



# Trade and Gender Nexus in the Context of Regional Integration: EAC - MERCOSUR

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## Dissimilarities: Gender issues in the Treaties

- EAC: gender issues as part of the regional integration process → EAC Treaty; Gender equality & Development Bill
- MERCOSUR: gender issues not included in the Asunción Treaty & Ouro Preto Protocol. Gender mainstreaming driven by the mobilization of civil society groups. 2014 Policy Guidelines for Gender Equality

## Key question - Has the inclusion/exclusion of gender provisions played a major role?

- Difficult to form direct links between gender-related outcomes and GE provisions in the RECs
- Progress, but still gender gaps in both regions
- Possible inhibiting factors:
  - Legal nature of gender provisions
  - Different level of commitment among members
  - Inclusion of gender provisions to meet other goals
  - Accountability of member countries
  - Social norms



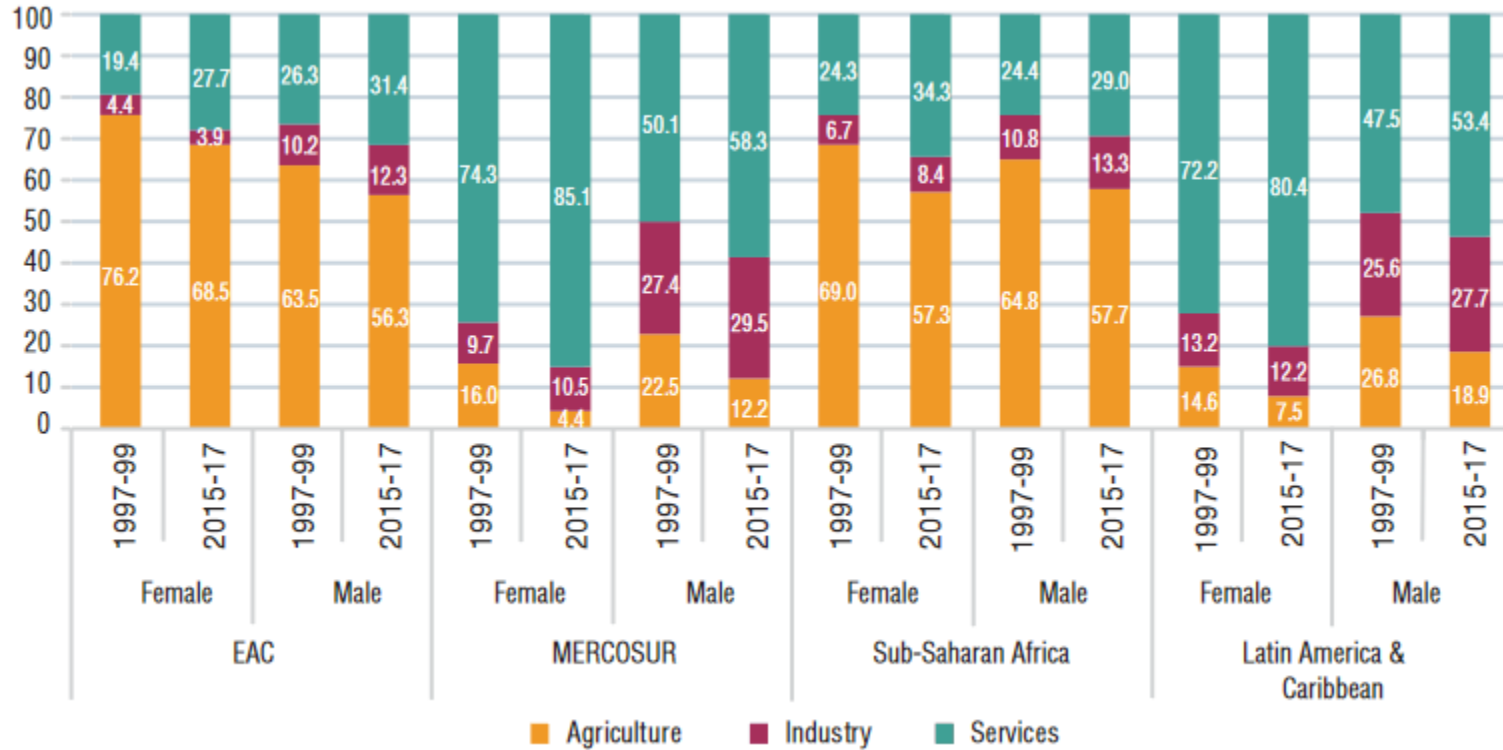
## Similarities and Dissimilarities: Socioeconomic context

