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Canada's Approach to Conducting Gender Based Analysis Plus of FTA negotiations

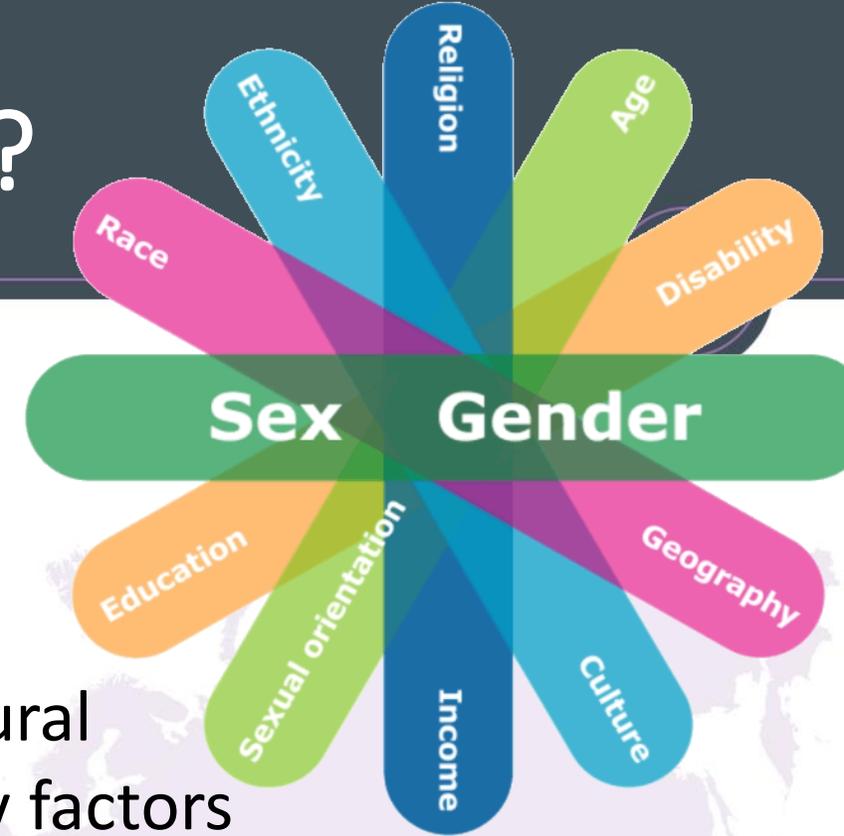
ARTNeT Presentation

May 5, 2022

Canada

What is Gender Based Analysis Plus?

- Government of Canada assessment process to consider how diverse groups of women and men experience policies, programs and initiatives
- “Plus” -- goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider overlapping identity factors
- Puts people at the heart of decision-making
 - Seeks to ensure we do not perpetuate or exacerbate inequalities or inequities



GBA+ is changing the way we do trade policy!

Canada's Inclusive Approach to Trade



- Recognizes trade policies must contribute more meaningfully to broader economic, social, and environmental policy priorities
- Seeks to ensure that benefits of trade are more widely shared
- Consistent with and advances domestic policy priorities
 - Feminist Foreign Policy
 - Gender Equality
 - Indigenous Reconciliation
 - Responsible Business Conduct

Informed and
Inclusive Trade
Policy making

GBA+

Responsible,
Sustainable,
Transparent,
Inclusive
Provisions in
FTAs

International
Engagement

Inclusive Trade: Informing Our Approach



- Extensive collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data
- Extensive engagement with under-represented groups (IWG, GTAG)
- GBA+ supports qualitative analysis and helps identify areas for potential new gender responsive and inclusive trade provisions

Overview of Canada's Two-Pronged Approach on GBA+



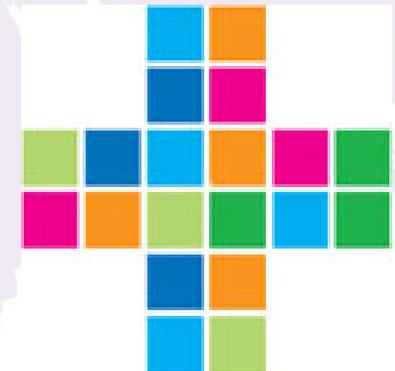
Quantitative Analysis

- Office of Chief Economist conducts an expanded economic impact assessment with a new labour market module
- Expands on the traditional Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model

