

WTO DATABASE

ON GENDER PROVISIONS IN REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (RTAs)

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs



- ✓ One-stop platform on provisions explicitly supporting gender equality or addressing gender issues
- ✓ Provide access to **331** gender provisions included in **109** RTAs in force or soon to be in force
- ✓ Summary document: INF/TGE/COM/4

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs




Objectives



- ✓ Provide access to gender provisions included in RTAs
- ✓ Provide up-to-date information on commitments to gender equality in RTAs
- ✓ Support negotiations of gender provisions in future trade agreements
- ✓ Facilitate research on trade and gender


WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – how to use it







Search

Filter by Parties: 

Filter by Implementation instruments:  

Filter by Region: 

Filter by Gender issues:  

Filter by Part:  

Sort by date of signature

Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Show only provisions not excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism


Search by gender issues

Search

Filter by Parties:

Nothing selected



Filter by
Implementation
instruments: 

All



Filter by Region:

All



Filter by Gender
issues: 

All



Filter by Part: 

All



Sort by date of signature

Show only provisions with monitoring
and evaluation mechanism

Clear Filter

All

Culture

Gender equality

Institutional arrangement

Leadership/decision-making

Politics

Social issues

Women participation in economic/development activities

Search by gender issues

Sub-categories of social issues

Filter by Implementation instruments: ⓘ

Filter by Gender issues: ⓘ

Sub-Categories Gender issues:

- All
- Education
- Family
- Food security
- Health
- Safety
- social inclusion/vulnerability

ns with monitoring mechanism

Filter

Sub-categories of issues related to women's economic participation

Filter by Implementation instruments: ⓘ

Filter by Gender issues: ⓘ

Sub-Categories Gender issues:

- All
- Access to productive resources
- Female entrepreneurship
- Labour

ns with monitoring mechanism

Filter



Search by implementation instruments



Search

Filter by Parties: Nothing selected ▼ Filter by Implementation instruments: ⓘ

Filter by Region: All ▼ Filter by Gender issues: ⓘ

Filter by Part: ⓘ All ▼

Sort by date of signature Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Clear Filter

All ×

All

Consultation

Data collection/analysis/research

Dialogue

Exception/exclusion mechanism

Experience/information sharing

Focal point

Framework/work plan

Impact assessment

Implementation of an international instrument

Institution

Law/regulation

Policy/plan/strategy

Programme/project

Recognition/promotion

Resource mobilisation

Specific obligation

Training/capacity-building

As of 23 August 2022

The entries do not refer to the exact number of provisions. Gender provisions included in EU RTAs and incorporated in...
To cite this work: Laperle-Forget, L., WTO Database on gender provisions in regional trade agreements, World Trade Organization, gender@wto.org

Search by parties and regions



Search

Filter by Parties:

All



All

Albania

Algeria

Angola

Antigua and Barbuda

Argentina

Armenia

Australia


Bahamas

Bahrain, Kingdom of

Barbados

Belarus

Filter by Region:

Filter by Part: 

Sort by date of signature

Search

Filter by Parties:

All



Filter by Region:

All



All

Africa

Asia

Caribbean


Europe

Latin America

Middle East

North America

Oceania

Filter by Part: 

Sort by date of signature



Search by location in the agreement

Database on gender provisions in RTAs

This database compiles [Regional Trade Agreements](#) between parties and regions, as well as the provisions they provide and their location. It also includes the evaluation of the provisions.

Provisions on women's empowerment included in (agreements). Provisions can be filtered by sector, the implementation instruments used, and the mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation provided.

- All
- Agriculture
- Competitiveness and SMEs
- Cooperation
- Development
- E-commerce
- Fisheries
- Investment
- Labour
- Objectives and principles
- Preamble
- Public procurement
- Service
- Side agreement/annexe
- Social issues
- Sustainable development
- Value chain
- Women/gender

Search

Filter by Parties:

Filter by Region:

Filter by Part: ⓘ

Filter by Implementation instruments: ⓘ

Filter by Gender issues: ⓘ

Sort by date of signature

Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism


Show only provisions not excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism


Clear Filter





Search by date and enforcement mechanisms



Search

Filter by Parties: All 

Filter by Implementation instruments: 

Filter by Region: All 


Filter by Gender issues: 


