

# Gender-Sensitive Trade Policy

Judit Fabian

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**Graduate School of Public and International Affairs |  
École supérieure d'affaires publiques et internationales**



uOttawa

# Why - Canada's Inclusive Trade Policy

- It seeks to ensure that the benefits and opportunities that flow from trade are more widely shared, including with under-represented groups such as women, SMEs, and Indigenous Peoples
- Canada thereby recognises that trade outcomes are not equitably and evenly distributed. This addresses some of the economic causes of disaffection with the trading system (counters alienation)
- This includes recognition that trade and trade policy are not gender-neutral. Women are 50% of the population

# What - Inclusive Trade & Gender Equality

Canada seeks to identify and redress gender-based imbalances by:

- employing Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus);
- by including gender chapters in trade agreements where possible (Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA); Canada-Israel FTA);
- by including specific provisions concerning gender where full chapters cannot be agreed (Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA)).

# How - Strategies to Make it Happen: Hard-Law to Soft-Law Gradations

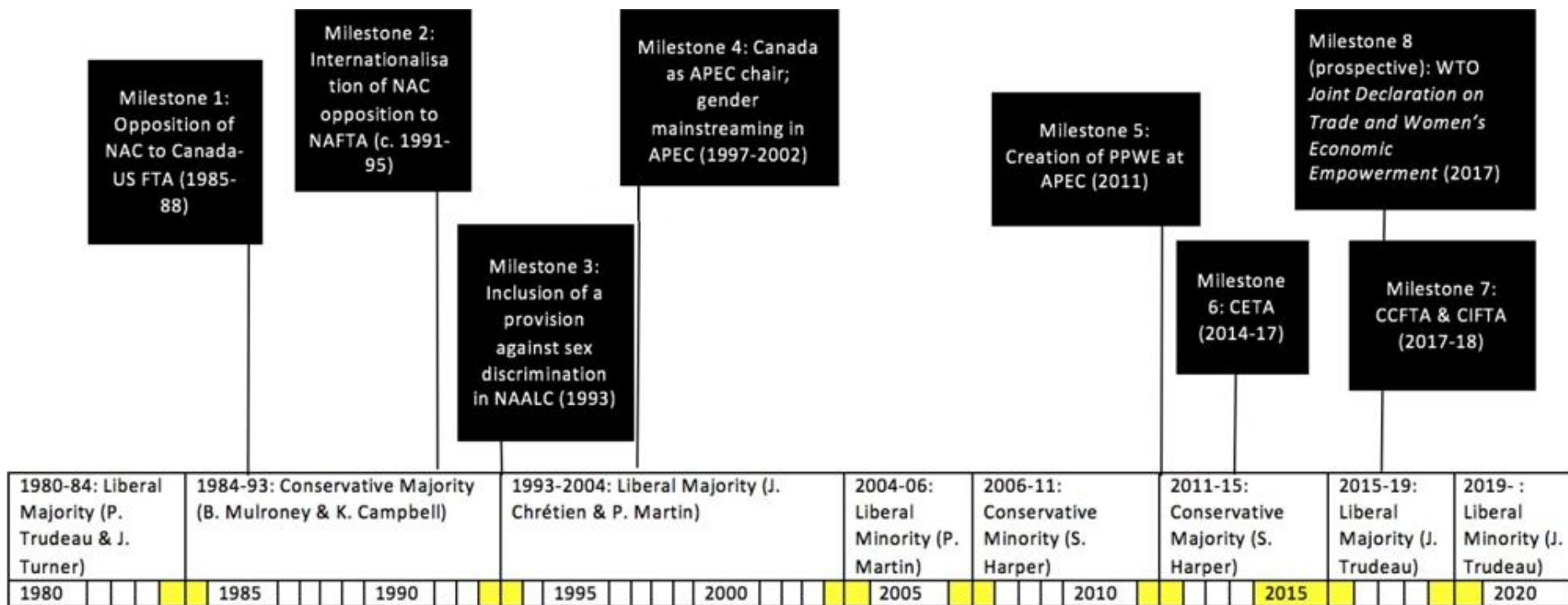
Soft law to introduce provisions; can become hard law over time; soft law legitimizes; can pursue these initiatives in different fora: WTO, APEC, national, etc.

Hard-Law	Soft-Law
Greater specificity	Greater generality
Binding	Voluntary
Juridical and adversarial dispute settlement	Diplomatic/Collegial dispute settlement
Reforms are considered riskier, harder to reverse	Reforms are considered less risky, relatively reversible, thus allowing greater scope for experimentation.

# What – History: Milestones in Canadian Gender & Trade Policy

- Government initiatives to address gender discrimination and the gendered effects of trade liberalization are the logical continuation of more than 30 years' tradition of leadership in gender and trade by Canadian civil society and Liberal and Conservative Canadian governments.
- Eight milestones characterize the tradition of Canadian leadership in gender and trade across governments
  - Each milestone represents an extension or expansion of Canadian gender and trade policy

# What – History: Milestones in Canadian Gender & Trade Policy



# Canada-MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) FTA

- Negotiations toward a Canada-MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) FTA were launched in March 2018.
- Canada pursued both cooperation-based inclusive trade chapters (such as a gender chapter), and mainstreaming inclusive provisions (including gender-based provisions) across the agreement.
- Negotiations resumed in 2023, having been halted for three years by the Covid-19 pandemic.

# The Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA)

- Founded by Canada, Chile and New Zealand in August 2020. It has since been joined by Mexico in 2021, Colombia and Peru in 2022, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Argentina in 2023, Australia and Brazil in 2024, and Uruguay in 2026.
- The text is modeled on gender chapters in the Canada-Chile FTA and the Canada-Israel FTA.
- It also addresses important areas of gender inequality, such as valuing care work and the enhancement of women's skills. In practise, however, it tends to focus on supporting women entrepreneurs.

# Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP) Framework

- Established in 2023, it's objectives overlap with FTAs, being "to promote sustainable and inclusive ... growth and integration".
- The 12 founding partners are the following: Barbados, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, and Uruguay.
- It "was launched to deepen economic integration, tackle economic inequality, restore faith in democracy by delivering for working people across the region."

Thank you.  
Merci.  
Gracias.  
Obrigada.