Qualitative Analysis

- Lead trade negotiators conduct GBA+ on each chapter before negotiations begin and throughout
- Findings inform instructions, negotiations and strategy
- Updated regularly before each negotiating Round

multi-sector
general
CGE
Multi-country
computable -equilibrium
MIRAGE
model



Quantitative Analysis: Economic Impact Assessment



- Led by Office of Chief Economist at GAC
- Expanded labour market module:
 - Takes into account gender, age, and the distribution of Canadian workers across eight different occupational groups and 65 sectors of the economy
- Assesses potential impact on economy in 2040, following the full implementation of a possible Agreement, and with assumption of full liberalization
- Data sources used for modelling from StatCan such as Census, Labour Force Survey, etc.

Qualitative Analysis GBA+



- Chapter leads conduct analysis
- Integrates economic impact assessment
- Consider effects in Canada of each chapter's provisions on men and women in economy
 - workers, business owners/entrepreneurs, producers, consumers
 - What sectors/industries of the economy
- Consider diversity elements where possible
 - Indigenous, youth, immigrants, LGBTQI, disabled
 - Regional considerations (urban, rural, remote, Northern, coastal)
- Various Key Effects:
 - Direct (primary) and Indirect (secondary/tertiary)
 - Intended and Unintended
 - Positive and Negative
- Recognize that trade policy can not address all findings

GBA+ Questions for Ex Ante Trade Policy Analysis



- What is the purpose of the chapter and what are the expected socio-economic effects of it in Canada?
- What are the gender responsive and inclusive trade provisions in the chapter?
- What are the top industries effected by the chapter and what is the role of men and women in those industries?
- Are there important different gender effects which need to be managed?
- What are the new trade policy provisions that could address the effects and opportunities?
- What are the gaps in knowledge, data, and evidence; what are potential future lines of enquiry?

Step-by-Step in Conducting GBA+



- Set aside assumptions
- Common assumptions are:
 - Trade is gender neutral
 - The program or policy benefits all equally
 - The program or service is accessible to all equally
 - Anyone can apply
 - There are no gender barriers here
 - The policy is gender blind



Benefits of the GBA+ Process



- Recognizes that trade is not gender neutral
 - Helps mainstream gender considerations across full FTA and achieve a gender responsive/transformational FTA
- Helps deliver on inclusive trade and distribute benefits of trade more widely
- Richer understanding of the impacts and effects of FTAs
- Supports continuous strengthening and innovating of FTA chapters
- Helps identify new opportunities for mainstreaming new inclusivity and gender responsive provisions in FTAs
 - Helps identify provisions that may be harmful and can be cut or altered
- Allows for tabling of new provisions in real time at negotiating table
- Identifies gaps in knowledge and areas for more strategic data collection and analysis

Value of Mainstreaming Gender



- Key to a fully gender responsive trade agreement
 - T&G Chapters are not sufficient
 - Helps move beyond narrowly defined sectoral rules and policies
- Enforceability of gender provisions in other chapters
- Signalling that trade is not gender neutral
- Gender is relevant to every chapter
- Helps identify potential areas for domestic flanking policies
 - Policy coherence
 - Holistic, whole-of-government approach
- Governments lead by example on gender equality and women's economic empowerment
 - Inspires action by business sector

Strengths of Canada's GBA+ Approach



- Includes quantitative and qualitative dimensions
- Qualitative analysis led by lead negotiators on chapters they know well
- Adaptable to different scenarios:
 - New FTA, Modernization, Accession
 - Ex Ante and Ex Post
 - Bilateral, Plurilateral, Multilateral
- Iterative, Strategic, Pragmatic, Value Added, Flexible
- Early and ongoing analysis, best efforts and continual improvement
- Provides opportunity for integration of stakeholder/expert feedback supporting accountability, transparency, continuous improvement
- See changes in real time and immediately to negotiating texts
- Supports mainstreaming of gender across full FTA
- Promotes alignment with and development of domestic flanking policies as required

