

WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender
Aid for Trade – Supporting the work programme delivery on gender
16 July 2021

Presentation by Australian Gender Equality Ambassador, Julie-Ann Guivarra

Opening comments

- I want to thank the Co-Chairs for the opportunity to present Australia's efforts on women's economic empowerment and aid for trade at today's meeting.
- For context, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade mainstreams gender equality throughout all of the Department's work - Australia's aid programming, which includes our investments in women's economic empowerment and aid for trade, and through our foreign policy efforts, trade engagement and corporate practices.
- Why do we do this? Because Australia recognises that gender equality is an important pre-requisite and contributor to stability, prosperity and resilience.
- Evidence has shown that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls
 - according to the World Economic Forum, the time needed to close the global gender gap¹ has increased by a generation from 99.5 years to 135.6 years.
 - McKinsey Global Institute study of July last year entitled "COVID-19 and gender equality – Countering the Regressive Effects" found that not taking actions to address these inequalities could set back global GDP growth by \$1 trillion in 2030.²
 - UNDP have undertaken studies which have shown that out of 2,280 fiscal, labour market and social protection measures identified in its COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker only about 13 per cent of these measures target or prioritise women.³
- Australian Government's Women's Budget Statement 2021-22 provides \$3.4 billion in investment towards promoting women's safety, economic security and health and wellbeing.

Partnerships for Recovery

- The Australian Government's international development response to COVID-19, called "Partnerships for Recovery" identifies gender equality as a cross-cutting objective and en-AU

- For example, we know access to information, technology, markets and financing is not equal for women and men which has ramifications for women's economic empowerment and economic prosperity for all.
- Analysis by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) - 3

- The final topic I'd like to speak to today is about the importance of measuring success from the beginning of each program, and how we do this.
- We are making progress, but there is still more we can do.
- We continue to monitor whether our investments (including Aid for Trade investments) effectively integrate gender
 - Through our monitoring performance framework in the Australian aid program we continue to monitor our performance on gender equality.
 - For example, of Australia's Aid for Trade investments in the 2019-2020 financial year, 78 per cent effectively addressed gender; performing on par with the entire aid program.
- We also know that our programs are benefiting partners in the Indo-Pacific region
 - for example, each "E-Commerce Aid for Trade Fund" project is underpinned by a