Filter by Part:  All 

Sort by date of signature

Show only provisions with monitoring and evaluation mechanism

Show only provisions not excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism







Search by keywords

Search:

Show entries

Agreement	Gender Issues	Part, Title and Chapter	Provision
+ African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	Women participation in economic/development activities	Protocol on Trade and Service Part VI: Institutional provisions	Article 27: Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Cooperation 1. State Parties recognise the importance of technical assistance, capacity building and cooperation in order to complement the liberalisation of services, to support State Parties' efforts to strengthen their capacity in the supply of services and to facilitate implementation and attainment of the objectives of this Protocol. 2. State Parties agree, where possible, to mobilise resources, in collaboration with development partners, and implement measures, in support of the domestic efforts of State Parties, with a view to, inter alia: (a) building capacity and training for trade in services; (b) improving the ability of service suppliers to gather information on and to meet regulations and standards at international, continental, regional and national levels; (c) supporting the collection and management of statistical data on trade in services; (d) improving the export capacity of both formal and informal service suppliers, with particular attention to micro, small and medium size; women and youth service suppliers; [...] 3. The Secretariat, working with State Parties, RECs and partners, shall coordinate the provision of technical assistance.
+ Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada	Women participation in economic/development activities	Chapter 25: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	Article 25.2: Cooperation to Increase Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs With a view to more robust cooperation between the Parties to enhance commercial opportunities for SMEs, and among other efforts, in the context of Memoranda of Understanding that exist between Parties on SME cooperation, each Party shall seek to increase trade and investment opportunities, and in particular shall: (a) promote cooperation between the Parties' small business support infrastructure, including dedicated SME centers, incubators and












WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – information provided



<p>+ Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada</p>	<p>Gender equality, Social issues, Women participation in economic/development activities</p>	<p>Chapter 23: Labour</p>	<p>Article 23.9: Discrimination in the Workplace:</p> <p>The Parties recognize the goal of eliminating discrimination in employment and occupation, and support the goal of promoting equality of women in the workplace. Accordingly, each Party shall implement policies that it considers appropriate to protect workers against employment discrimination on the basis of sex (including with regard to sexual harassment), pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and caregiving responsibilities; provide job-protected leave for birth or adoption of a child and care of family members; and protect against wage discrimination.</p>
<p>+ Agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada</p>	<p>Gender equality, Social issues, Women participation in economic/development activities</p>	<p>Chapter 23: Labour</p>	<p>Article 23.12: Cooperation</p> <p>1. The Parties recognize the importance of cooperation as a mechanism for effective implementation of this Chapter, to enhance opportunities to improve labor standards, and to further advance common commitments regarding labor matters, including the principles and rights stated in the ILO Declaration on Rights at Work.</p> <p>2. The Parties may, commensurate with the availability of resources, cooperate through: [...]</p> <p>(j) addressing gender-related issues in the field of labor and employment, including:</p> <p>(i) elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex in respect of employment, occupation, and wages,</p> <p>(ii) developing analytical and enforcement tools related to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value,</p> <p>(iii) promotion of labor practices that integrate and retain women in the job market, and building the capacity and skills of women workers, including on workplace challenges and in collective bargaining,</p> <p>(iv) consideration of gender issues related to occupational safety and health and other workplace practices, including advancement of child care, nursing mothers, and related policies and programs, and in the prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and</p> <p>(v) prevention of gender-based workplace violence and harassment;</p> <p>[...] (l) addressing the opportunities of a diverse workforce, including:</p>

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – information provided

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<p> Sub-category(ies) of gender issues Labour (equal wage, pregnancy, parental leave), family, safety (sexual harassment)</p>			
<p> Implementation instrument(s) Policy/plan/strategy, Recognition/promotion</p>			
<p> Parties Canada, Mexico, United States</p>			
<p> Institution in charge of reviewing the implementation Labour Council (ref. Article 23.14)</p>			
<p> Explicitly excluded from the dispute settlement mechanism Specific procedures (ref. Article 23.17 (Labour Consultation for the procedures): paragraph 12: "No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 31 (Dispute Settlement) for a matter arising under this Chapter without first seeking to resolve the matter in accordance with this Article)</p>			
<p> Date of signature 2018</p>			
<p> Date of entry into force 2020</p>			
<p> Additional information N/A</p>			

