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33 34 35 36 37 38		Women in Trade Facilitation
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¹ Draft v 0.1 was prepared according to conference call on 7 July 2016 and feedbacks sent from the experts.

47 **Draft Outline of the Recommendation on TTFMM** 48 49 **WOMEN IN TRADE FACILITATION** 50 51 1.- Introduction. 2.- Reducing inequalities for women in her role of entrepreneurs and the labor market. 52 2.1.- Gender as a non-income risk of poverty 53 54 2.2.- Vulnerabilities of specific groups or situation (widows, maternity,...) 55 2.3.- Building capacities and empowerment of women in trade facilitation 2.4.- Designing tailored services for women to facilitate trade 56 57 3.- Women informal cross border trade 4.- Repository of policies to reduce gender equalities in trade facilitation versus gender neutral 58 59 5.- Need to get more data sources about Women: 5.1.- From the creation of new concepts related to women entrepreneurship and women work (paid 60 61 and unpaid). 5.2.- Trade facilitation metrics for women – 62 63 6.- New approaches for policy makers and practitioners to facilitate trade for women

WOMEN IN TRADE FACILITATION - WHITE PAPER

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This white paper has the aim to identify ways to solve gender inequalities in trade facilitation. As part of UN/CEFACT's strategy, this paper pursues the objective to contribute to achieve the goal number 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations to reduce gender inequalities and empower all women and girls. More specifically, UN/CEFACT is committed to facilitate trade attaining gender equality in the scope of its activities, which are the simplification, standardization and harmonization of procedures and associated information to move goods from seller to buyer and make payment alongside the trade chain.

In the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, gender disparities reduce the gains that can be achieved in terms of international trade opportunities and country's competitiveness and economic growth. In this regard, WTO, Intracen, UN and The World Bank are shedding some light on the fact that gender equality matters as an instrument for economic development through international trade activities.

Gender discrimination in trade facilitation has multiple dimensions. The synergies of inequalities exist in many different areas and multiple sectors and affect a myriad of fields of knowledge that harm the integration of women in international trade. Thus, it is widely recognized that gender inequalities exist in three main areas: women in economy (as entrepreneur and labour force), women in power, and women as a decision maker. There are also distinct barriers for women by sectoral activities and professions involved in the trade chain buy-ship-pay system, such as, marine and air pilots, truck drivers, crane operators, vessel traffic services operatives, stevedores, harbour masters, traders, port managers and customs agents. Also, gender inequalities are trapped in multidisciplinary areas, which need the integration of many fields of knowledge that requires the contribution of lawyers, economists, sociologists, finance experts, statisticians, engineers, doctors, anthropologists, psychologists among others.

 In a holistic approach, this white paper has twofold goals: reduce gender inequalities in trade procedures but also to facilitate trade to women. In this regard, the scope of this document is not merely the description of the state of the art of women in trade facilitation. More importantly, it sets some guidance to implement a mainstreaming in gender that implies tools, policies and implementation strategies. To achieve these goals, this paper also recognizes the engagement needed to achieve this goal from politicians, managers, recruiters, money lenders, economic advisors, teachers and trainers, and the full society.

2.- Reducing inequalities for women in her role of entrepreneurs and the labour market. (MODIFY THE TITLE? INCLUDING ICTs?)

Women's role in trading activities can be seen under four different perspectives: as producers, traders, entrepreneurs (Brenton, et al. 2013; Higgins 2012) and workers. Despite the huge contribution of women all around the world in trading, gender disparities remain.

Women are the predominant dealers and marketers of agricultural, aquaculture and artisanal industry in domestic markets, while long-distance trade that involves relatively capital-intensive techniques and higher profit margins, is carried out mainly by men. There are some reasons that are interconnected for gender imbalance: 1) Imbalanced access to assets and resources, such as, capital and land; 2) In developing countries, women has disproportional

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less access to basic services, such as, water, electricity, basic banking services; 3) Lack of access on business development services and skills; and 4) Intra-household inequalities.

