



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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**How Could Competition Policy Provisions of Free
Trade Agreements / Economic Partnership
Agreements Help Ensure Inclusiveness and Equal
Opportunity?**

Submitted by: Canada



**Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific Policy
Dialogue on Competition Related Provisions
from a Business Perspective
17-18 September 2020**

Competition Bureau Canada and
Government of Canada

How could competition policy provisions of FTAs/EPAs help ensure inclusiveness and equal opportunity?

Trade and competition policy with a gender inclusive lens

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Canada

Overview

- Gender based analysis plus (GBA+)
- Inclusive trade policy
- Inclusive competition policy
- Inclusive consumer protection
- Trade and COVID-19 recovery

Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

- Tool for analysis
- Mainstreaming identity factors (gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, geography, religion and more).
- GBA+ course – free online:
 - <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-ac/course-cours-en.html>



Inclusive trade policy

- Canada has taken an inclusive approach to trade, including:
 - Integrating under-represented groups
 - Addressing gender equality and women's economic empowerment
 - Provisions targeting small and medium enterprises
 - Helping indigenous peoples and indigenous-owned businesses.
 - Through trade agreements, but also other policies and programs.

Inclusive Trade Action Group

- Canada, Chile and New Zealand established ITAG in 2018 to advance inclusive trade initiatives.
- Goal is to have the benefits of trade and investment more broadly shared.
- Developed a standalone Global Trade and Gender Arrangement to increase women's participation in trade.

Trade and Gender chapters

- Gender chapters included in Canada's modernized agreements with Chile and Israel
- These chapters:
 - Reaffirm the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into trade and economic issues
 - Reaffirm commitments to international agreements on gender equality and women's rights
 - Framework for further cooperation on issues related to trade and gender
 - Establish a trade and gender committee

Gender and competition

- Requested to conduct a GBA+ analysis of the competition chapter.
- Led to the initial question of “**what does competition have to do with gender considerations?**”
- There was very little research.
- OECD did some initial research and the first discussion took place in November 2018 at the OECD Global Forum.

Inclusive competition policy

- Initial findings: bi-directional relationship
 - Competition can impact gender equality
 - Gender can impact competition
- Potential for double dividend – improve competition and equality at the same time

Areas of work to apply gender inclusive lens

- Enforcement
 - Product market definition
 - Case prioritization
 - Remedies
- Advocacy
 - What industries/sectors are targeted, who benefits?
- Compliance
 - How do identity factors influence compliance?

Competition Bureau - Example

- Broadband market study
 - Public opinion research
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Income
 - Education
 - Location (rural vs urban)
 - Analyse responses by cluster
 - Different switching behaviour



Questions

- Are there specific groups that may be affected?
- Are there different types of consumers? Do they behave differently?
- Are there vulnerable consumers in this market?
- What data is out there? What is possible to gather?
- How can we engage different consumers?
- Are there barriers to how we communicate? Are we missing different perspectives?
- Do my own identity factors impact my perspective?

Evolving area of research

- Government of Canada has partnered with the OECD to do more research in this area.
- [Call for proposals](#) active right now.
- <http://www.oecd.org/daf/competition/gender-inclusive-competition-call-for-proposals.pdf>



Inclusive consumer protection

- Relatively new area for trade agreements.
- Area of joint jurisdiction in Canada (federal and provincial/territorial)
- Consumer protection provisions in competition policy chapters (CPTPP, CUSMA)
 - Also in Electronic Commerce/Digital Trade chapters.
- Questions we can ask in daily work, similar to competition

Trade agreements and implications for COVID recovery

- Trade agreements are a framework that enable further cooperation.
- They provide a foundation of rules, but don't get into every detail.
- In practice, for areas like competition and consumer protection policy a lot happens beyond trade agreements.
- Relationships and cooperation go beyond the trade agreement.

Thank you

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