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs

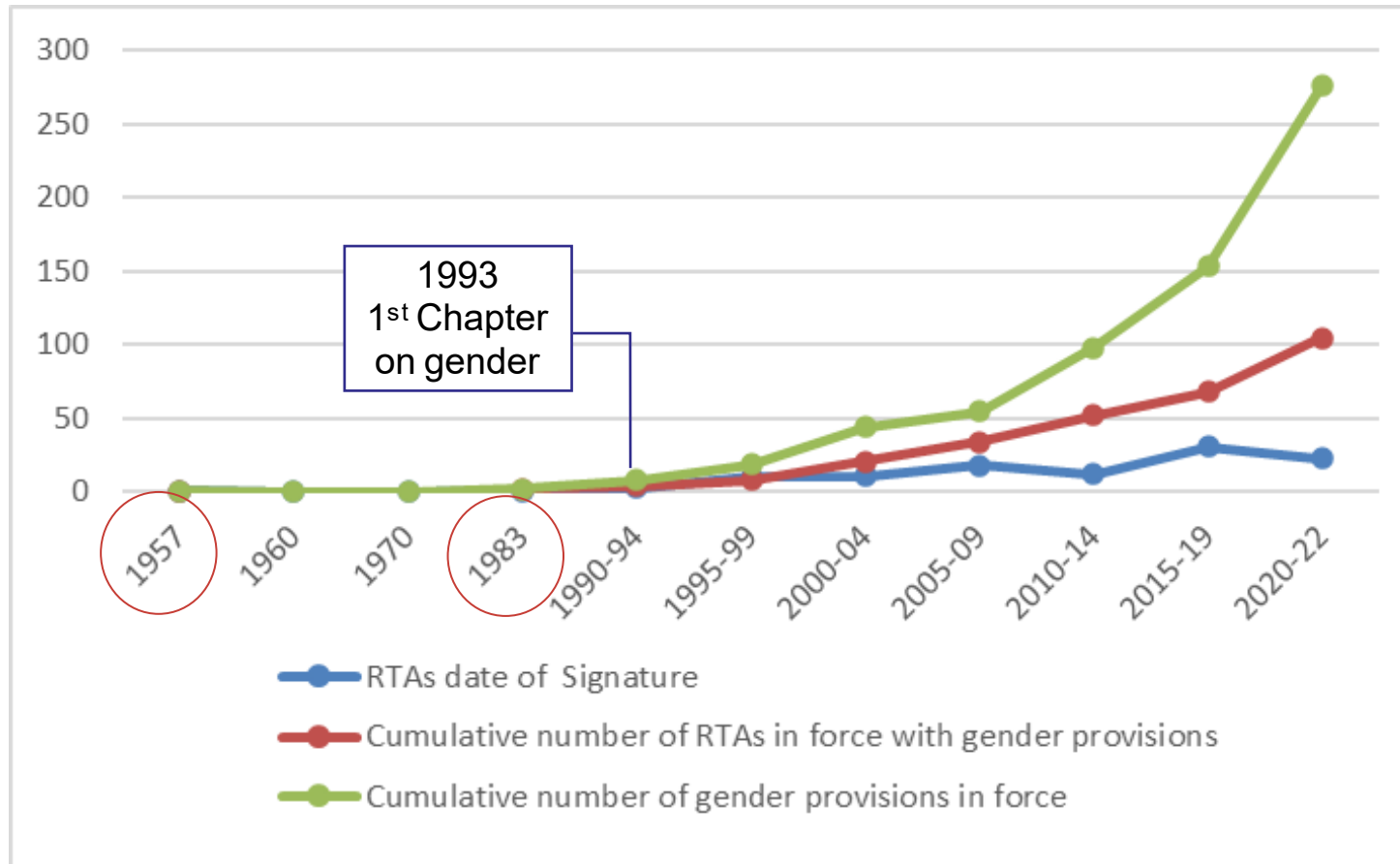
Visit the website:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/womenandtrade_e/gender_responsive_trade_agreement_db_e.htm

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Gender provisions are a longstanding practice