In the labour market, as a dependent worker, it is more significant that women cannot contribute to the economy to the fullest extent of their capabilities because of the constraints and barriers that they face. Alongside the supply value chain of any export or import, the access of women to some professions remains insufficient. It means that in countries where the educational gap has been overcome, women have difficulties to access to acquire technical knowledge due to the barriers for their professional development in the labour market. Many professions involved in the buy-ship-pay chain at all level of hierarchy are under the dominance of men (customs, infrastructures, transportation, and internal logistics among others).

This division of labour, as entrepreneur or a worker, reflects deeply entrenched social roles that restrict women's mobility and access to productive resources within the value chain of exports. Women tend to receive "diminished" role in the society based on gender relations, gender roles, and in some cases, gender norms.

In terms of legal framework, women face explicit regulatory barriers. Twenty-eight out of 143 countries have ten or more legal differences for men and women including inequities in registering a business, traveling outside of a country, inheriting and owning land and other productive assets, and opening a bank account (World Bank, 2016b). Also 90% of the 143 surveyed countries, have at least one policy that differentiates between treatment and rights of men and women. These inequalities affect women also as workers, because there are limitations for accessing to the top levels of work, suffer salary inequalities, requires higher security protection in cross-border activities, and women have difficulties to achieve the professional knowledge. All these facts reduce the number of women that participate in activities related to trade facilitation as traders, cross border management, transportation, logistics chain management, infrastructures, ICT, advisory services, etc.

Low level of education and illiteracy are factors that harm women enormously to success in micro-business. Indeed, in many African countries women make a major contribution through their involvement in the production of goods, as cross-border traders and as managers and owners of firms involved in trade. It has been estimated that the goods that female farmers produce have enormous potential for increased trade between African countries and with the global market (Brenton et al. 2013). The experience acquired in specific programs developed by international organizations (Intracen, The World Bank, UNESCAP, etc) guiding women in improving production techniques; training them about organic certification, standards development, and international trading are having an enormous success in increasing exports and leading women to achive higher income opportunities. But also in the labor market specific training programs are required to provide the skills and attain access for women in international trade.

 By industry, there are sectors and sub-sectors that employ an uneven proportion of men and women. Agriculture, for example, accounts a huge percentage of unskilled cheap-paid jobs for women, especially in non-developed countries. However, in other sectors and activities, such as transportation, firework, high staff at agencies and custom or high skilled jobs the participation of women is particularly low. SPECIFY NUMBERS/STATISTICS,

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EXAMPLES.

 Beside the above mentioned constraints, female have limited access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) is a major problem which limits effect of trade facilitation for women and their chances to succeed in entrepreneurial activities. Mobile phones and Internet facilitate access to information on prices, standards and regulations as well as to services as banking, health, education. Information technology could be also extremely helpful in building a solid distribution network, making it easier to find new buyers and suppliers. It also gives access to online training and workshops which increases availability of these services for women and saves a lot of time in terms of logistics.

In order to tackle different constraints that women face, various actions and initiatives are organized by international and national entities. An Intracen (ITC) study shows several programmes that try to provide innovative access to finance for women, for example: cashflow based loans with flexible collateral, direct credit from exporters to producers, providing financial services through mobile phones. Women's World Banking launched a project in Colombia, Paraguay and Peru to alleviate women's financial needs by providing individual loans based on better cash-flow analysis. The non-governmental organization worked with financial services providers to develop a loan for any client with a productive activity, with minimal documentation requirements and flexible collateral (ITC 2015).

