

6. New Chapter Thirteen-A (Trade and Gender Equality) is hereby added as follows:

“CHAPTER THIRTEEN-A
TRADE AND GENDER EQUALITY

ARTICLE 13A.1

Objective

1. The objective of this Chapter is to enhance opportunities for women including workers, consumers, business owners, and entrepreneurs, to participate equitably in global, regional, and domestic economies and access the benefits of this Agreement. Accordingly, the Parties shall advance women’s economic empowerment and gender equality across this Agreement and incorporate a gender perspective in the Parties’ trade and investment relationship.
2. The Parties further acknowledge that in addition to the provisions in this Chapter, there are provisions in other Chapters of this Agreement that seek to promote women’s access to the benefits of this Agreement, or otherwise advance gender equality. These include:
 - (a) Annex 7A-D (Domestic Regulation);
 - (b) Chapter Seven-D (Financial Services).
 - (c) Chapter Seven-F (Digital Trade);
 - (d) Chapter Eight (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises);
 - (e) Chapter Nine (Government Procurement);
 - (f) Chapter Eleven-A (Innovation); and
 - (g) Chapter Thirteen (Trade and Sustainable Development);
3. The Parties recognise the need to develop evidence-based interventions to address the systemic or other barriers which exist for women in international trade. Therefore, the Parties acknowledge the benefit of sharing their respective experiences in designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and strengthening policies, programmes, and other initiatives which promote women’s access to the benefits and opportunities of this Agreement. In this context, the Parties acknowledge the importance of domestic and international trade policies that are complementary.

ARTICLE 13A.2

General Provisions

1. The Parties recognise that inclusive trade policies and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women are important for advancing gender equality in trade. Each Party affirms its commitment to implement its obligations under the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979.
2. The Parties recognise the important contribution of women in driving inclusive economic growth and sustainable socioeconomic development in line with the Declaration, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted at the United Nations at New York on 25 September 2015, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 5.
3. The Parties acknowledge the need to develop evidence-based interventions to address the systemic and other barriers which exist for women in international trade. The Parties affirm their commitment to the *WTO Joint Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment* made at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017 and acknowledge the initiatives, efforts, and work of other multilateral fora, such as the OECD, in advancing the evidence base on women's economic empowerment and trade.
4. Each Party also affirms its commitment to implement its obligations under any other international agreement or instrument that addresses women's rights and gender equality to which it is party.
5. Each Party shall endeavour to effectively maintain its laws, regulations, policies, and practices that promote gender equality and improve women's access to trade and investment opportunities. Each Party acknowledges that it is inappropriate to waive, or otherwise derogate from, its gender equality laws to encourage trade or investment.
6. Each Party shall endeavour to promote public awareness of its trade and gender equality laws and existing trade promotion and trade facilitation initiatives, recognising the importance of access to relevant information and networks for women's participation in trade.
7. Each Party shall establish or maintain a publicly accessible digital medium containing information regarding this Agreement, including a summary of provisions in this Agreement that are relevant to trade and gender equality.
8. The Parties recognise that the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work prevents women from equitable participation in global, regional, and domestic economies, and acknowledge the importance of promoting shared responsibility within the household, and of promoting care policies and programmes with a gender and shared social responsibility perspective to support women in their multiple roles in the economy. The Parties further recognise the diverse experiences of all women in trade, including as informal workers.

ARTICLE 13A.3

Cooperation Activities

1. To increase and promote women's full access to the benefits and opportunities created by this Agreement, and encourage women's equitable participation in global, regional, and domestic economies, the Parties acknowledge the benefits of sharing their respective experiences in designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, or strengthening policies, programmes, and initiatives. Accordingly, the Parties shall undertake cooperation activities which seek to advance gender equality in the trade relationship of the Parties. This may include:

