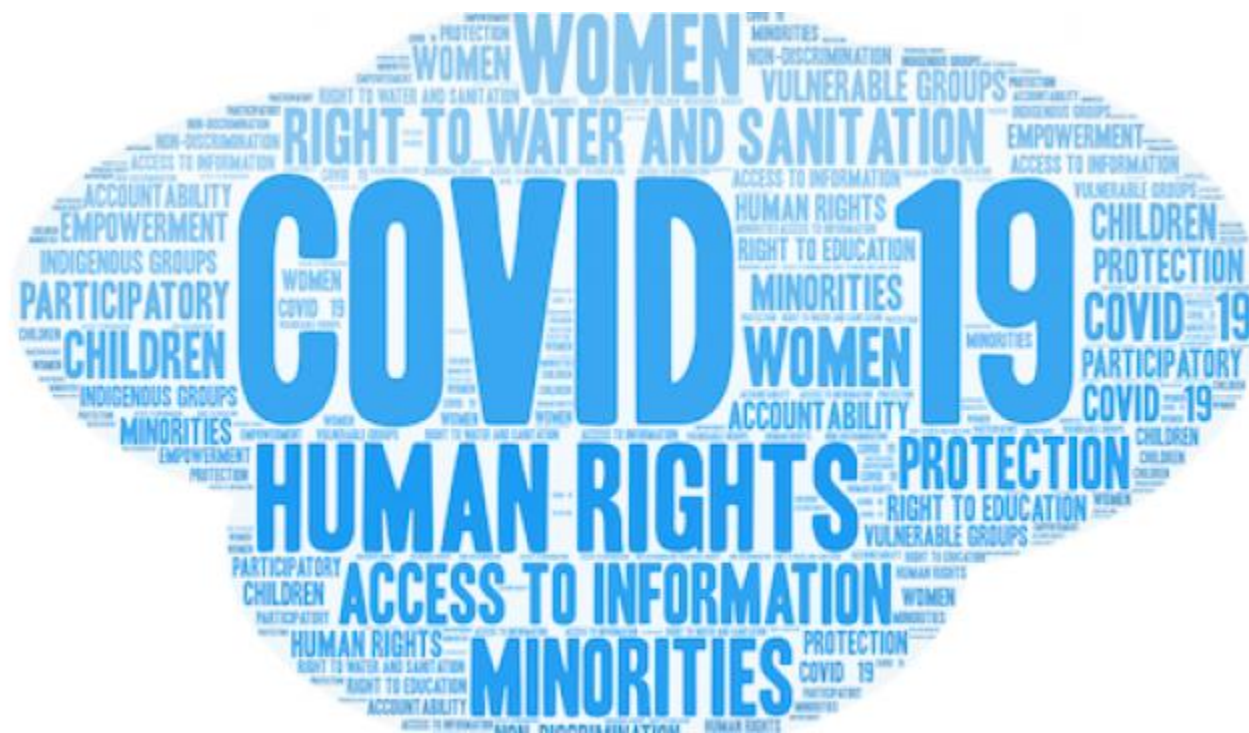


COVID-19 and Its Impact on Women in International Trade: Can Free Trade Agreements Help Reboot the Economy?