Computerized payment system that allows women to avoid dealing face-to-face with border officials could be as well an efficient solution. One of these systems was introduced in Ghana and led to reduction in corruption and to a decreased number of abuse and harassment reports. (ITC 2015) Apart from this, the platform could provide necessary information on border processes and traders' rights to facilitate trade for women. Another example of indirect payment system is the mobile phone service M-PESA in Kenya. Mobile phone banking makes finance transactions cheaper and faster. It eliminates the physical transportation of cash, which can be risky in rural areas. The use of mobile money in developing countries is growing and has already yielded results like increased safety, time saving, efficient logistics and better possibility recordkeeping of payments (UNCTAD 2011).

Moreover, women-entrepreneurs could gain benefits from e-education platforms which can provide women with access to education, skills and training needed to start and run a business (UNCTAD 2014). Online platforms can also offer women opportunities to promote their business, develop market channels, create networks with customers and business partners and gain access to business support services (UNCTAD 2014). An example of a tool that brings together female entrepreneurs and customers is ITC's project SheTrades. ITC launched a platform and a mobile application called SheTrades that helps women entrepreneurs all over the world to showcase their products, share information about their companies and connect with new buyers.² and ,consequently, expand and internationalize their businesses.

² Souce: ITC website http://www.intracen.org/news/ITC-launches-SheTrades-app-to-connect-women-entrepreneurs-to-markets (Last visit: 28.06.2016)

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253 254 The activities conducted by UN/CEFACT in terms of trade facilitation could enable female traders to gain from economic activities and encourage them to join international markets. There is a need to support women in trade, promote their economic empowerment and ensure that women have equal access to economic opportunities.

2.1.- Gender as a non-income risk of poverty

The gender dimensions of poverty were becoming more prominent in development policy debates from the 1970s and especially since the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975. This Conference put the relevance that just being a woman implies a higher risk of being poor. Traditionally, economists and other scientists have been analyzed inequalities as a gap of development in terms of GDP among countries, a gap that has been reduced significantly since 1950 (Milanovic). But at the microlevel perspective, inequalities within regions, neighbourhoods and interpersonal inequalities are still underexplored. Very recently, gender inequality has been analyzed for their contribution to impede economic growth, stressing the robutness of the link between proverty reduction and gender equality (Neves and Silva, 2014, Hakura et al. 2016). Fighting against gender inequalities is a driver to achieve the first Sustanaible Development Goal of "ending poverty in all its forms and everywhere".

Achieving gender equality, is key to realizing human development. Very often is defended the argument of the role of women in the economic growth. It is aptly stressed that « economic growth, increases by international trade and investments and technological advance ». They all are very important. But they are means, not ends. The main objective expands people's choices, whether they help creating an environment for people, men and women to develop their full potential and lead productive and creative lives. Viewed from this perspective, gender equality will advance human development and in so doing, will also contribute to the development and efficiency of the whole economy by allowing women to develop their full potential.

2.2.- Vulnerabilities of specific groups of women informal workers and entrepreneurs, illiterate women, widows, mothers)____)

Women still constitute the majority of temporary, casual, seasonal, contract labourers and low-skilled workers. Thus, females represent unstable workers that disproportionally suffer economic crisis assuming the higher unemployment rates and being more vulnerable to job losses than males (ILO, 2009 & 2016; UNESCAP, 2013). In fact, in 112 out of 190 countries analyzed, no law mandates equal remuneration for work of equal value to male and female, neither mandates nondiscrimination based on gender in hiring (The World Bank, 2016c).

Additionally, women represent a large proportion of dependent workers in the informal economy because women are less likely to be covered by formal unemployment insurance and welfare schemes. As for female self-employers and entrepreneurs, it is positive to observe that women increasingly assume roles as owners and managers of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). However, the percentage of firms with female participation (35.11%) is still substantially inferior to male (64,89\$%) (The World Bank, 2016a). Moreover, wome-

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An ITC report based on USAID studies cited ... [1]

