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Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender

Original: English

## INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE

### CONCEPT NOTE

The following communication, dated 11 April 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Cabo Verde, El Salvador and the United Kingdom.

## 1 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In the context of International Women's Day 2024, the Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender (IWG) launched the International Prize for Gender Equality in Trade, at the meeting of the IWG held on 6 March 2024.<sup>1</sup>

Based on a set of eight criteria, the Prize will recognize the best and most impactful gender-responsive national trade policy, export programme or aid for trade project (thereafter policy, programme or project) adopted and implemented by WTO Members as well as observer governments in support of women's inclusion in trade and women's (economic) empowerment.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY

- only WTO Members or observer governments are invited to apply for the Prize;
- international and regional organizations are not eligible to apply for the Prize;
- applications can be put forward by:
  - ministries (trade or other);
  - national or regional governmental agencies, institutions or bodies (includes customs, statistics bureaus, etc);
- joint applications between several governmental institutions and ministries are possible and welcomed.

## 3 DETAILS ABOUT THE SUBMISSIONS

### 3.1 Overall information

Using the Application Form (Annex 1), Prize submissions must demonstrate a great achievement in providing solutions to (economically) empower women through trade. They must also describe how the policy, programme or project was formulated and implemented.

Submissions must include detailed information on the following (as outlined in the application form):

- description and key features of the policy, programme or project;
- challenges overcome in designing/adopting the policy, programme or project;
- implementation processes and results of the policy programme or project;
- description of the main benefits of the policy, programme or project for women;
- description of how the policy, programme or project contributes sustainable development, poverty reduction and gender equality;
- explanation of how the project meets each of the 8 Prize criteria published in this concept note (see section below).

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<sup>1</sup> Following communications from the IWG Co-Chairs on 12 and 29 February 2024.

### 3.2 Applicants' choice of instrument to submit: one out of three

Applicants will have the choice to submit only one of the following three instruments:

- gender-responsive national trade policy;
- export programme;
- aid for trade project.

### 3.3 Four Prize categories

Applicants will be able to apply to one of the five different Prize categories (see below). Governments are invited to apply once and under one category only, using the list provided in the table below. Multiple applications from the same government in different categories or in the same category will be rejected.

Category table	
Category 1	Female entrepreneurs (includes female farmers)
Category 2	Sustainable development and gender.
Category 3	Trade facilitation
Category 4	Services in trade
Special prize category	Youth empowerment from a gender perspective

## 4 SELECTION COMMITTEE AND REVIEW PROCESS

### 4.1 Selection committee

The Co-Chairs of the IWG will constitute the selection committee. The Co-Chairs will be supported by the WTO Secretariat.

The WTO Secretariat will gather the applications and organize them by region, country, prize category, etc. based on the information provided by applicants.

### 4.2 Criteria for the applications' review

Applications will be reviewed based on various criteria described in the table below:

Criteria table		
N°	Criteria	Description
1	Women's trade inclusion	Impact/results achieved and generated in positively including women in trade and allowing them to benefit from the opportunities created by trade.
2	Women's empowerment	Positive contribution to social, political and cultural empowerment of women as well as relevance to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5
3	Partnerships	Inter-ministerial collaboration and/or partnerships with external stakeholders from design to implementation of policy, programme or project
4	Replication	Ability of the policy, programme or project to be replicated
5	Innovation	Innovative approach to policy, programme or project making
6	Communication	Does the policy, programme or project include a communications and/or media strategy? How well the applicant informed its target(s) about its actions undertaken as part of the policy, programme or project?
7	Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender	Link with at least one of the four work pillars of the IWG
8	Learning	What did the government learn from this policy making/programme designing/project implementation experience?

Other criteria to be taken into consideration during the review:

- regional balance and representation amongst the winners;
- category of the policy, programme or project.

### 4.3 Applications' Scoring

A score from 0 to 5 (0=not met/no information; 1=poor; 2=weak; 3=medium; 4=good; 5=very good), together with a justification, will be given for each criterion.

An overall score for each submission will be calculated as a mathematical average across the eight criteria (sum of criteria score/10).

### 5 TIMELINE

Action	Date
Launch of Prize	6 March 2024
Launch of application process	11 April 2024
Applications' deadline	19 June 2024
Applications' review	13 June to 17 July 2024
Informal announcement to winners (to prepare for the Prize ceremony) and formal communications to the unsuccessful applicants	17 to 19 July 2024
Prize ceremony (at the WTO Public Forum)	10-13 September 2024 – <i>date tbc</i>

**ANNEX 1**

<b>INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE APPLICATION FORM</b>		
<b>PART I</b>	<b>GENERAL INFORMATION ON APPLICANT</b>	
<b>Name of applying organisation(s) government agency(ies) and body(ies)</b> <i>Note: in case of joint applications, please add the names of all the applicant authorities</i>		
<b>Country/Separate Customs Territory</b>		
<b>Contact person/focal point</b> <i>Note: in case of joint applications, please add the names of all contact persons/focal points in all applicant authorities</i>	First name:	
	Last name:	
	Mobile phone:	
	Email:	
<b>PART II</b>	<b>SELECT THE PRIZE CATEGORY FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING FOR</b>	
<b>Category 1</b>	Female entrepreneurs (includes female farmers)	
<b>Category 2</b>	Sustainable Development and gender equality	
<b>Category 3</b>	Trade facilitation	
<b>Category 4</b>	Trade in services	
<b>Special Prize Category</b>	Youth empowerment from a gender perspective	
<b>PART III</b>	<b>TYPE OF INSTRUMENT PRESENTED</b>	
<b>Gender-responsive trade policy</b>		
<b>Export programme</b>		
<b>Aid for Trade project</b>		
<b>PART IV</b>	<b>APPLICATION</b>	
Overall description and key features of the policy, programme or project ( <u>no more than 500 words</u> ).		
Please describe the challenges you overcame (and how you overcame them) when designing/adopting the policy, programme or project ( <u>no more than 500 words</u> ).		
Please explain the implementation processes and results of the policy programme or project ( <u>no more than 500 words</u> ).		

<b>INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE APPLICATION FORM</b>		
Please describe the main benefits of the policy, programme or project for women in general and for your target audience in particular ( <u>no more than 500 words</u> ).		
Please describe how does the policy, programme or project contribute to, sustainable development, poverty reduction and gender equality ( <u>no more than 500 words</u> ).		
Please explain how your policy, programme, project meet each of the 8 Prize criteria published and described in the Prize concept note.	Criteria 1: Women's trade inclusion	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 2: Women's empowerment	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 3: Partnerships	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 4: Replication	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 5: Innovation	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 6: Communication	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 7: IWG	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
	Criteria 8: Learning	<u>no more than 200 words.</u>
<b>PART V</b>	<b>MOTIVATION AND RATIONAL ESSAY</b>	
Please explain in <u>no more than 500 words</u> what is the rationale behind the development, adoption and implementation of the gender-responsive trade policy/export programme/aid for trade project.		
<b>PART VI</b>	<b>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS</b>	
Please attach any documents, photos and other material that would support your application (recommended, not compulsory)		
<b>PART VII</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
Applications will need to be OFFICIALLY signed by the applicant Authority(ies). By signing this form, the applicant Authority(ies) certifies(y) that all the information included is complete and correct.		
<b>Date, signature &amp; STAMP (Authority(ies))</b>		