

Gender in Global and Regional Trade Policy: Contrasting Views and New Research.

University of Warwick, 5 – 7 April 2006

Title: Trade Negotiations and Decent Work: A Gender Perspective

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Session Two, Approaches to Gender and Trade

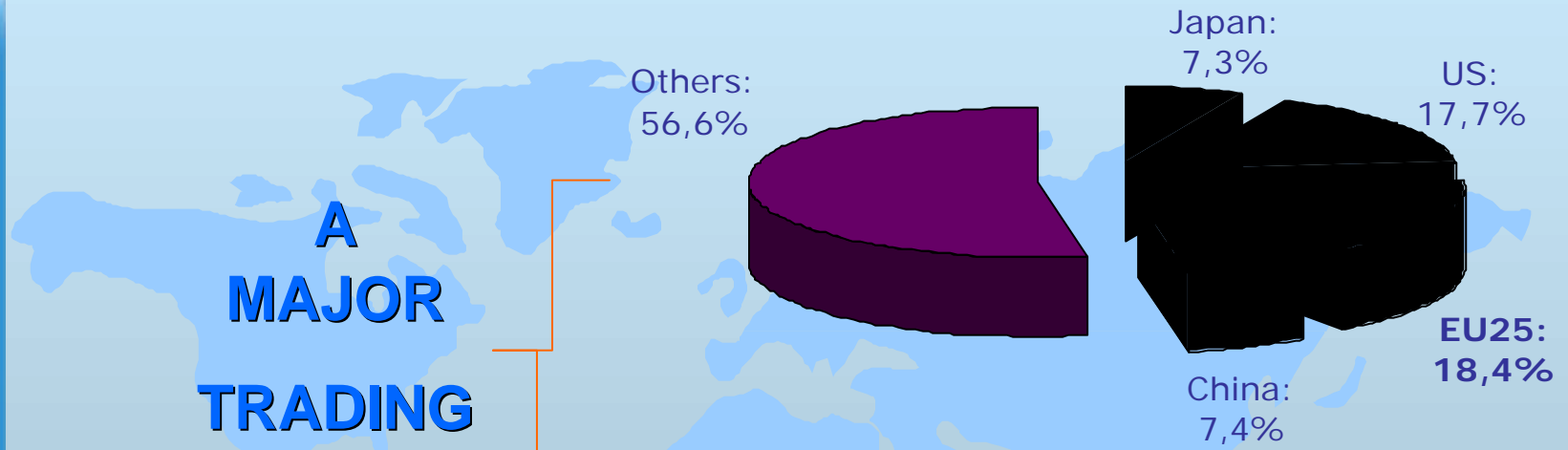


# Trade Negotiations and Decent Work: a Gender Perspective

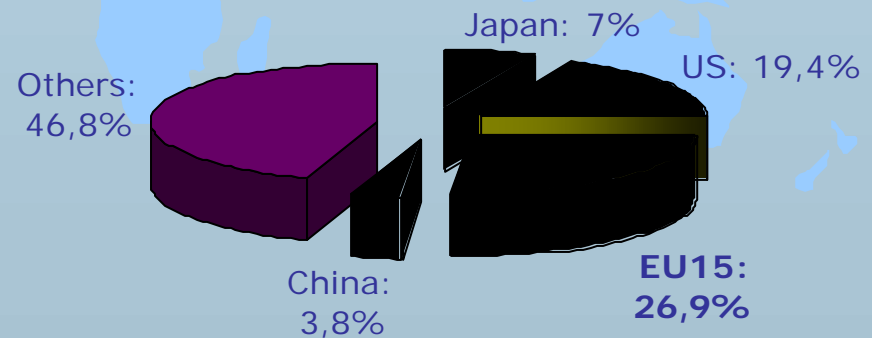
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# The EU in world trade

## SHARE IN WORLD TRADE IN GOODS



## SHARE IN WORLD TRADE IN SERVICES



# EU Trade policy - basic features

## Policy concepts

*to contribute to sustainable development by  
integrating more countries in world trade*

### **Promote values**

On democracy, rule of law,  
environment, social rights  
(including gender equality),  
public services, cultural  
diversity, food security...