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enterprenuers continue facing multiple barriers which force them into informal sector. Among the factors that encourage women to participate in informal trade are: multiple taxation of goods, and delays in processing export documents routine discrimination when applying for finance or Government support (UNESCAP, 2009; The World Bank, 2016b), and high regulatory barriers to establish a firm, (Babbitt, et al. 2015), Another traditional cause of informality is a weak institutional environment to ensure effective markets (De Soto, 2000; North, 1990). However, more recent studies reveal that informality eludes barriers of doing business. Indeed, association between strict and cumbersome labor market regulation and higher levels of informality were pointed out in several papers (Djankov and Ramalho 2009; Sharma 2009; Loayza, Oviedo and Serven 2005), while others highlight the lack of institutional benefits and high costs of business registration (Cross, 2000; Webb et al., 2013) as the reason for informalities.

The informal entrepreneurial activity shouldn't be spurned to assess gender inequalities. Although it is not easy to assess the role of women in the informal sector, It is estimated that between the 30-40% of the GDP in the base-of-the-pyramid (BOP) economies (those in which the GDP per capita is less than \$3000) accounts for informal sectos, This proportion is between 5 and 15% higher than in developed countries (Nichter and Goldmark, 2009; Schneider, 2002), Jn Nigeria and Bolivia informality even reaches 60% and 70%, respectively (Kistruck et al. 2015)

Despite the prominence of activities and major economic contribution, vast volumes of female trade are unrecorded and excluded from official reports due to informal trading activities. For example, informal cross border trade (ICBT) in East Africa is likely to be several times larger than officially documented trade flows. As long as economic transactions are not systematically recorded, most female trading activities are invisible to the government and policy-makers. Thus, trade policies and institutions neglect this segment of trade and do not offer the support informal traders need (Brenton, et al. 2013; Njikam and Tchouassi 2010). However, this support is highly important to ensure transition of women from informal to formal sector. This could be done by reducing burocratic procedures, decrasing costs and increasing benefits of the enterprise registration as well as eliminating prejudice towards women-owned businesses. Indeed, the Recommendation 204 on Transition from the informal to the formal economy elaborated by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2015) recognize specific vulnerabilities of women, such as, discrimination, gender based violence, care and childcare welfare that need special protection to realize the fundamental principles and rights at work.

Further, women are disadvantaged in terms of literacy and education. Illiteracy, lack of information and knowledge about cross-border trade regulations and procedures impede women to benefit from trade and border management reforms if they are ignorant of them. Moreover, women sometimes do not have much knowledge of rules and regulations regarding the taxes and import fees. For example, one year after the East African Community (EAC) Customs Union had become operational, cross-border women traders were not aware of it and were still using illegal routes to trade goods across borders, unaware that some of the goods they were trading were not taxed (Higgins 2012). The lack of knowledge about rights and obligations in trade and illiteracy put women in the risk of being exploited,

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government officers (Brenton, et al. 2013, Higgins 2012, Wrigley-Asante 2013).

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Inequalities for women at professional level also come from the lack of protection of female property rights -to own, manage, control and inherit property. Indeed, 13 out of the 190 countries surveyed, still Jegally designate the husbands to administer marital property by default, without spousal consent required and regardless the marital regime. Additionally, women, as daugther or widow, do not have equal ownership rights to property and

inheritance in 37 out of the 190 countries surveyed (The World Bank, 2016c). Apart from this, labour regimes for retirement, pregnancy and maternity need severe reforms to ensure gender inclusiveness, particularly in professions traditionally unreachable for

women. For instance, within the 190 countries surveyed, mandatory retirement age differs s in some countries for males and females in 9 of the 46 respondents (Then World Bank, 2016c). The private pension scheme based on a funded pension plan results in discrimination against women, because it means that a man and woman with exactly the same amount in their capital accumulation accounts when they retire will receive different pensions entirely on account of their gender injured the pension level of women (ILO, 2016b).