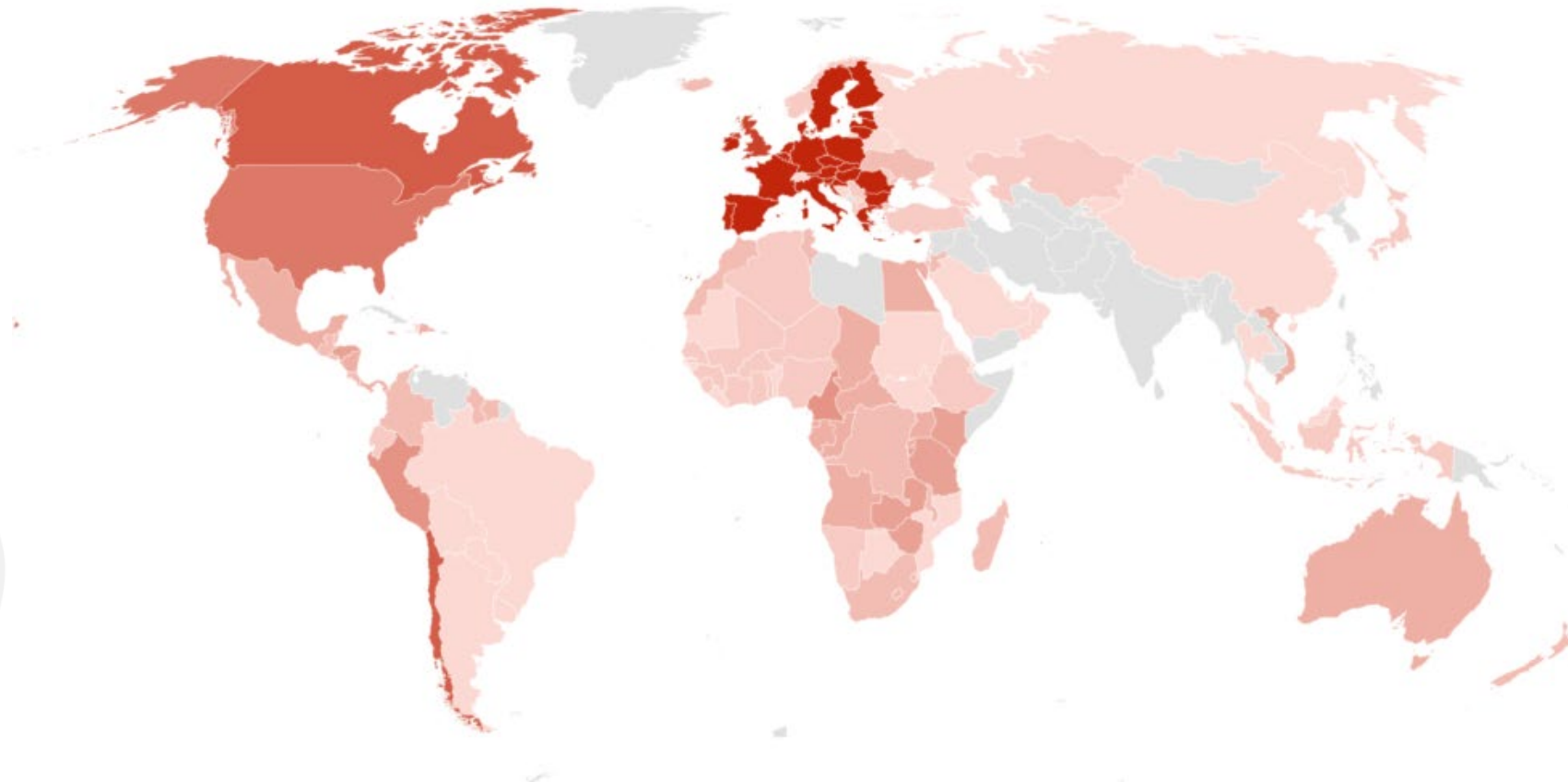
September 2022

- ✓ 331 gender provisions
- ✓ 109 RTAs
- ✓ 14 chapters on trade and gender

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Gender provisions in force across the globe



Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Gender provisions in force across the world



153 countries

have included a provision explicitly addressing gender issues in their RTAs

90 % of WTO Members



Gender provisions

are included in 24 south-south RTAs

Eight intra-African RTAs promote gender equality



Trade blocks

Many regional trade blocks promote gender equality

AfCFTA, CARIFORUM, USMCA, EEA, GCC, CPTPP, EAEU, PACER Plus

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Gender issues addressed in RTAs

