



ONLINE COURSE ON TRADE AND GENDER FOR MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA), COMESA SECRETARIAT AND COMESA INSTITUTIONS

20 MAY - 14 JULY 2019

With support from the Governments of Finland and COMESA

PROSPECTUS

Background

Economic development and social and cultural shifts have contributed to a decrease in gender-related inequalities across the world. Among the major shifts are the rise in female educational enrolment as compared to male enrolment, and the increase in women's labour force participation. However, these shifts cannot be considered as an automatic outcome of development but rather the result of concerted policy action and resource allocation for gender equality. Taking a gender perspective has helped to reveal a number of structural inequalities between men and women in social, economic and political spheres, and encouraged the implementation of measures to redress them. Efforts to mainstream gender equality in policymaking have been critical in this regard.

Trade and trade liberalization policies tend to impact men and women differently. They yield important redistributive effects within the economy, which can either magnify or reduce existing disparities among groups, including between men and women. It is therefore imperative for policymakers to anticipate how trade policies will redistribute wealth within the economy and take corrective actions. Academic institutions can play an important role in generating the analysis critical to inform such policymaking.

In an effort to enhance the knowledge about the links between trade and gender among stakeholders in developing and transition countries, UNCTAD developed an online course on trade and gender. The course is based on volume 1 of UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender, titled "Unfolding the links". In addition, UNCTAD partnered with COMESA and developed a teaching module to analyze and present region-specific content for member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The additional module includes case studies, data, and coursework with an overall approach that gives weight to topics that best address COMESA regional context and specificities.

This course is offered over a period of eight weeks: from 20 May to 14 July 2019. The course will be offered in both English and French. It will be managed and tutored by UNCTAD Trade, Gender and Development Programme.

Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge needed to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and ultimately produce gender-aware policy recommendations. To this end, the course introduces the concepts of trade and gender, and combines theory on the interaction between trade and gender with empirical evidence. At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Look at the economy from a gender perspective;
- Identify the channels through which trade impacts women's economic empowerment and well-being, and the channels through which gender inequality impacts trade performance and competitiveness;
- Interpret critical data about gender inequalities and female labour force participation in COMESA countries;
- Illustrate how trade integration has influenced gender outcomes in COMESA countries in the different economic sectors;

- Use the knowledge acquired to produce policy-oriented research and strategies that could be used by national and regional policymakers, and academic papers investigating the interplay between trade and gender;
- Contribute to mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies in the COMESA region.

The topics covered in this course are currently an active research area in trade and development-related studies. An increasing number of researchers and policymakers are engaged in dissecting the relationship between trade and gender at the country level. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to contribute to this relevant area of research and policy-oriented work.

A more detailed description of the course content, as well as the course timetable, is provided in the annex.

Target audience and course prerequisites

The course targets policymakers, academics (from universities and research centres), representatives of civil society in the 21 member States of COMESA involved in policy formulation and implementation, research, teaching, advocacy or field work in the area of trade and gender, as well as professional staff of the COMESA Secretariat and COMESA Institutions. Qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. The number of participants is limited in order to ensure appropriate support throughout the course.

Applicants must:

- Hold a Master's degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, statistics, agriculture, or related area;
- Have good knowledge of English.

Please note that in order to successfully complete course activities, participants should plan to devote 10-12 hours a week to the course.

Course fees

Thanks to support from the Governments of Finland and COMESA, the participants who will be selected for the course will be exempt from fees associated with access to the course and e-tutoring services provided.

Participants will also receive a hard copy of UNCTAD teaching manual on trade and gender, as well as course material on a USB key, free-of-charge.

Certificate of completion

Participants with passing grades in the course (58 for the multiple-choice tests and 65 for the final essay) will receive a certificate of completion.

Application information and deadline

If you wish to apply for the course in English, please follow the instructions at <https://bit.ly/2Y9UJcp>. If you wish to apply for the course in French, please refer to the French version of the Prospectus. Your application must include a detailed curriculum vitae and a letter of nomination from your institution indicating its support for your application and explaining how your participation in the course will contribute to your future work and the work of the institution.

The deadline for applications is **28 April 2019**. Applications received thereafter and incomplete applications will not be considered. For assistance with the online application process, please contact learningtrade@un.org or gender@unctad.org.

Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to:

UNCTAD	COMESA
Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli Chief, Trade, Gender and Development Programme Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD E-mail: simonetta.zarrilli@UNCTAD.org	Mrs. Beatrice Simwapenga Hamusonde Director, Gender and Social Affairs COMESA Secretariat E-mail : bhamusonde@comesa.int

A selection committee will review each application and select the course participants based on the supporting documents and the relevance of the course for their work.

Participants will be advised of their selection by **3 May 2019**.

Annex: Content and timetable of the course

The course contains four modules, each of which is based on one module of volume 1 of the teaching manual on trade and gender and on the fourth module devoted to COMESA. Additionally, we provide the following for each module:

- Accompanying multimedia lectures;
- Suggested additional readings addressing the issues covered in the course.

Modules 1 and 2 are scheduled to be fully completed in two weeks each; module 3 and 4 in one week each. To successfully complete the course, participants will be requested to pass multiple-choice tests at the end of each module, and draft a 2-page final essay in which they will apply their new knowledge to their country situation.

The course content may be run entirely from the USB key provided or from the UNCTAD e-learning platform. An Internet connection is required to interact with the course tutor, complete end-of-module tests and submit the final essay.

Dates	Title	Content
Weeks 1 and 2: 20 May – 2 June	Module 1: The trade and gender debate: Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks	The economy as a gendered structure; the multiple roles of women in the economy; measures of gender inequality; trade - definitions and measurements; the trade and gender relationship; country case study of Angola; mainstreaming gender in trade and other policies.
Weeks 3 and 4: 3 – 16 June	Module 2: The effects of trade on women's well-being and economic empowerment	Women as workers - employment and wage effects; women as producers - farmers and small-scale producers; women as traders - petty traders and cross-border informal traders; women as consumers - consumers of imported products and users of public services; women as taxpayers - the revenue effect.
Week 5: 17 - 23 June	Module 3: Gender-based inequalities and trade performance	Women as sources of competitive advantage for export-oriented firms; women as under-achievers of competitive advantage in their own enterprises.
Week 6: 24 - 30 June	Module 4: Interactions between trade and gender inequalities in COMESA countries.	Trade and gender nexus in COMESA countries across the different economic sectors, namely agricultural, manufacturing, and services.
Weeks 7 and 8: 1 - 14 July	Final essay	Two-page essay explaining the relevance of the issues covered by the course for the participant's country, and providing some options and suggestions on how to mainstream gender in the trade policy of the participant's country.