Additionally, the maternity leave is not mandated by law in 9 countries or is not fully paid in 52 out of the 190 countries surveyed (Then World Bank, 2016c). Beside remuneration losses women are not professionally protected and compensated during the period of pregnancy and maternity, especially for the professions that requires physical performance which is a barrier for the inclusiveness of women in professions linked to the supply chain in of international trade. Moreover, maternity, especially non-married women, and the marital status, especially widows and single women, discriminate females from social and professional life. They are

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2.3.- Building capacities and empowerment of women in trade facilitation

neglected as being economically dependant of the oldest sons, sisters, and mothers.

The vulnerable groups mentioned in this section are in need of inclusive trade policies which

incorporate gender appropriate measures and specifically target export-oriented enterprises

owned by women, or trade related professions executed by females. These policies need to

include economic as well as social and legal activities. Women entrepreneurship needs to be

promoted and women enterprises should be treated on a non-discriminatory basis to

The limitations that women have to acquire assets (such land) affect their access to credit and

More contributions in women trade support come from technical assistance programs that help to

To build human capital and empower women to take up international business opportunities must be not limited to the achievement of enough technical knowledge to drafting export development plans, developing marketing strategies and conducting market research, which it is indeed crucial.

and to empower women in international trade activities.

encourage_the formalisation of women businesses.

inputs. These barriers not only mean inefficiencies in the use of land, natural resources and raw materials also, they are translated into economic inefficiencies and less trade. In terms of trade facilitation, gender inequalities exits in building enough skills for women to reduce barriers in trade

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which are ...or managed ...and access to credit, including micro-credit should proceed ...pr(... [14]

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upgrade and diversify exports opportunities for women. Also, in the area of employment generation for women, the public and private sector should cooperate to align training programmes, certificates and standards targeted to meet the specific needs of women to access equaly to job opportunities. The successful integration of women in the labour market or as an entrepreneur depends on breaking physical and legal barriers regardless profession, task, or sector.

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Constrains arise from the interplay of formal institutions and markets, in which the involvement of women in the trade community is very low. Thus, the increase of participation of women in the consultation process between traders and governments could bring a lot of opportunities for women. First, it should help to reduce inefficiencies by improving information access for women about import and export procedures, procedures of border agencies, examples of customs classification, and formalities in procedures and documentation. Second, it will help to contribute to build social and economic networking for women providing knowledge, experience and monitoring mechanisms, which could help other international women entrepreneurships to trade successfully. Third, reinforcing the role of women in the tandem of institutions and markets could reduce some gender gaps, such as:

- a) it bring trade openness and the diffusion of new information, contributing to economic empowerment of women
- b) it could help to reduce transaction costs associated with access to markets and services for women, such as, the easiness of doing business
- it will help to reduce barriers for women in international trade activities, improving the cooperation with customs authorities, neighbouring and third countries, and providing a better understanding about rules and process applied in trading internationally for specific products.

But gender constraints are not limited to operational barriers to export and import, it comes also forwomen's underrepresentation in occupations related to trade, such as transportation, customs authorities, border agencies, etc, especially in those positions that implies managerial roles in trade. Lack of representation of women in public institutions related to trade, such as, ministries, chambers of commerce, industrial associations, national trade committees, and standards and technical committees is not only a barrier to addressing discrimination in labor markets, it also limits the mechanisms to design policies that addresses gender gaps in international trade.

Standards and certification play a big role in trade facilitation by providing valuable information to producers which aim at entering new market. Ensuring women 's participation in the design and application of standards is highly important as they are well – aware of the particular problems women entrepreneurs face trying to comply with these standards. They can introduce new vision on the way of making standards less burdensome as well as on building capacities to meet them. Moreover, they could identify problematic sectors and industries where women are more engaged and put a particular emphasis on trade facilitation in these areas. For example, good standards on farm inputs, seed and fertilizers could be of particular importance as women are engaged a lot in agricultural sector. Putting more focus on small-scale traders, as majority of them are women, could also bring considerable potential benefits. Another important aspect of women's inclusion in standardization and certification procedures is dealing with corruption problems. Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer, a survey of more than 60,000 households in more than 60 countries has consistently found that women are less likely than men to pay bribes. (Transparency International, 2010). Women's participation in all levels of standards setting and certification procedures is deemed to ensure that women's interests are represented and taken into account, which is definitely a contribution to the achievement of women empowerment in the light of Sustainable Development Goals.