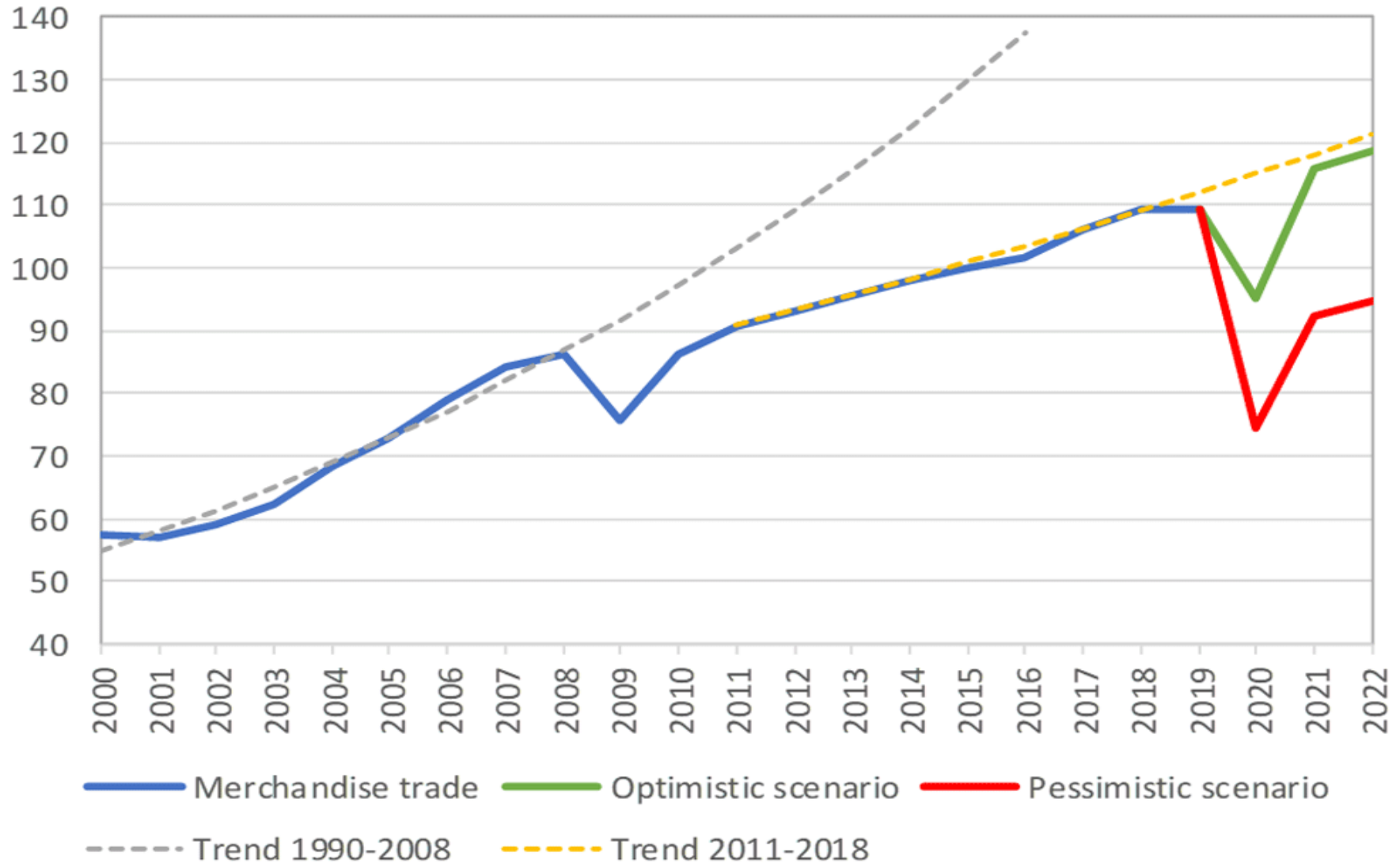
Dr. Amrita Bahri
Co-Chair, World Trade
Organization (Mexico);
Assistant Professor of Law
ITAM University

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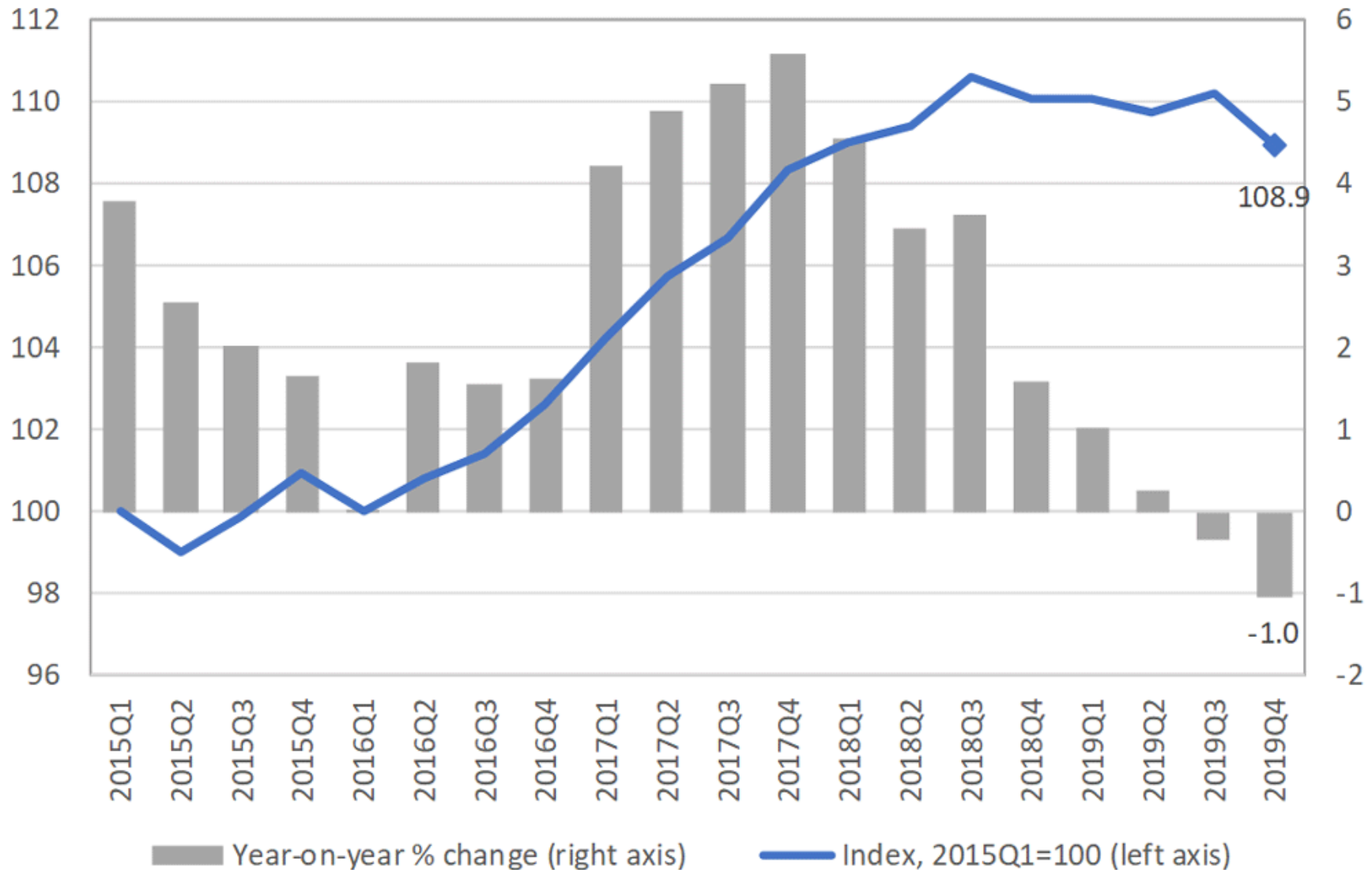
- 1. Trade is falling**
- 2. COVID-19 putting women at frontline?**
- 2. Gender Justice and Trade: The Business Case**
- 3. Can Free Trade Agreements Help?**
- 4. Preparing Free Trade Agreements to Reboot Inclusive Economy**