- (a) sharing information, experiences, and evidence on policies, programmes, or initiatives that aim to:
 - (i) support trade opportunities for women to promote women's equitable participation and advancement in the economy and trade through capacity-building and skills enhancement of women at work, in business, and at senior levels of decision-making;
 - (ii) enhance the competitiveness and capacity of women-owned or women-led businesses, including SMEs, and their ability to participate and compete in local, regional, and global value chains;
 - (iii) eliminate gender inequalities in global value chains, including through responsible business conduct initiatives, and through collaboration in multilateral fora;
 - (iv) close the gender digital divide, and advance the use of e-commerce and online business tools by women;
 - (v) provide mentoring, training, financial assistance, and financing, including export financing and venture capital, for women to start-up and scale-up their businesses;
 - (vi) support women workers and close the gender wage gap in all sectors, including trading sectors;
 - (vii) promote equal opportunities for women in the workplace, including workplace flexibility, and recognise the challenges and need to address discrimination and gender-based violence in the workplace so that women can participate in and benefit from the economy and trade;
 - (viii) encourage greater participation by women in government procurement;
 - (ix) promote women's participation in standards development and share best practices on how to make standards gender responsive;
 - (x) develop and promote women's leadership and business networks;

- (xi) support the equitable participation of women in trade in developing countries; and
- (xii) support collaboration in international and multilateral fora, including with developing countries, to advance trade and gender equality as well as related knowledge and awareness, when possible, such as at the WTO;
- (b) encouraging and improving women's equitable participation or leadership in, and access to, trade, including, for example, through the promotion of:
 - (i) networking organisations, business incubators, and accelerators for women in trade;
 - (ii) mentoring or improvement of skills and training of women, including in financial literacy, digital literacy, and e-commerce;
 - (iii) trade missions or trade organisations aimed at women, or business and women entrepreneurship networks; and
 - (iv) the education and careers of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, to support women in, amongst other things, trade; and
- (c) any other issues as decided by the Parties.

2. To support the achievement of the objective of this Chapter, the Parties shall develop and exchange information on approaches to integrating sex or gender into data collection, analysis, and monitoring and evaluation, which may include:

- (a) methods and procedures for the collection of sex or gender-disaggregated data, the use of indicators, monitoring and evaluation methodologies, and the analysis of gender-focused statistics related to trade;
- (b) conducting gender-based analysis of trade policies, and monitoring and evaluating their effects on women as workers, entrepreneurs, business-owners, and consumers, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data;
- (c) undertaking research on trade and gender equality where appropriate, including developing and applying new qualitative and quantitative methods; and
- (d) working with and encouraging other specialised committees or subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement to integrate gender-related monitoring, considerations, and activities into their work.

3. In undertaking a cooperation activity under this Agreement, the Parties shall aim to achieve mutual benefits and measurable advances in women's economic empowerment and

gender equality outcomes relevant to this Agreement or the Parties' trade and investment relationship. The Parties shall carry out these cooperation activities with the inclusive participation of women.

ARTICLE 13A.4

Committee on Trade and Gender Equality

1. The Committee on Trade and Gender Equality, established under Article 15.2 (Specialised Committees), shall meet at regular intervals as decided by the Committee, and in any event within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement. The Committee shall decide on the manner of its meetings.
2. The Committee shall:
 - (a) consider any matter that the Committee regards as appropriate to advance women's economic empowerment and gender equality across this Agreement and otherwise achieve the objective of this Chapter;
 - (b) determine and facilitate cooperation activities; and
 - (c) monitor and review the implementation and operation of this Chapter and relevant provisions in other Chapters of this Agreement.
3. In determining which cooperation activities to carry out, the Committee shall consider the respective priorities and existing initiatives of each Party. The Committee shall otherwise support the effective implementation and operation of this Chapter and relevant provisions in other Chapters.
4. In the performance of its duties, the Committee may:
 - (a) work with other bodies and subsidiary bodies established by or under this Agreement to integrate women's economic empowerment or gender-related considerations, activities, or commitments into their work, while seeking to avoid unnecessary duplication;
 - (b) engage with civil society, workers, consumer groups, women business owners, entrepreneurs, and any other relevant group in its consideration of matters relevant to this Chapter and seek advice from appropriately qualified experts and stakeholders, including experts from groups that are traditionally underrepresented; and
 - (c) report to the Trade Committee and include in the report a recommendation on any matter related to women's economic empowerment or trade and gender equality under this Chapter or in other Chapters of this Agreement or the Parties' trade and investment relationship.

5. The Committee shall, within three years of the date of entry into force of this Agreement and every three years thereafter, submit an account of the progress of its work to the Trade Committee. The Committee may publish the account and may decide whether to publish a summary of discussions following any meeting of the Committee.

ARTICLE 13A.5

Non-Application of Dispute Settlement

Neither Party may have recourse to Chapter Fourteen (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter.”