The application of international standards is needed not only to protect the rights of women at work

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Commentaire: Suggestions why women labour force is important in certification and standardization

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also to promote the inclusiveness and non-discrimination of women in every profession. It requires an effort to adapt procedures in international trade to facilitate trade for women. Also, the development of standards must be required to facilitate the use of the machinery and transportation systems by women that is used in the buy-ship-pay chain in terms of security, health conditions and operability. This kind of standards can offer an enormous contribution in the reduction of gender disparity in enrolment rates of women in professions traditionally performed by males.

If used correctly, the application of the International Labour Standards a national occupational classification list could provide a standardized framework for providing equal remuneration to men and women. However, the these standards have not been universally translated into national laws yet (ILO, 2016b) and hamper the participation of women in international trade. Adopting internationally-recognized labour standards does facilitate a more gender responsive and a socially equitable environment, Pushing to make the export sector more competitive and inclusive for women, standardizing fees and fines, increasing tax collection to finance social programmes and trade tariffs help to build stronger domestic markets, which has also led to more decent job creation for women.

2.4.- Designing tailored services for women to facilitate trade

 Female entrepreneurs face obstacles during the start-up process and while running the business. Most women-owned enterprises do not get financial support from banks at the start-up stage, the majority of women rely on reinvested profit and proper savings (WIGB-UNIMELB 2015). Women have limited access to bank loans due to the lack of collateral. Discrimination in access to finance restricts the growth of women-owned firms and forces them to remain in the informal sector. Studies indicate that female entrepreneurs have less access to credit from banks and financial institutions than their male counterparts (Babbitt, et al. 2015). Moreover, women entrepreneurs in rural areas have problems accessing banking services. In most rural areas, banking infrastructure is non-existent which forces women to travel to cities to conduct banking transactions. Besides being a long and time-consuming process, travelling with cash entails risks. This results in muggings, theft and deaths (UNCTAD 2014).

New financial products must be developed and new methods to measure risks should be more broadly implemented to help women to access a broader range of financial services, reduce credit barriers in international trade and assist credit takers and women in particular. There is a need to create new instruments to support and extend credit services to female-owned business and female international business for improving the functioning of credit and improving the financial accessibility for women. The design of new credit instruments for women is crucial to reduce the spiral effects of high informality and the limited access to assets for women. Traditionally, credits are linked to the credit history and the warranty of assets to secure credits. The new financial instruments to increase formal credit accessibility for women linked to the cash flow and business opportunities, instead of being linked to assets, are starting to be a successful and real solution to this trade barrier (Access Bank in Nigeria, DFCU in Uganda, Sero Lease and Finance in Tanzania). ITC worked with financial services providers to develop a loan for any client with a productive activity, with minimal documentation requirements and flexible collateral (ITC 2015).

3.- Women informal cross border trade

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Commentaire: This section seems to be repetitive of the section 2.2

4.- Repository of policies to reduce gender equalities in trade facilitation versus gender neutra

HERE CAN HAVE BENCHMARKING AND BEST PRACTICES

Many efforts have already been done to reduce gender inequalities that involves policies, strategies and action plans that indirectly and indirectly facilitate trade for women.

There is a repository of

Maternity- grants ERC Norway

5.- Need to get more data sources about Women:

The actual collection of data and the data analysis about gender in trade facilitation has hitherto been scarce. There is a lack of information about the role that women play and the difficulties women face for the fulfilment of export and import requirements, in the payment of fees and charges imposed to export and import, in getting prior information about rules and procedures to trade, to access to appeal procedures, in the involvement in trade communities and trade consultation process, and in being surrounded of trade institutions ruled by good governance and impartiality.