Trade is falling



World merchandise exports and imports, 2015Q1-2019Q4



Sea and air cargo are dropping sharply

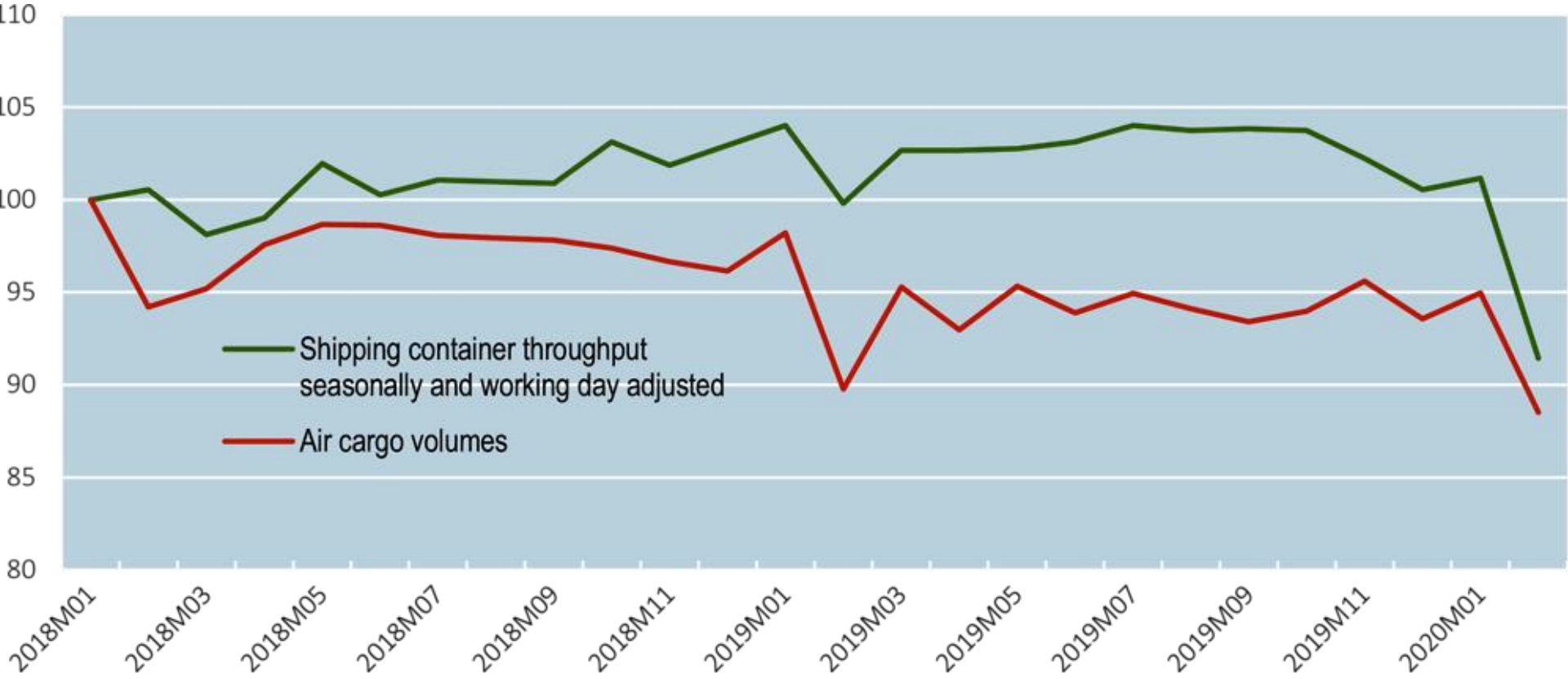
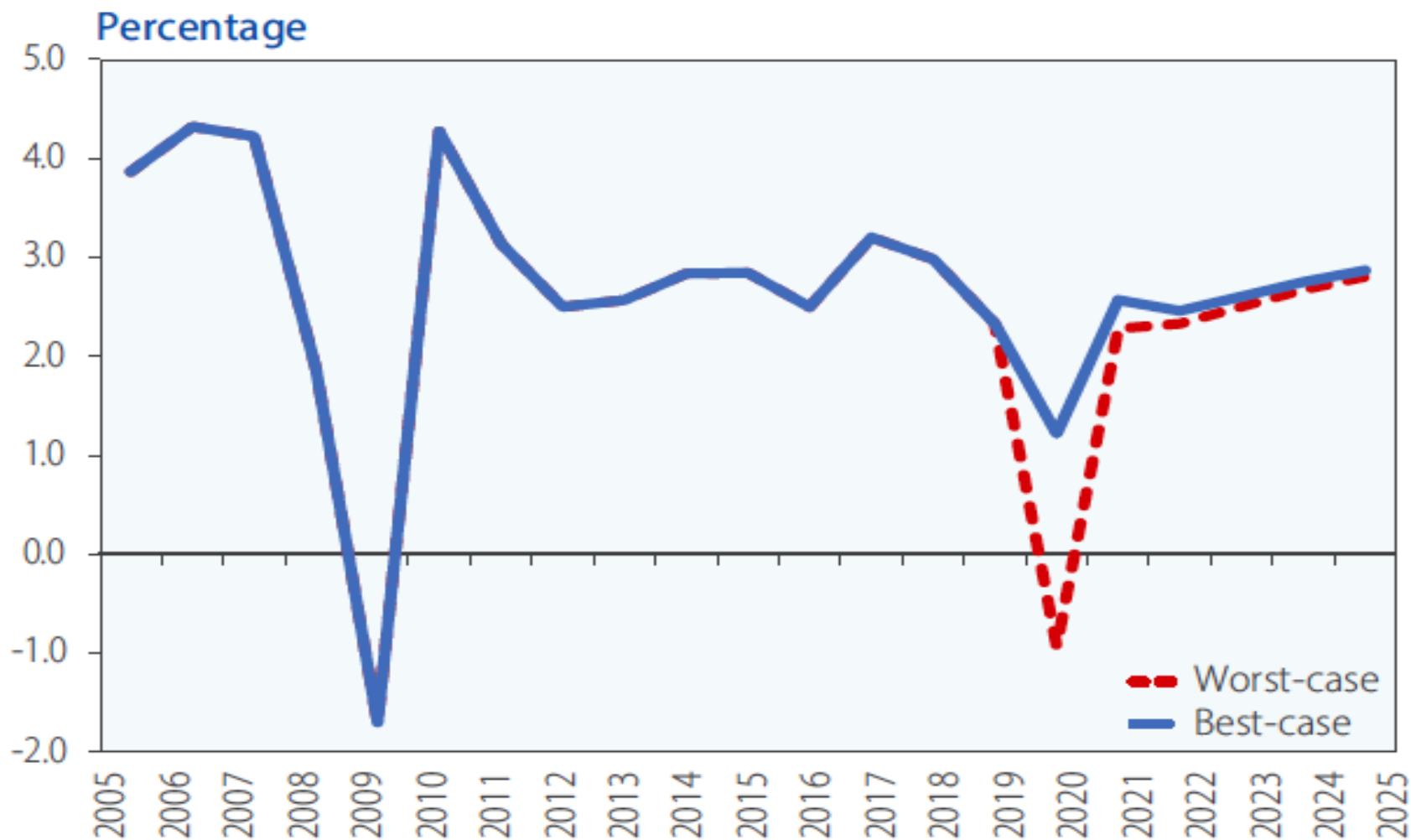


Figure 1

World growth outlook for 2020 in the best- and worst-case scenarios, as of late March 2020



Source: UN DESA.

COVID-19 putting women at frontline?

WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE

SHARE BY SECTOR



SERVICES
61.5%



INDUSTRY
13.5%



AGRICULTURE
25%



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

SEATS IN PARLIAMENT
23% WOMEN



CEOS, FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES
4% WOMEN

COVID-19 putting women at frontline?



COVID-19 putting women at frontline?