Gender inequalities issues

- Discrimination in employment and wage
- Equal access to productive resources
- Equal treatment, opportunities, and rights
- Other forms of discrimination against women

Social issues

- Family and childcare programmes, reconciliation of family responsibility and career development and unpaid care work
- Access to education and training
- Access to quality health services, including maternal and reproductive health
- Vulnerability and poverty
- Safety issues and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual harassment

Female entrepreneurship issues

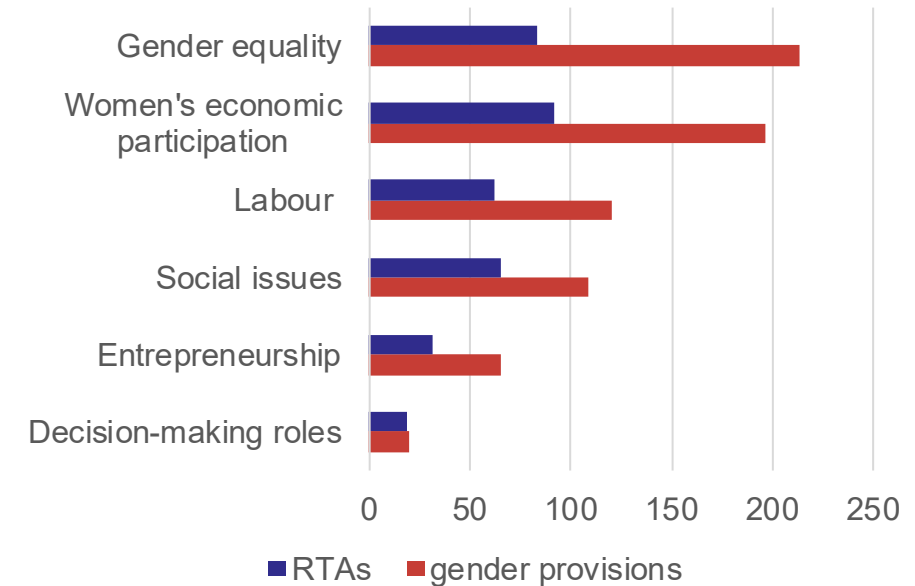
- Business opportunities for women entrepreneurs
- Export capacity
- Discrimination and obstacles faced by women entrepreneurs
- Access to productive resources (land, finance, technology, etc)

Labour issues

- Women workers' skills
- Decent working conditions
- Employment opportunities
- Flexible working arrangements
- Safety and health in the workplace