5.1.- From the creation of new concepts related to women entrepreneurship and women work (paid and unpaid).

If the activity developed by women is within the informal sector socially and economically there is not a recognition of the value added with the work done by women. In developing countries, access to water is provided by the work executed by women, not only to feed families also as a basic resource for small artisanal industries as clay, agriculture, and apparel industry. New concepts are needed to separate paid and unpaid women work, to accurate accout the female labour force.

If the activity developed by women is within the formal sector, the creation and measurement of new concepts are needed not only to record women enterpreneurship or runned by women, but also to measure the trade facilitation components for women. It would be extremely useful to produce standard definitions and criteria for key terms (e.g. "woman-owned enterprise" and "woman-managed enterprise") and then identify indicators and data to be collected in order to monitor/evaluate women's participation in trade and the trade barriers that they face.

Although a lot of research and policy papers use the term women-owned business/enterprise, a definition of it is hard to find. One of them is given by National Women's Business Council in the U.S: 'Women owned businesses are 'businesses in which women own 51 percent or more of the equity, interest, or stock of the business' (National Women's Business Council, 2016).On the one hand, the definition is quite straightforward as these are simply businesses owned by women, so it does not seem to require further study. On the other hand, the definition should reflect the importance of women's independence in making

Алина Фетисова 12/12/16 11:05

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As long as economic transactions are not systematically recorded, most female trading activities are invisible to the government and policymakers. Thus, trade policies and institutions neglect this segment of trade and do not offer the support informal traders need (Brenton, et al. 2013; Njikam and Tchouassi 2010).

Informal cross border trade (ICBT) in East Africa is likely to be several times larger than officially documented trade flows. It is known that seventy percent of informal cross border traders in the Southern Africa region are women (UN WOMEN 2010). Women informal cross border traders (WICBT) make a significant contribution to economic growth, government revenues and food security, bringing food products to areas where the products are in short supply (Brenton, et al. 2013). The UNIFEM baseline studies showed that women's trading activities contribute to poverty reduction, employment and wealth creation (Ndiaye 2010). Moreover, the proceeds from the trading activities form the main source of household income for three out of every four of these traders (Brenton, et al. 2013).

Women are forced into informal trade because of the barriers they face. Among the factors that encourage traders to participate in informal trade are: multiple taxation of goods, and delays in processing export documents. Several conducted researches showed that WICBT also face problems like multiple control posts, limited transport capacities and high transport costs, poor infrastructure and storage, limited access to formal credit. Women traders face particular constraints at customs and border management. Lack of recognition and transparency, invisibility, weak governance and control for monitoring abuse and corruption at the border lead to verbal and sexual abuse, extortion, violence, physical harassment, rape, imprisonment, stigmatization and confiscation of goods.

Further, women are disadvantaged in terms of literacy and education. Lack of information and knowledge about cross-border trade regulations and procedures prevent women from taking full advantage of the opportunities created by trade. Several researches showed that women cannot benefit from the trade and border management reforms if they are ignorant of them. Moreover, women sometimes do not have much knowledge of rules and regulations regarding the taxes an ... [18]

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Commentaire: Some thoughts on definition of women-owned enterprises

choices and decisions for the enterprise activities. Even if a woman is an owner, her decisions could still be influenced or even guided by male representatives of her family, co-workers or the gendered culture of the director's board. It's crucial to understand what lies behind the words 'women-owned businesses', which, has to be a lot more than a simple ownership criteria.

Another definition is given by The United States Small Business Act, which states that a business must be at least 51% unconditionally and directly owned and controlled by one or more women" (ITC, 2016) Intracen in its guide: "Empowering Women Through Public Procurement", reveals that this definition highlights the importance of women not only having a significant ownership interest in their companies, but also managing and controlling their companies on a day-to-day basis. (ITC, 2016) Thus, emphasis is placed on the importance of accounting for both ownership and control when determining women-owned enterprises.