### **Open world trade markets, through:**

the progressive abolition of  
obstacles to international trade  
and the lowering of customs  
barriers

### **Harness globalisation by:**

agreeing on a set of rules to  
regulate markets, and  
ensuring compatibility of trade  
opening with other societal  
values

# Trade: A tool for development

- Trade is essential for the creation of wealth, jobs and development, particularly in smaller countries. However, the benefits of trade need to be shared fairly.
- First: core labour standards should be adhered to in all countries.
- Second: concrete data to make informed decisions on the benefits and costs at the local level of trade opening.
- Third: policies to support workers in failing industries to retrain and reskill (e.g. the European Globalisation Fund).

# Core Labour Standards (CLS)

- ILO core labour standards:
  1. Elimination of forced labour
  - 2. Elimination of discrimination**
  3. Abolition of child labour
  4. Freedom of association

# Core Labour Standards (CLS)

## Elimination of Discrimination:

- ILO Convention 100: equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.
- ILO Convention 111: discrimination includes any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.

# Core Labour Standards (CLS)

- The EU's own experience shows that high labour standards support economic development. There has been no race to the bottom in Europe: EU legislation ensures minimum standards for occupational health and safety and for working conditions.
- Internationally, we recognise the role of the ILO and an effective application of CLS, through positive instruments, and incentive based approaches.



# Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements

- The EU pursues social development objectives in regional, bi-regional and bilateral agreements.
- The EU's most recent agreements all recognise and promote core labour standards, including gender equality.
- Examples include Chile, South Africa and bi-regionally with the Gulf Co-operation Council.
- Economic Partnership Agreements with ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries will be based on the Cotonou Agreement, which includes commitments to core labour standards, including gender equality.

# Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)

- Since 1998, the EU has used the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to provide special trade incentive arrangements to some 180 developing countries that respect ILO core labour standards, including gender equality.
- EU withdrew GSP from Myanmar (Burma) and is considering withdrawal from Belarus for serious violations of labour rights.
- The new GSP+ scheme (adopted June 2005) provides additional tariff preferences for 15 vulnerable countries that have signed and effectively implemented core conventions on human rights and labour rights, including gender equality. El Salvador's GSP+ will be reviewed after one year depending on ratification of all conventions (other countries have ratified already).

# Concrete data: social & gender stats

Concrete data are required for:

1. Assessment of effects of trade opening on decent work (including Trade SIAs).
2. Helping to predict where governments should concentrate resources to help workers in failing industries retrain and reskill for decent jobs.

Often difficult to access reliable, disaggregated data on female, male and child labour.

# EC-ILO pilot project: developing decent work indicators

## What is the pilot project?

- The European Commission has been funding an ILO pilot project to collate data and develop trade and decent work indicators in developing countries (case studies in Uganda and Philippines).

## How can the pilot be used?

- Decent work indicators can help in labour market adjustment by predicting the impacts of trade liberalisation on decent jobs, and so plan support more effectively for relevant sectors and workers.
- Decent work indicators can be used in SIAs.

Disaggregated data in the pilot include a range of gender-specific stats.

# Uganda (low income)

## Gender data

	1992		2002	
	female	male	female	male
Employment rate (15-64 yr olds)	71%	80%	80%	82%
Unemployment rate (15-64 yr olds)	0.4%	1.1%	3.5%	2.2%
Median Income	197	183	297	340
Workers with long hours (60+ hours/week)	11%	34%	11%*	27%*
Children not in school	347,000	348,000	191,000	255,000

\*2003 figures rather than 2002

# Philippines (lower middle income)

## Gender data

	1997		2003	
	female	male	female	male
Employment rate (> 15 yrs old)	45%	77%	46%	73%
Unemployment rate (15-24 yr olds)	22%	16%	27%	21%
Median Income	24%*	13%*	27%	13%
Mean work hours	41	42	42	42
% children in work (5-17yr olds)	5.9%*	13.0%*	6.5%	11.5%

\*2001 figures rather than 1997

# Conclusions

- Trade is an essential tool for development. However, benefits of trade need to be shared fairly.
- EU will continue to promote **core labour standards** in trade agreements.
- **Need concrete data** to make informed decisions on how best to open trade in developing countries and take opportunities to increase prosperity (extension of ILO pilot project and more academic work on trade-gender links).
- **Flexibility** and support to retrain and reskill are important.