Politics and decision-making issues

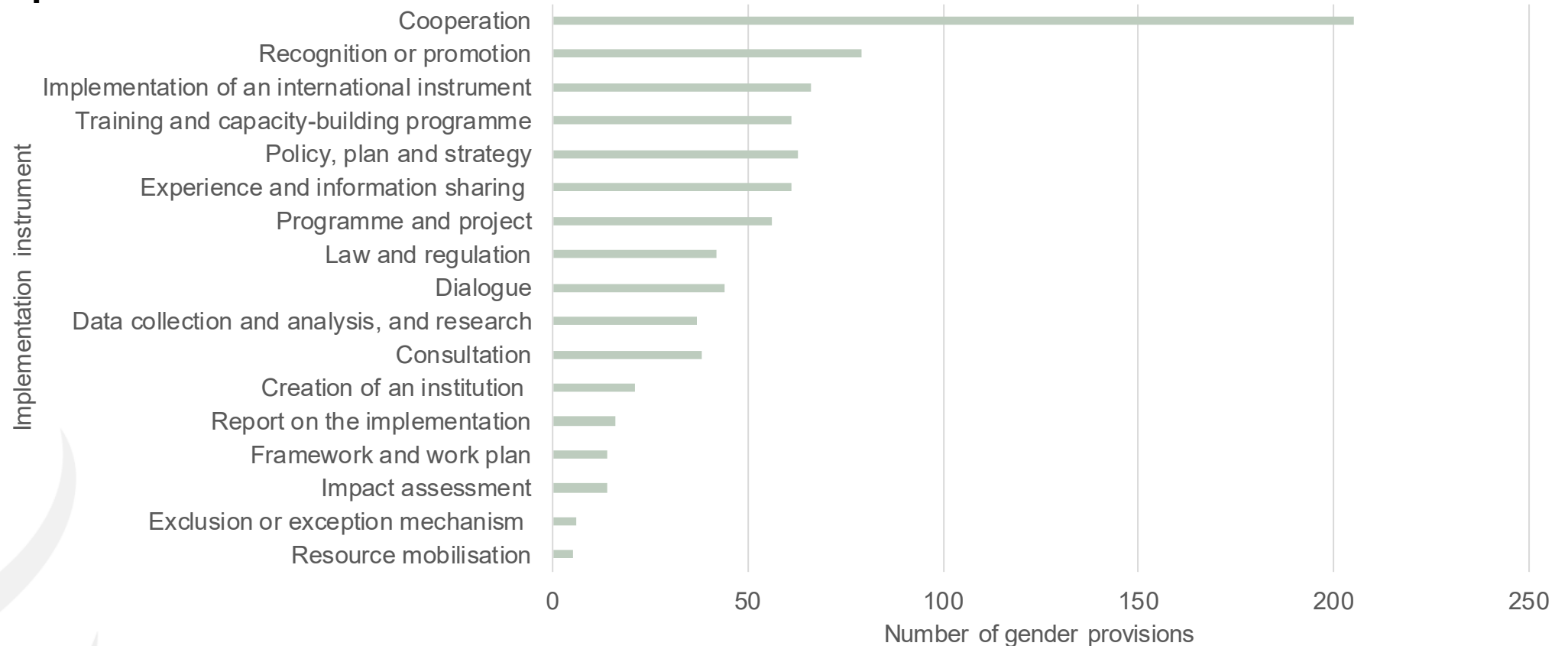
- Equal opportunities for women in decision-making bodies in the public and private sectors
- Women's leadership at decision-making levels
- Promotion of women in politics



WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Actions to address gender issues and implement gender provisions