Challenges in Applying GBA+



- GBA+ is a disrupter; some are not comfortable thinking outside of the box
 - Slow iterative process; Challenge function/coaching/outreach is very time consuming
- Overcoming resistance to doing things differently
 - View that trade is gender neutral
 - FTA is no place for gender considerations
 - FTA is not a tool to transform societies
 - Some trading partners do not want to talk about gender
- Lack of adequate gender disaggregated data and capacity to interpret it in a trade policy context
 - Indirect employment, consumer data by gender
- Some see application of GBA+ as a zero sum game; that men will lose if women receive equitable access
- Some doubt GBA+ will achieve results for women and inclusivity outcomes; want to see proof of real results

Success Factors for GBA+ of FTAs



- Gender disaggregated data across a number of economic and trade variables
- Willingness to move beyond common assumptions of trade policy
 - gender neutral or gender blind
- Capacity to interpret data in a trade policy context
- Capacity to develop and implement economic modelling
- Well functioning government ministries that consult each other regularly
- Training and guidance for lead negotiators on applying a gender lens
- Strong internal governance structure and processes

Tips for Doing Good GBA+



- Start Early; Keep an open mind
- Iterative and evergreen process
 - Be prepared to regularly update and renew
- Look for opportunity to advance gender equality/women's economic empowerment outcomes
- Move beyond traditional priorities, culture, structure of doing things
- Do not perpetuate inequalities
- Applies at each stage of trade policy development cycle
 - Consultations and Research; Defining Offensive and Defensive interests; Consider during Exploratory Discussions; Trade Policy Development, Implementation

Key Messages on GBA+



- GBA+ is changing the way we do trade policy
- GBA+ is not just about women
- GBA+ is about people and their lived experience
 - Helps deliver good public policy that benefits all
- GBA+ is a disruptor and a policy innovation tool
 - Encourages creative thinking, looking for new opportunities, and thinking outside of the box and beyond standard procedures
- Nothing is ever gender neutral
 - Always at least an opportunity to do more to drive positive change

Canada's Trade Policy GBA+ Gender Pledge



Canada is committed to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, including their economic empowerment. Consistent with Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy, Canada is pursuing an inclusive approach to trade that seeks to ensure that the benefits and opportunities that result from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (FIPAs) are widely shared, including among women workers, entrepreneurs and business owners.

To that end, and to respond to the Budget 2018 commitment that all FTAs will be subject to Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), the Trade Policy and Negotiations Branch of Global Affairs Canada will continue to build on the important work that has been accomplished to date and makes this gender pledge that sets out specific commitments and key actions that we will undertake going forward with respect to GBA+ , Trade and Gender, and inclusive trade. Our gender pledge, therefore, is approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister and Director General GBA+ Champion and they encourage all staff to adopt the pledge.

We pledge to:

- recognize that GBA+ brings value to our work and is a policy innovation tool which will help us do our jobs better and help us make good public policy that meets the needs of everyone
- set aside the traditional assumption that the effects of trade are gender neutral, adopt continuous learning principles, keep an open mind, and integrate lessons learned and best practices in our work
- commit to integrate GBA+ findings into ongoing FTA and FIPA negotiations by regularly updating the GBA+ and integrate findings into negotiation strategies
- consult a broad range of stakeholders in our work, including those that are often underrepresented, so that we hear their voices and seek to address their comments in trade policy and FTA negotiations to the extent possible
- recognize that trade policy may not necessarily be able to address all GBA+ findings and therefore collaborate with other government departments as necessary to develop or reorient domestic programs and policies to address the potential risk of negative effects of FTAs
- identify gaps in data and knowledge and inform the GBA+ Champion and Gender Focal Point so that these can be addressed
- share Canada's learnings on GBA+ implementation in trade policy with our FTA partners and members in relevant international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum