trade  
policy-making



“Gender blind” trade  
policies risks to  
exacerbate existing  
gender inequalities  
instead of solving  
them



Enhanced  
understanding of the  
trade & gender nexus  
favours more gender-  
sensitive trade policy-  
making and eludes the  
perpetuation of gender  
“blind” trade reforms



# Mainstreaming gender in trade policy: What do we mean by it?

Assessing which impacts trade policies could have on men and women; and making them responsive to gender considerations

Ex ante assessment: what would happen if a given policy were implemented?

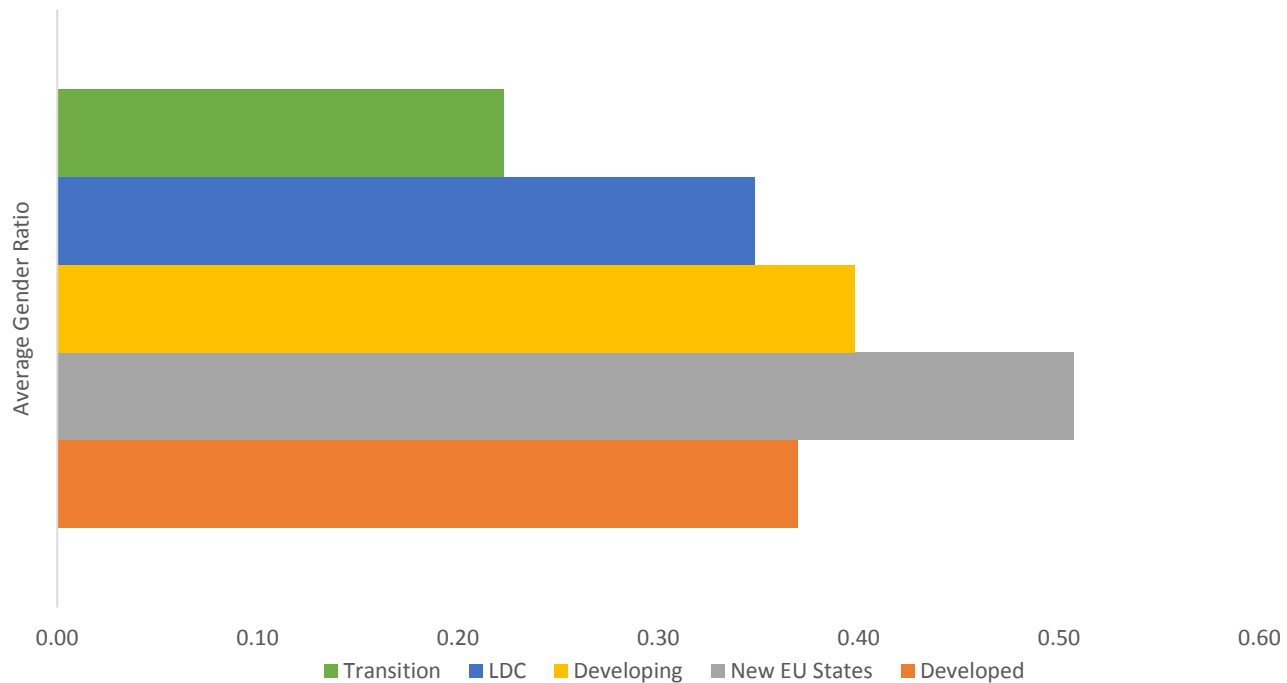
Incorporating gender issues in the main body of the agreements

- Gender-related provisions
- Liberalization commitments reflect the interest of women





# Women at the Trade Table (WTO Members' directory 2015)



## Data sample

-160 countries

-1039 trade negotiators

Main country groupings: LDCs, Transition, Developing, New EU States, Developed



## How to achieve it?



### Voice and Agency

consultative processes need to be widened to include women's perspectives in determining national priorities and formulating advocacy positions.



### Entry level and Senior Roles

a conscious effort to increase the number of senior women around the negotiating table. For this to happen capacity needs to be built at the national and regional level



### An assumption

in the first instance, that a critical mass of trade negotiators who exhibit women's enhanced agency and voice are more likely to bring to the negotiating table offensive and defensive positions about gender equitable outcomes of trade agreements



**Thank you for your attention**

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