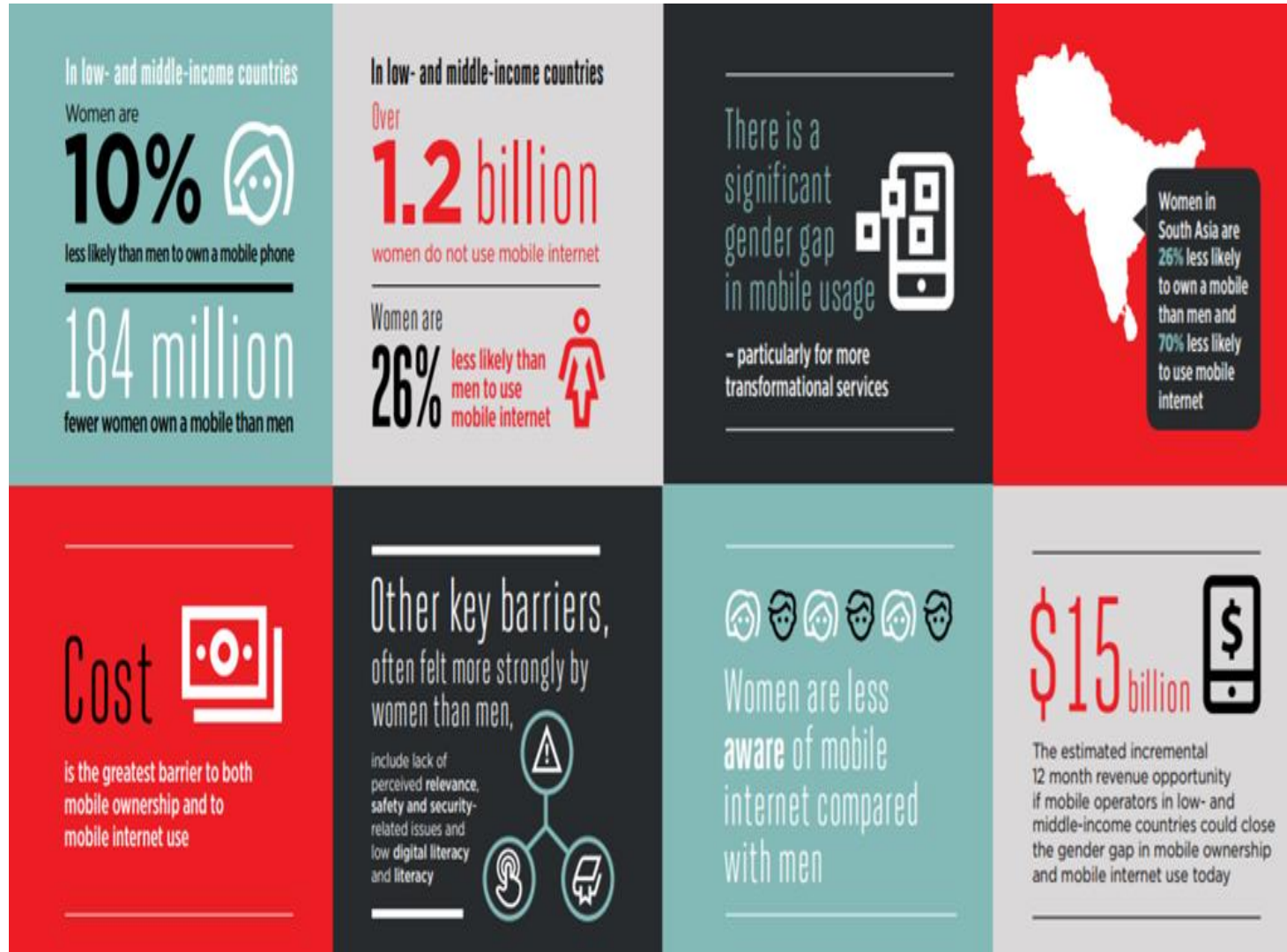
COVID-19 putting women at frontline?



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COVID-19 putting women at frontline?



COVID-19 putting women at frontline?



COVID-19 putting women at frontline?

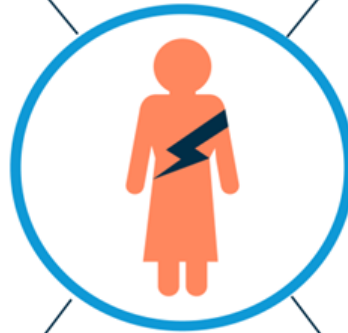


COVID-19 putting women at frontline?

Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and particularly domestic violence, has **INTENSIFIED**.

In **France**, reports of domestic violence have increased by **30%** since the lockdown on March 17.

In **Argentina** emergency calls for domestic violence cases have increased by **25%** since the lockdown on March 20.



In **Cyprus** and **Singapore** helplines have registered an increase in calls of **30%** and **33%**, respectively.

Increased cases of domestic violence and demand for emergency shelter have also been reported in **Canada, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom** and **the United States**.

