

# DELIVERING ON THE BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION ON TRADE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



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# DELIVERING ON THE BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION

ON TRADE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

## ABOUT THE REPORT

Trade policy for women took an international leap with the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, agreed at the WTO Ministerial meeting of 2017. The International Gender Champions Trade Impact Group worked with over 40 countries to make it a reality.

This report presents the findings: recommendations and 32 good practices for gender-based analysis, global value chains, public procurement, trade agreements, digital trade and financial inclusion.

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For more information on the IGC Trade Impact Group, see: <https://genderchampions.com/impact/trade>

For more information on the ITC SheTrades Initiative, see: <https://www.shetrades.com/>

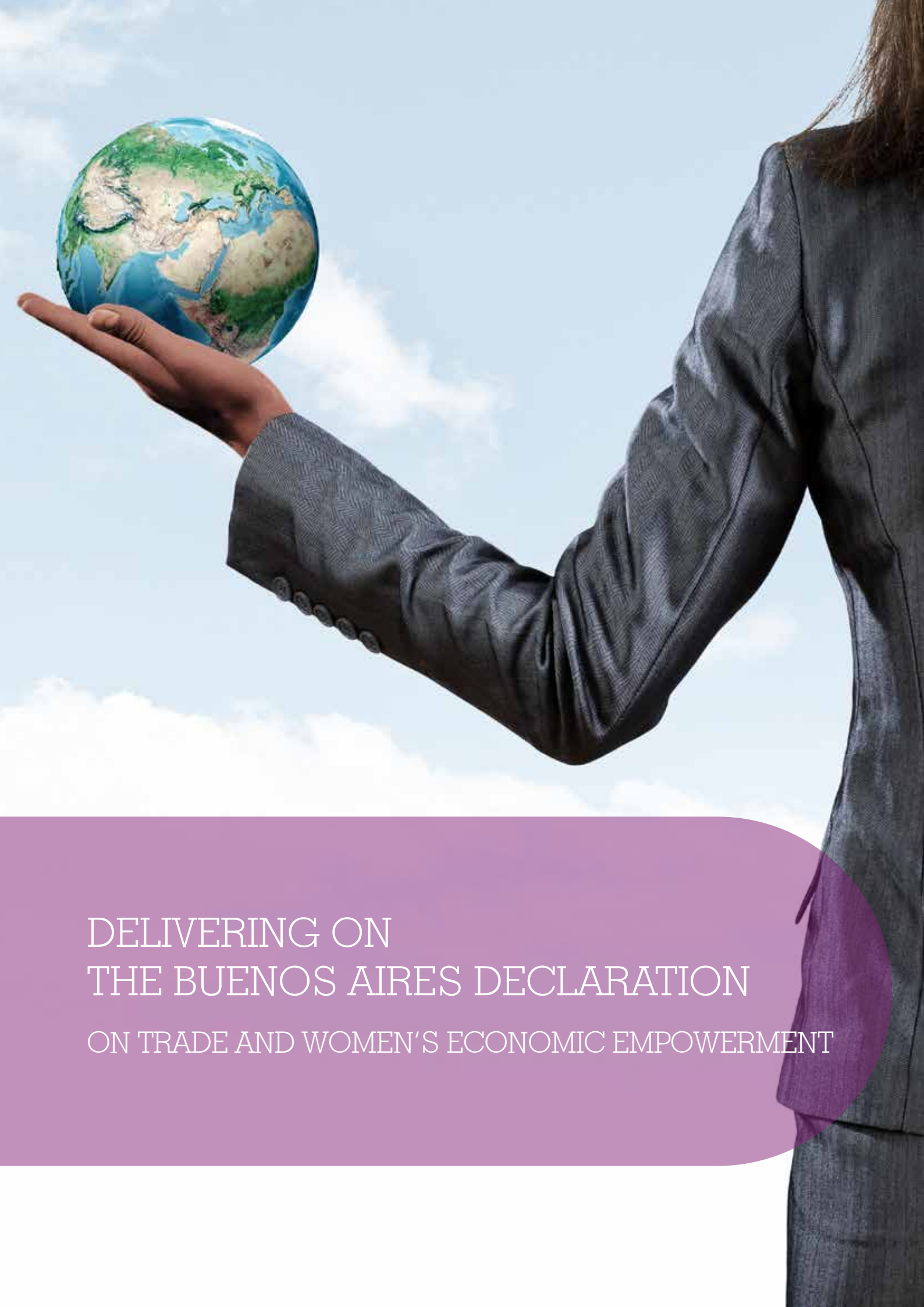
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## Trade Impact Group

The Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, signed in December 2017, seeks to foster a more inclusive trade agenda that benefits all.

The key components of the declaration, such as promoting the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data, sharing country experiences and good practices, and collaborating to raise the profile of the link between trade and gender, can deepen our understanding of using trade policy to advance gender equality and frame recommendations for policymakers to make inclusive trade a reality.

As of September 2020, 127 World Trade Organization (WTO) members and observers from all regions of the world have joined the declaration. This shows the overwhelming interest in supporting women's economic empowerment and giving it the attention it deserves to secure lasting change.

Although much work remains, the declaration has been implemented successfully. Twenty WTO trade policy reviews have directly raised issues around trade and gender. More countries have adopted innovative methodologies to collect and analyse data on women and trade. Governments and international organizations have implemented new initiatives to support women in trade in public procurement, value chain participation, e-commerce and aid for trade, increasing interest in mainstreaming gender in trade agreements.

The declaration has created a mechanism for supporters to report on progress made since the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, encouraging them to turn commitments into meaningful actions.

The International Gender Champions network, through the Trade Impact Group, has created a space for different actors in the trade community to contribute to building knowledge, based on country experiences or organizational mandates. This led to six seminars over two years on key themes in the declaration.

This report is a culmination of the seminar findings, sharing good practices, and progress on additional issues related to trade and gender in the multilateral trading system. The report also identifies avenues for future collaboration.

As the co-chairs of the Trade Impact Group, we are proud to share this report.

The report provides concise summaries of the seminars co-hosted by WTO members and international organizations. The content is reflective of a member-driven process, with inputs and recommendations put forward by supporting delegations.

The goal is to provide a knowledge base to guide policymakers and other stakeholders eager to advocate for and formulate more inclusive trade and trade-related policies, domestically and internationally, empowering women to benefit from international trade.



We thank the supporters of the Buenos Aires Declaration and the members of the International Gender Champions Trade Impact Group for their long-standing commitment to trade and gender, for hosting and participating in seminars, and for their inputs towards the repository of shared knowledge we have created.

We extend our gratitude to the Permanent Mission of Australia to the WTO International Development Fund for backing the production of this report.

This year marks the launch of the Decade of Action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We also celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the United Nations, which provided a forceful global blueprint to advance women's rights. It is essential that we live up to our commitments.

The huge social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforces these objectives. Women, as often in times of crises, are disproportionately affected, and the differentiated needs of women and men will need to be considered in medium- and long-term recovery efforts. An inclusive and gender-responsive trade agenda will help build a more equal and resilient world economy.

On the occasion of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, this report contributes to global discussions on trade and sustainable development. We hope it paves the way towards a higher level of ambition and encourage an even broader range of actors to engage in dialogue and work on trade and gender equality.

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# Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the International Gender Champions Trade Impact Group and the International Trade Centre (ITC), with content submitted primarily by supporting members of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment.

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Fabrice Lehmann was the lead writer of the report in coordination with Judith Fessehaie of ITC and the Trade Impact Group editorial board. They thank Anahita Vasudevan and Clara Gisoldo (ITC) for their help. Natalie Domeisen managed the editorial production, with Anne Griffin. Colette Holden edited the report, with Natalie Domeisen and Anne Griffin. Iva Stastny-Brosig provided graphic design. Serge Adeagbo supplied digital printing services.

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