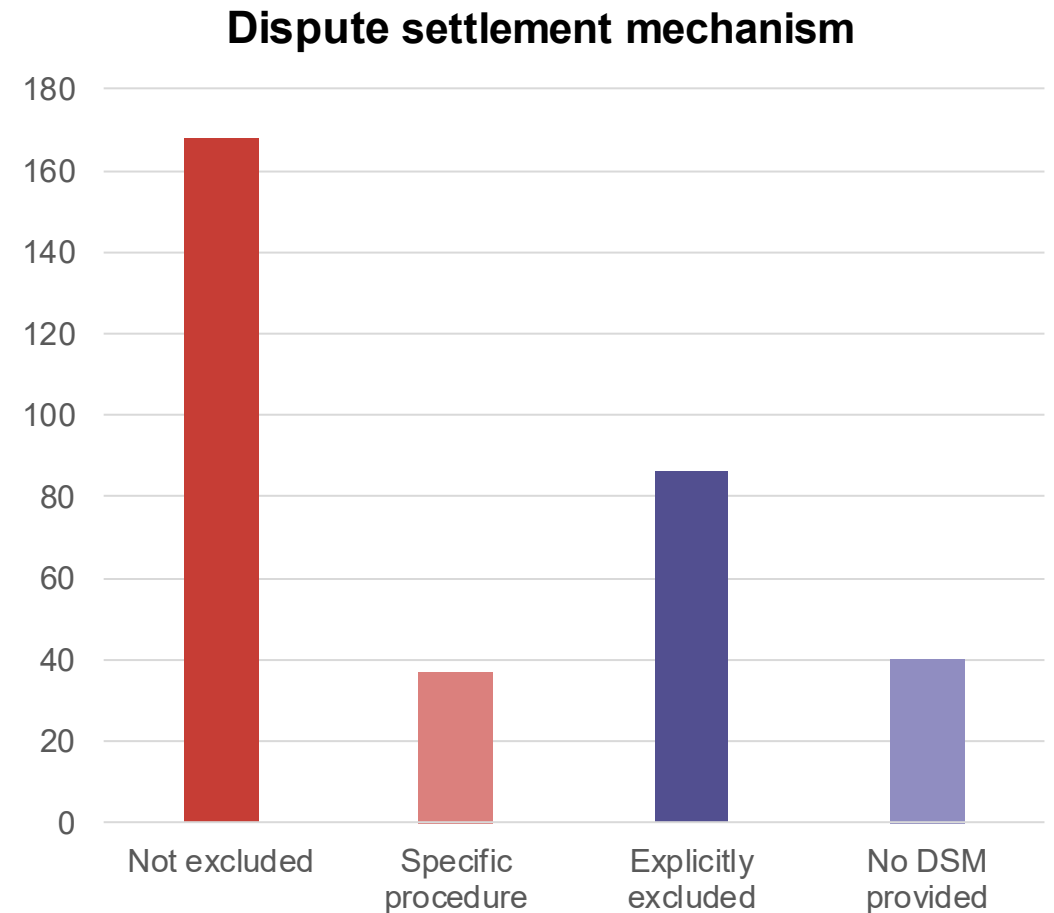
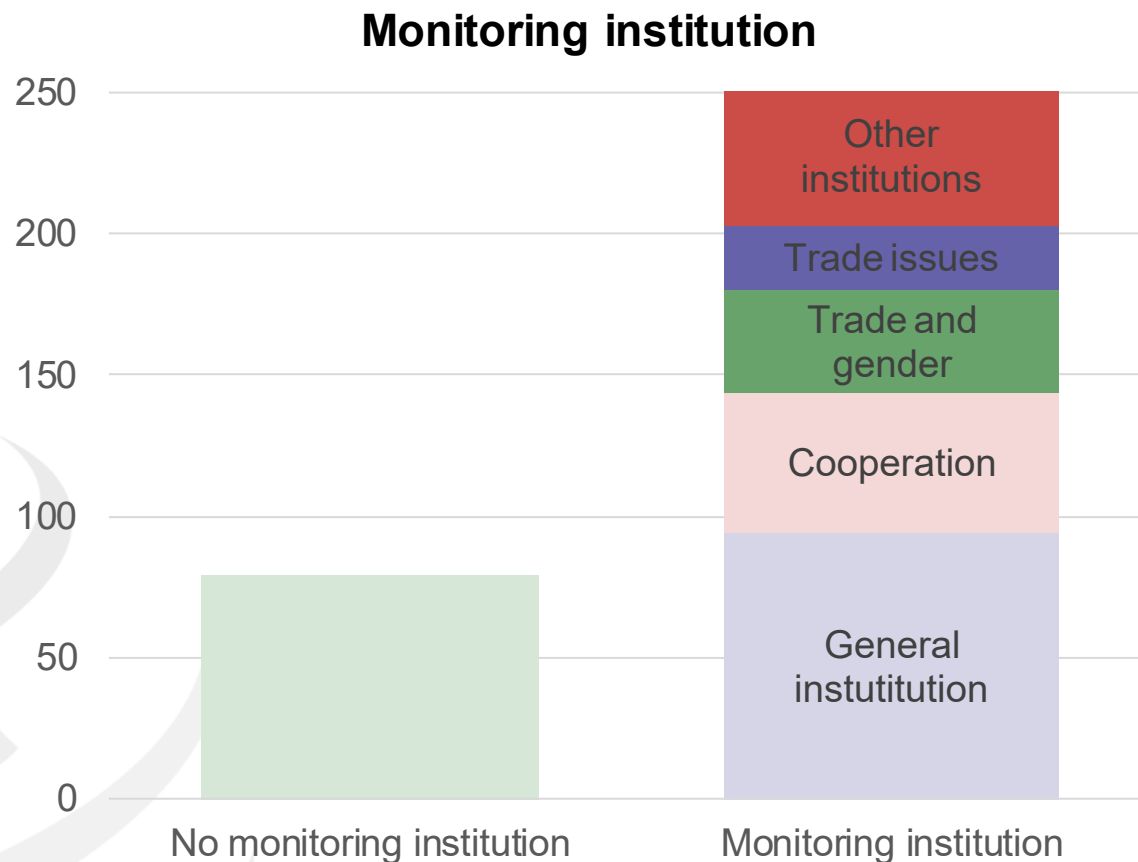


Source: Laperle-Forget, L. INF/TGE/COM/4, World Trade Organization

WTO Database on Gender Provisions in RTAs – outcome



Enforcement mechanisms applicable to gender provisions



Thank you!

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