If you are experiencing violence during COVID-19:



Reach out to supportive family, friends or neighbours

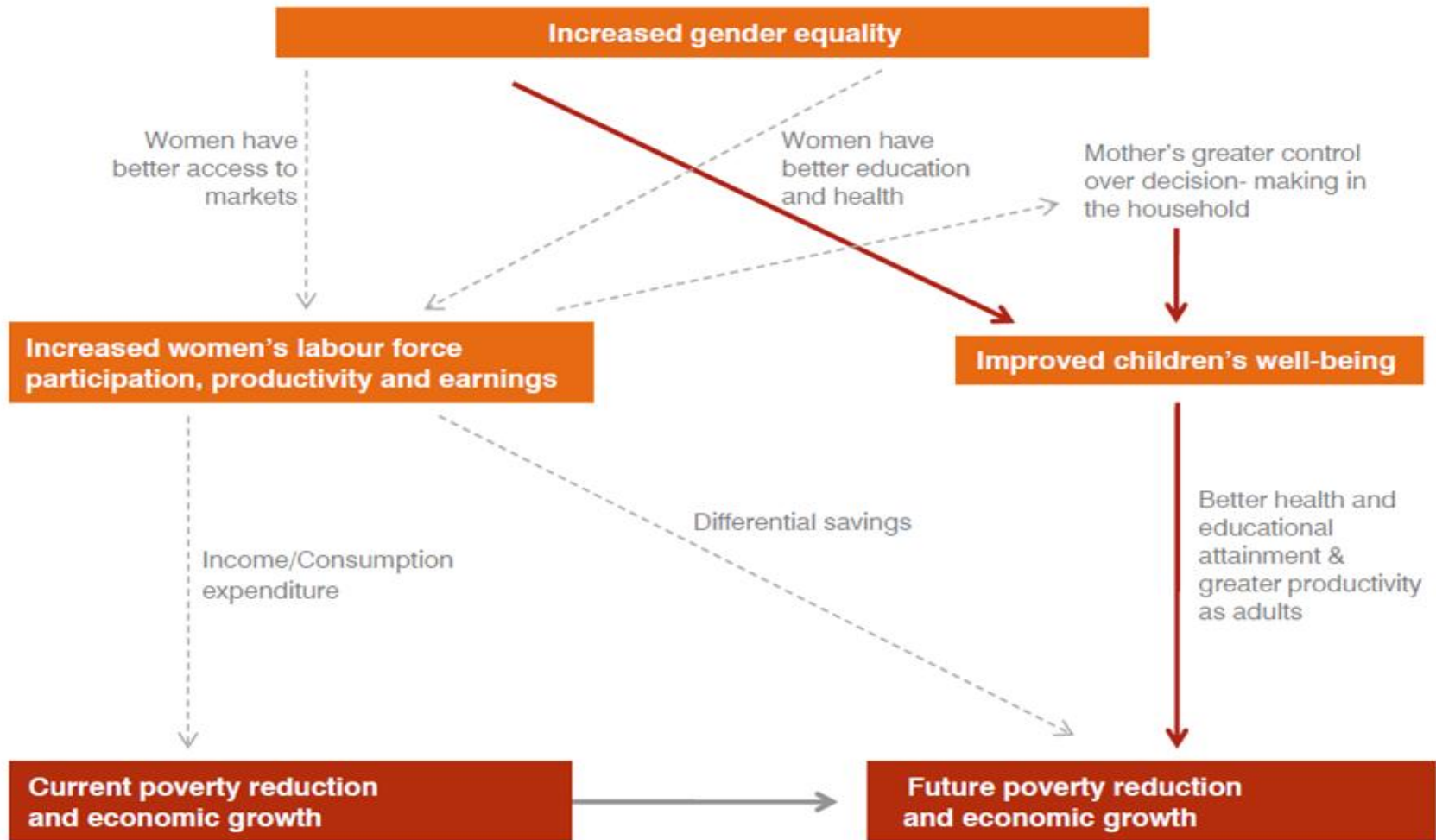


Call a hotline or access information online if possible



Seek out local services for survivors

Gender Justice and Economic Growth



The Business Case: Gender Equality Benefits Economy

GDP GROWTH BY 2025 WITH GENDER PARITY IN THE WORKFORCE
ALL REGIONS



[Source: McKinsey Global Institute](#)

International Instruments Acknowledge this Relation....



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



Beijing
+25






Percentage of RTAs with explicit and implicit gender-related provisions

Source: Author's calculations.

Note: The total number of RTAs with gender-related provision per year is the sum of RTAs incorporating gender-related provisions that entered into force that year. Figures are not cumulative. Implicit gender-related provisions refer to provisions addressing human rights, vulnerable groups and the social dimension of sustainable development, including labour discrimination, fair trade and corporate social responsibility without any explicit reference to gender.

Source:
WTO Economic Research
and Stats Division 2018

Measuring Gender-Responsiveness of FTAs: ITC's Maturity Framework

Category	Definition	Dimensions	
 <p><i>Awareness</i></p>	<p>This category reflects parties' awareness and the importance they assign to the incorporation of gender concerns in the given free trade agreement (FTA).</p>	<p>1. Frequency of Relevant Provisions</p>	<p>2. Location of Relevant Provisions</p>
		<p>3. Affirmations and Reaffirmations</p>	
 <p><i>Affirmative Action</i></p>	<p>This category reflects whether parties to the given FTA consider or commit to any affirmative action to incorporate gender concerns.</p>	<p>4. Cooperation Activities</p>	<p>5. Institutional Arrangement</p>
		<p>6. Procedural Arrangements</p>	<p>7. Review and Funding</p>
 <p><i>Enforcement</i></p>	<p>This category reflects whether parties to the given FTA consider or commit to the robust enforcement of gender-components included in the FTA.</p>	<p>8. Settlement of Disputes</p>	<p>9. Minimum Legal Standards</p>
		<p>10. Waivers, Reservations & Exceptions</p>	

Limited

FTA at this level is either completely or close to being gender-blind or gender-neutral in nature as it fails to mainstream gender concerns.

