



Online course

Trade and Gender Linkages with a focus on Non-tariff measures from a gender perspective

16 June – 20 July 2025

Prospectus

Background

Economic development, and social and cultural shifts have contributed to a decrease in gender-related inequalities across the world. Taking a gender perspective has helped to reveal several structural inequalities between men and women in the social, economic, and political spheres, and encouraged the implementation of measures to redress them. Efforts to mainstream gender equality in policymaking have been important in this regard.

Trade and trade policy can play a key role in supporting global efforts towards the realization of women's economic empowerment and gender equality, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For this to happen, an in-depth understanding of the gender ramifications of trade policy is necessary.

While trade can substantially improve economic outcomes for women, these positive effects can materialize only if the constraints that limit their participation in trade are minimized. Barriers related to resource availability, access to information, time and mobility constraints are just a few examples of the obstacles women encounter when actively participating in international trade. Limited consideration has been given to regulatory factors such as non-tariff measures (NTMs) as significant barriers faced by women. While essential for public policy goals like consumer safety and environmental protection, NTMs often impose higher costs on women. Women e-commerce firms, particularly in sectors like agriculture and apparel, may face additional hurdles.

In an effort to increase awareness of the links between trade and gender, and understand the differentiated impacts of NTMs on women in offline and online trade, UNCTAD has developed this online course that will be offered in English over a period of five weeks, from **16 June to 20 July 2025**.

The course is open to stakeholders from developing and least developed countries, and to a limited number of stakeholders from developed countries. The course is part of UNCTAD's portfolio of online courses on trade and gender.

It will be managed and tutored by the Trade, Gender and Development Programme and by the Trade Analysis Branch in the Division on International Trade and Commodities of UNCTAD.

Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge needed to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, to understand the differentiated impacts of NTMs on women, and ultimately produce gender-aware policy recommendations. To this end, the course introduces the concepts of trade and gender and takes a close look at the challenges women face because of NTMs. It combines theory on the interaction between trade and gender with empirical evidence, and proposes policy and practical responses to address these issues.

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- Look at the economy from a gender perspective;
- Identify the channels through which trade affects women's economic empowerment and well-being, and the channels through which gender inequality affects trade performance and competitiveness;
- Illustrate how trade integration has influenced gender outcomes in the different economic sectors;
- Be familiar with the ongoing debate and rulemaking on trade and gender at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels;
- Understand NTMs and the gender-specific challenges associated with them;
- Analyze the gendered impacts of NTMs in the context of the digital economy;
- Be familiar with Voluntary Sustainability Standards and their role in women's economic empowerment in the agricultural sector;
- 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.

Target audience and course prerequisites

The course targets policymakers, academics from universities and research centres, and representatives of civil society in developing and least developed countries involved in policy formulation and implementation, research, teaching, advocacy or field work in the area of trade and gender. The number of participants is limited to ensure appropriate support throughout the course.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold an advanced degree in economics, law, political science, international relations, gender studies or related areas;
- Possess excellent knowledge of the English language.

To successfully complete course activities, participants should plan to devote 10–12 hours a week to the course.

Course fees

Participants will be exempt from fees associated with access to the course and tutoring services.

Certificate of completion

Participants with passing grades in the course will receive a certificate of completion. Outstanding participants will also receive a distinction letter.

Application information and deadline

Applications should be submitted by following the instructions at the link below:

<https://www.research.net/r/VCRXC2Y>

Applications must include a detailed curriculum vitae (CV) and a letter of nomination from the applicant's institution indicating its support for the application and explaining how the applicant's participation in the course will contribute to his or her future work and the work of the institution.

The deadline for application is **1 June 2025**. Incomplete applications or applications received after that date will not be considered. For assistance with the online application process, please contact elarningtrade@un.org.

Requests for further information or clarification about this course should be sent to elarningtrade@un.org.

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

Participants will be advised of their selection by **9 June 2025**.

Annex: Content and timetable of the course

The course is divided in two parts. The first part is based on the UNCTAD publication "*Looking at the trade and gender nexus from a development perspective - A brief overview. Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks*".

The second part is based on the following UNCTAD publications: "*Neutral policies, uneven impacts: Non-tariff Measures through a Gender Lens*"; "*The Impact of non-tariff measures on women's e-commerce businesses in developing countries*"; "*Exploring the role of voluntary sustainability standards in women's economic empowerment in the agriculture sector in developing countries*".

Each part includes the following:

- Multimedia lectures;
- Suggested reading on issues covered in the course;
- Live sessions.

To successfully complete the course, participants will be requested to pass multiple-choice tests.

An Internet connection is required to take part in the discussions in the forum and to interact with course tutor and other participants, as well as to complete multiple-choice tests and submit the final essay.

The course is structured as follows:

Dates	Title	Content
Weeks 1 and 2: 16-29 June 2025	Part 1 The trade and gender debate: Concepts, definitions and analytical frameworks	The economy as a gendered structure; the two-way relationship between trade and gender: the effects of trade on gender equality and women’s economic empowerment; the effects of gender inequalities on trade performance and export competitiveness; trends in mainstreaming gender in trade policy: ex-ante gender impact assessments of trade agreements; gender provisions in trade agreements; and trade and gender in the World Trade Organization.
Weeks 3 and 4: 30 June -13 July 2025	Part 2 Non-tariff Measures through a gender lens in offline and online trade, and the role of Voluntary Sustainability Standards	Non-tariff measures (NTMs), their gender-specific implications, and their impact on women’s e-commerce businesses in developing countries; the role of Voluntary Sustainability Standards in advancing women’s economic empowerment within the agricultural sector.
Week 5: 14-20 July 2025	Final wrap up quiz	The final wrap up quiz will cover all course content.