- MERCOSUR has more than six times the GDP per capita of the EAC
- MERCOSUR performs better than EAC on childcare support, labour protection and tax incentives
- EAC faces much higher demographic pressure on land than MERCOSUR
- Income inequality is high in both regions but higher in MERCOSUR
- MERCOSUR and EAC economies are dominated by services but agriculture plays a key role in exports
- EAC and MERCOSUR share the challenge of developing the manufacturing sector



# Similarities and dissimilarities: Employment

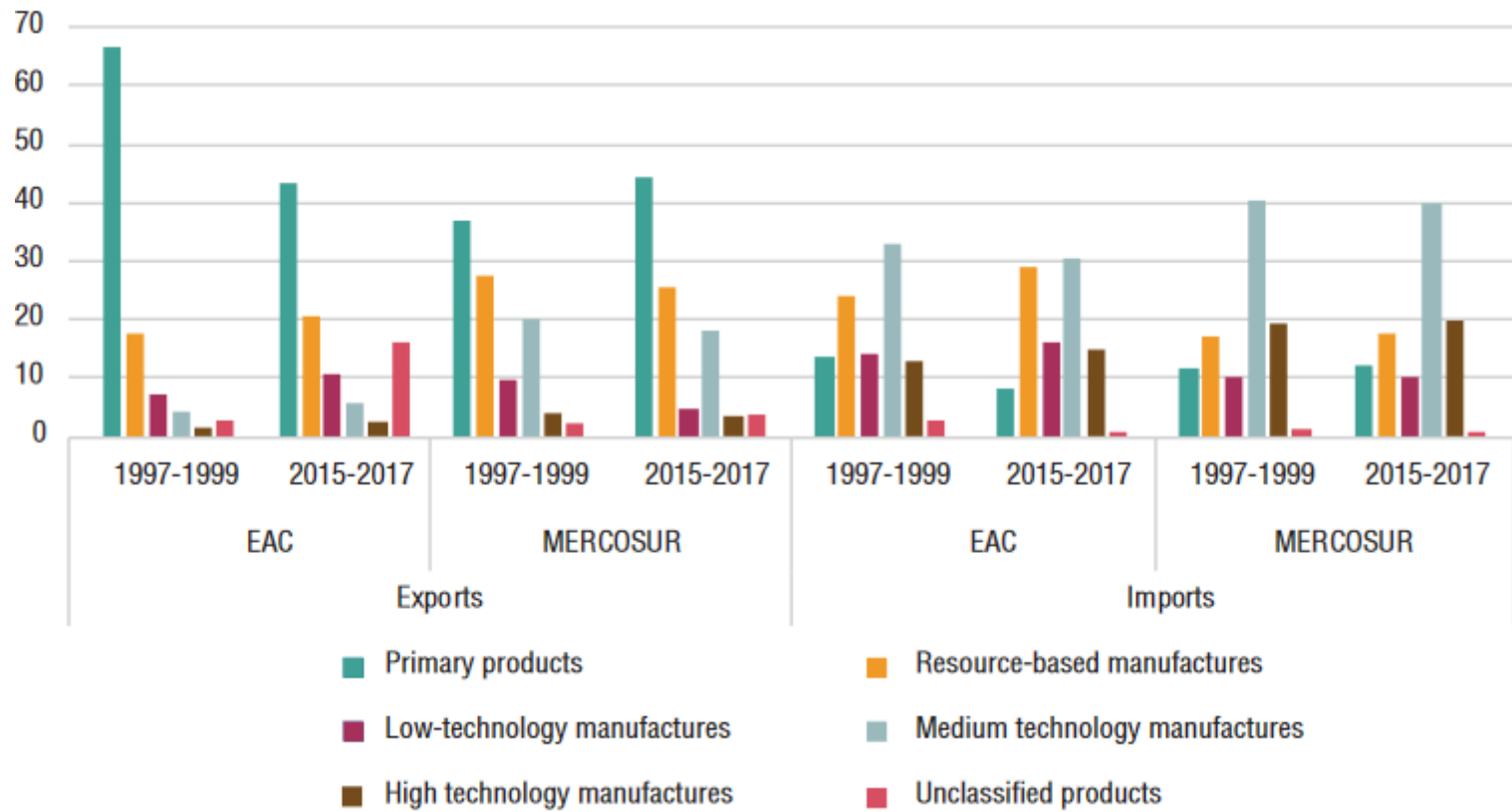
Sectoral composition of employment by gender (%)





# Similarities and dissimilarities: Trade structure

Composition of exports and imports by product groups in the EAC and MERCOSUR (%)





## Similarities: The impact of trade integration on gendered employment patterns

### How sectoral tariff changes influenced women's employment in manufacturing

	The Impact of a reduction in...			
	Export tariffs		Import tariffs	
On women's employment share in manufacturing firms among...	EAC	MERCOSUR	EAC	MERCOSUR
Total workers	+	+	Insignificant	Insignificant
	(all except Burundi)	(all except Brazil)		
Production workers	+	+	Insignificant	- (Brazil, Uruguay); + (Paraguay)
	(all except Burundi)	(all except Brazil)		
Non-production workers	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	- (Argentina, Paraguay)

- In both regions, a reduction in tariffs on export markets contributed towards a feminization of labour in manufacturing mainly for production workers without any significant change for non-production ones
- Import competition had no significant impact on women's employment in EAC, while it had some negative effects on women's employment in MERCOSUR



## The way forward

Despite differences in the stages of development, extent of gender inequalities, and legal frameworks on gender equality, the trade and gender implications of regional integration are rather similar across the two regions

### What could help

- Measures towards easing the access of women to employment in high-skilled, tradable sectors
- Regional funds
- Collection of gender-disaggregated data
- Platforms to exchange good practices and peer learning
- Accountability & annual reviews



# Country and regional studies

## Nine country studies

- Angola
- Bhutan
- Cape Verde
- the Gambia
- Lesotho
- Rwanda
- Uruguay
- Myanmar
- Kiribati

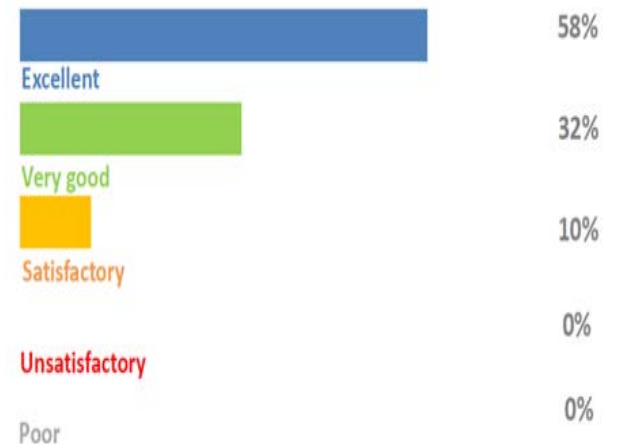
## Five regional studies:

- EAC
- SADC
- COMESA
- MERCOSUR
- Pacific Islands
- Central America
- LDCs

### Regional online courses

- COMESA
- EAC
- SADC
- MERCOSUR
- Central America
- LDCs

- 14 online courses since 2015 (English, French & Spanish)
- 1300 participants from all regions of the world
- 65% women and 35% men
- From 150 countries





THANK YOU

<https://UNCTAD.org/gender>

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