Evolving

FTA at this level employs some best practices for mainstreaming gender concerns, but it has a significant scope for further improvement.

Advanced

FTA at this level achieves the highest level of maturity in the way it mainstreams gender concerns with the use of best practices for incorporating gender concerns, and there is no or only a negligible scope for further improvement.

We looked at 92 Countries and 184 FTAs!

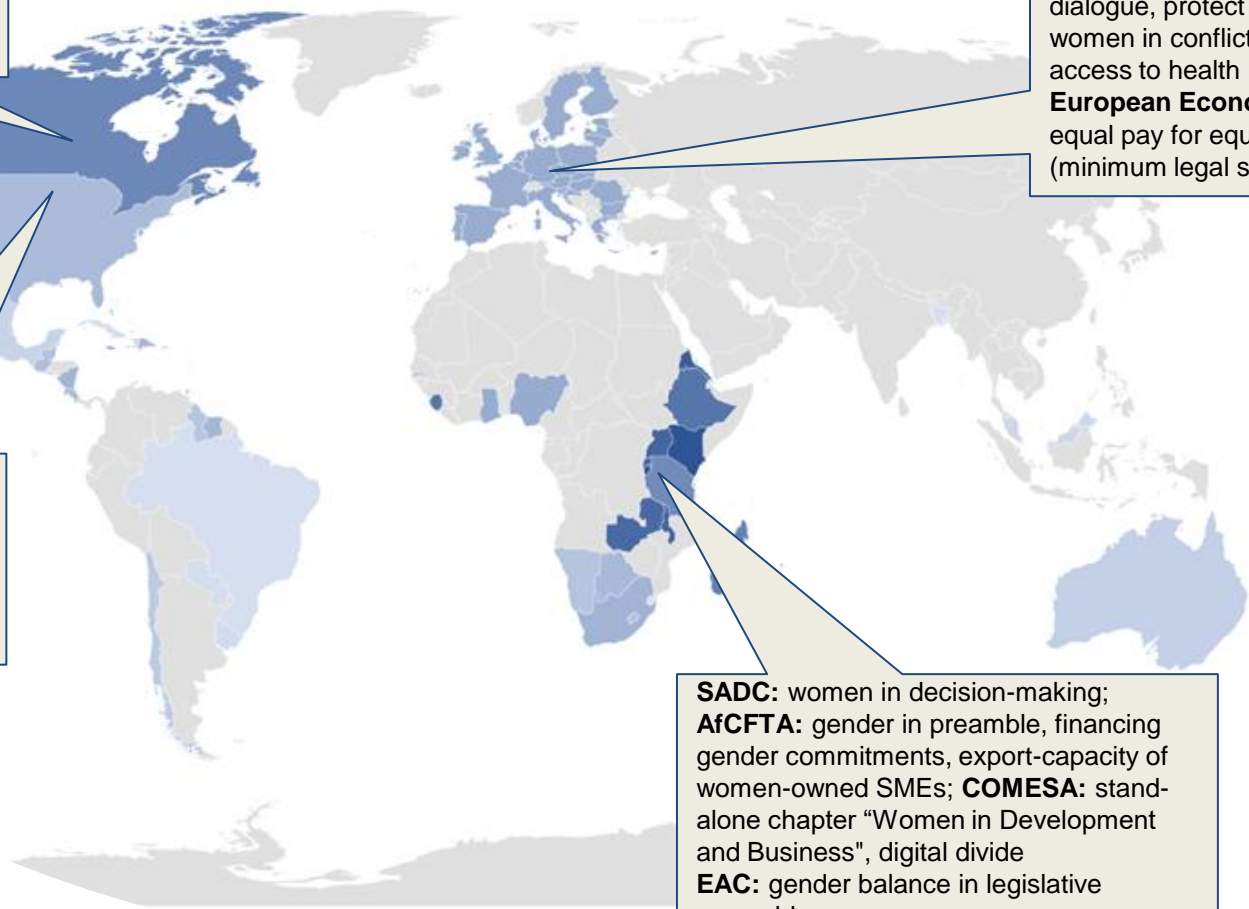
Gender Responsiveness

Canada-Israel & Canada-Chile: CSR, Access to STEM and ICT education, Gender Committee, Promote women entrepreneurship