The guide also points out that a recent study of women-owned businesses in South Africa found inconsistencies in the definition across procuring entities. "The study notes that provincial departments in Gauteng province define women-owned businesses as having at least 50% black women ownership, while the departments in the East London Industrial Development Zone define women-owned businesses as 100% women-owned. For some departments in South Africa, it was unclear what definitions were being used, even though they were purportedly tracking procurement spending on women-owned businesses." (ITC, 2016)

Elaboration of the uniform definition across various <u>entities and organizations will help to</u> <u>develop eligibility criteria for different programmes aimed at women-owned enterprises. This is highly important to ensure equal opportunities for all enterprises willing to apply for the programmes in order to participate in them if they meet the requirements.</u>

<u>5.2.- Trade facilitation metrics for women – </u>

Transportation for women (organizations)

 6.- New approaches for policy makers and practitioners to facilitate trade for women

It is time to recognize and expand the acknowledge of the formal policies already designed to protect the rights of women in the labour market, economic development, trade and trade facilitation.

Although there is an strong trend indicating that a policy framework of labour standards in line with ILO conventions and recommendations is becoming more increasingly recognized as being fundamental to achieve gender equality at work, still more efforts are needed to convert those standards into laws and policies. In countries that already have developed labour codes in line with international labour standards (in particular those of freedom of association, wages, working time, labour contracts, occupational safety and health, industrial relations, pension plans and maternity protection) quite often been given priority in the formation of policies (ILO, 2016b). However, it must be highlighted that while integrating laws, labour standards and policies does facilitate gender equlity, these measures alone have not been be sufficient until now to ensure this human right for women. It not only not enough for women as labour force, but the gaps are biger when the role of women are producers, trader or entrepreneurs.

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Commentaire: Other definition examples, could be shorten later if needed

It is important to recognize a decoupling effect is sticked between the policies already designed to protect women rights and the application of these policies that hamper the reduction of gender gaps that still exist (Cahill, 1997). The application of the decoupling theory is focused on stressing efforts in the implementation, not only in designing policies. The concept of a multidisciplinary perspective of inequalities for women in trade facilitation, and in particular the relationships between policies are key to reduce trade barriers for women. The complexity of the problem of inequalities for women in trade facilitation comes from align different perspectives. It requires to align:

- demand side considerations such as macro- and microeconomic environment, foreign direct investment, and sectoral policies to encourage employment, (ILO, 2016b)
- 2) supply side considerations (i.e. the development of marketable skills); (ILO, 2016b)
- control over and access to productive resources and small and medium enterprise development; (ILO, 2016b)
- 4) <u>labour market policies (active and passive labour market policies, employment services);</u> equal opportunity and treatment in employment; social protection and labour rights; work-family balance considerations; (ILO, 2016b)
- 5) issues surrounding unpaid work; (ILO, 2016b)
- 6) standards at work designed for increasing the inclusiveness of women;
- mesurement, analysis and monitoring the activity of women in international trade as worker, producers, trader or entrepreneurs.

New instruments, theories and methodologies must be applied in the field of economics to recognize to ensure the impact that laws, policies and standards in improving the role of women in trade and empower women to facilitate them to trade. The application of the theories in social behaviour and physycology could reduce the gender blindness and increase the awareness and concerns about the inclusion of women in international trade business environment.

Awareness of the potential of women, implementation plans, the creation of proudness of targeting women in training, recruiting, and promoting women at work, the creation of symbols that enhace social behaviour of being gender equal in training, hiring and firing could enhance the effectiveness of the policies that are gender positive.

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681	Cambodia has made considerable progress towards achieving gender parity in primary education. However,		
682 683	disparities increase at entry and completion of lower secondary school, indicating significant bottlenecks for girls.		
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