



# GEDSI and Trade in Goods

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**Pacific Recovery Economic Support (PRES) Program**

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# **Our Starting Point**

**Revitalised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (2023)**

**“Reaffirming that women’s economic empowerment is fundamental to development”**

**National development plan commitments to inclusive development, development for all and “leaving nobody behind”**

# Purpose

What can we do to ensure that all people have opportunities to participate in trade?

What would that look like in practice?

# Our approach

We'll revisit the basics:

- Why do the interests of women and other disadvantaged groups matter in trade policy formulation and negotiations?
- What are the barriers to women's involvement in trade?

Then we'll explore some case studies



**Why do the interests of women and other disadvantaged people matter in trade policy formulation and negotiations ?**

Human rights

Social equality

Inclusive socio-economic development



Targetted social safety nets to extreme poor & vulnerable



Maximised use of human, financial & material resources



Economic & employment opportunities to all



Equitable quality education & skills' development to meet future demands



**Inclusive Economic Growth**



Zero extreme poverty, reduction of all dimensions of poverty & reduction of inequality



Decent standards of living for all



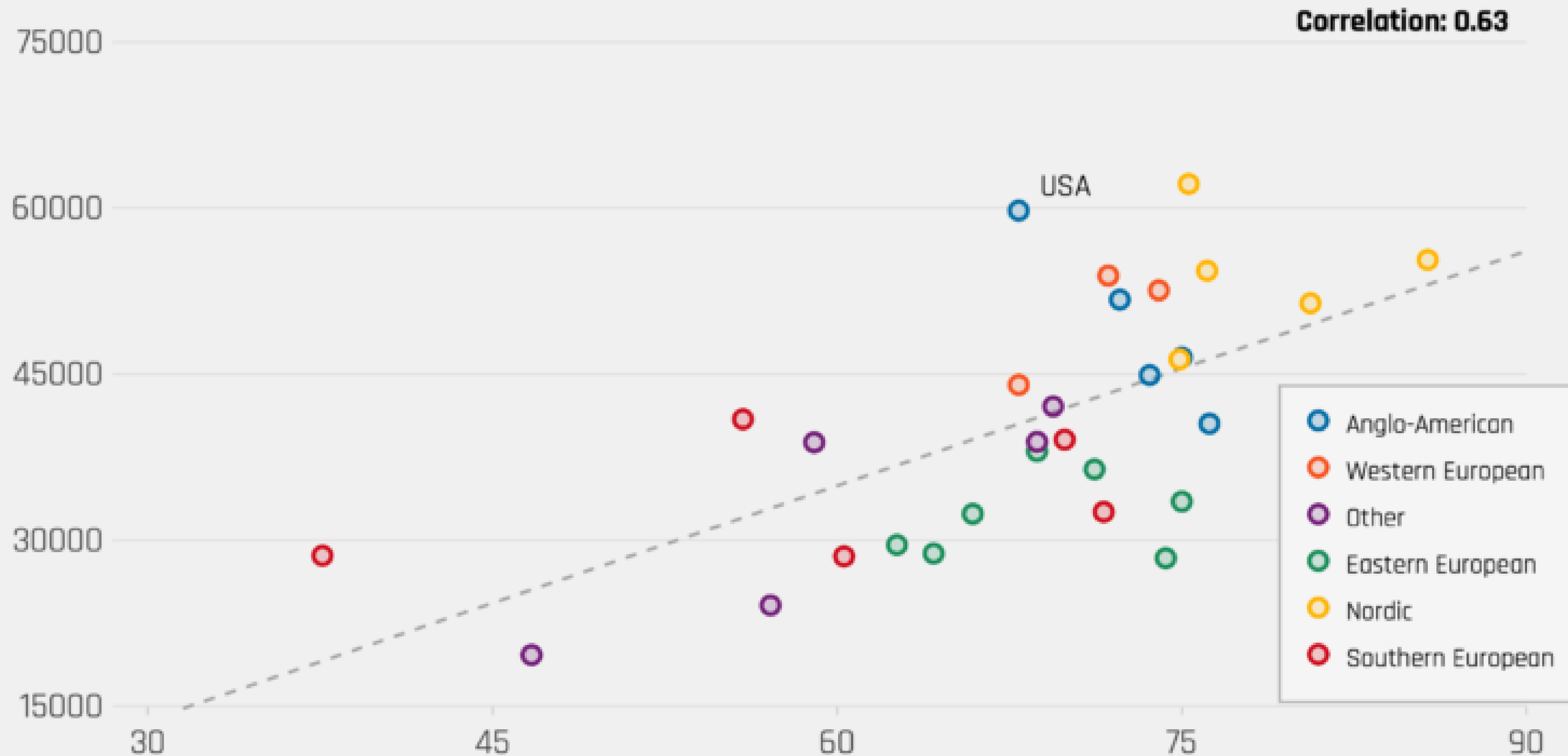
Developed country where benefits of economic growth are enjoyed by all