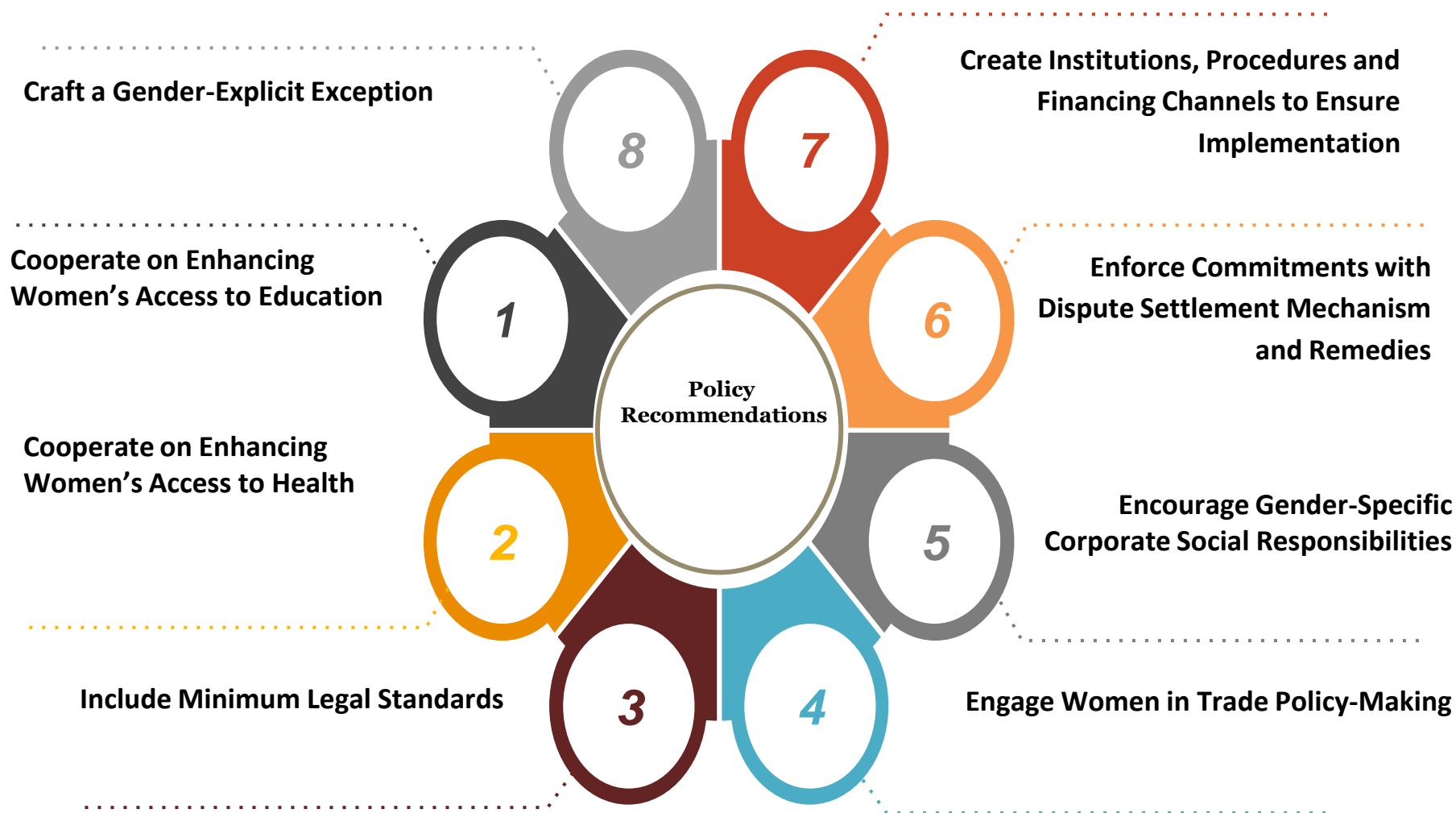
EU-Central America: political dialogue, protect the lives of women in conflict and violence, access to health
European Economic Area: equal pay for equal work (minimum legal standard)

USMCA: Reservation for indigenous women (service), protection of women employees
US-Bahrain: Cooperation on no labor discrimination on basis of sex

SADC: women in decision-making;
AfCFTA: gender in preamble, financing gender commitments, export-capacity of women-owned SMEs; **COMESA:** stand-alone chapter "Women in Development and Business", digital divide
EAC: gender balance in legislative assembly



Preparing FTAs for Rebooting Inclusive Economy: Taking the Next Steps...



Three big questions:

- 1 | USMCA includes highly enforceable labor commitments. If this can be negotiated, why countries are still reluctant to include enforceable gender-related commitments such as equal pay for equal work?
- 2 | If we can have exceptions to protect public morals, or animal health or life, or even plant health or life in almost 100% of existing FTAs, why can't we negotiate an exception to reduce gender inequality?
- 3 | Even if gender provisions are not made enforceable, wouldn't they remain a distant reality if parties do not craft procedures and institutions or mobilize funds to put these commitments to action?

COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Monday July 6th, 2020

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM CET @Zoom

Please register at:

www.owit-lakegeneva.org



Dr. Amrita Bahri joins with the Gender Champions:

H.E. AMBASSADOR
CHAD BLACKMAN

BARBADOS
Gender Champion

H.E. AMBASSADOR
SOCORRO FLORES LIERA

MEXICO
Gender Champion



INTERNATIONAL
GENDER
CHAMPIONS