# When more women work....

- Economies grow - closing the gender gap could boost the global economy by USD 7 trillion
- Organisations and companies perform better
- Wages increase (for everyone)
- Standards of living increase for families

# When women's labor force participation rises, so does GDP

GDP per capita in USD by women's labor force participation, 2017





# QUESTION

What are the barriers to women's involvement in trade in your country?



## **Barriers to women's participation in trade**

- Limited involvement in decision-making
- Access to finance (smaller businesses)
- Access to markets
- Access to information
- Industries are gendered
- Gender-based violence

# What levers can we pull to address these barriers?

## Bottom-up

- Address domestic barriers to women's participation in trade
  - Gender norms
  - GBV
  - National law and procedures
- Access to finance, networking, education

## Top-down

- Using trade policy to stimulate changes in domestic policy and practice, thereby reducing barriers to women's participation
- Trade facilitating reforms – reduce fees/charges and automate border processes (reduces cost and time, requirement for movement)
- Greater transparency – particularly good for smaller business with less access to networks and information
- Ensuring women's engagement in policy consultations/trade negotiations



**Is trade policy gender neutral?**

**Globally, how many trade agreements have an explicit gender-related provision?**

**Does PACER have any gender-related provisions?**

# How can we ensure that there are opportunities for all?

**Gender Analysis** – how do trade policies, including PACER, impact women and other disadvantaged groups?

**Consultation and negotiation** – how can we ensure that women and other disadvantaged groups are meaningfully consulted and involved in negotiations?

**Inclusive policy design** – what special steps need to be taken to ensure that women and other disadvantaged groups can enjoy the benefits of PACER and domestic trade policies?

**Capacity** – what support do women and other disadvantaged groups need to benefit from trade opportunities?

**Learning** – what kind of data do we need to enable us to analyse the impact of PACER and domestic trade policies on different groups of people?



## **Case Studies: An inclusive approach to trade**

Noting that PACER Plus is silent on gender, what domestic actions can your countries pursue to ensure that women and other disadvantaged groups are able to benefit from trade liberalisation, particularly in relation to trade in goods.

# Applying an inclusion lens: Four case studies

What roles do men and women play in this industry?

In this industry, what challenges do women face as workers and business owners?

Are these challenges the same as or different to the challenges of men workers and business owners in this industry?

What domestic actions would be required to address these challenges? Who would be responsible for those actions and do those agencies/businesses have the capacity to do so?

Are there any other groups that face specific challenges participating in this industry?

Is this industry one in which employment opportunities for people with disabilities could be created?

If you were undertaking this exercise as part of your job, who would you consult ?





# GROUP WORK

# Things we can do

There are many things we can do to increase the inclusiveness of trade policy and practice:

- Ensure women are involved in trade negotiations and policy development
- Support sectors of interest to women
- Enhance gender knowledge of trade supporting institutions
- Foster gender sensitive business development
- Support female business networks



THANK YOU