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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

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### MAINSTREAMING OF GENDER ISSUES

#### Note by the secretariat

#### Introduction

1. While most of the Trade Division's work programme is of a technical nature that does not touch on gender, there is potential for its incorporation in selected areas. From the trade and enterprise point of view, one way of evaluating whether or not gender aspects can be taken into consideration is to look at whether a particular activity touches on one of the following areas:

Enterprise ownership, including investment  
Management  
Employment  
Consumption.

Nonetheless, the options are limited given that many issues related to the above are of a social nature and are thus not covered by the mandate of ECE.

2. Gender can be taken into account in examining the following: legal issues, access issues, education/training and women's participation. The last item covers questions such as: what percentage of owners, managers, employees, or consumers are women; is women's participation (in ownership, management, etc.) different from that of men, and, if so, why and what are the consequences.

3. The Bureau of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development has recommended to its subsidiary bodies that the above evaluation be undertaken whenever a new study, seminar or workshop is planned in order to include appropriate gender aspects.

#### **Summary of work already done**

4. Because work items under the Committee which relate to trade facilitation and standards do not touch upon enterprise ownership, employment or consumption and its discussion of management is limited to recommendations as to the technical procedures and techniques that management use, it is difficult to see where a gender perspective could be integrated into existing work. In the work items related to investment promotion and enterprise development, possibilities exist, but are limited by the lack of an ECE mandate to examine the social aspects of investment and enterprise development.

5. In addition, there is a severe resource problem when considering the undertaking of new or expanded work items. For example, employment statistics are currently collected for the steel and chemical industries and the secretariat would like to expand this to provide a breakdown of employment by gender. However, this will not be possible because the collection of the statistics may need to be discontinued in the coming 12 months following the departure of two staff members who had been seconded by the private sector for this work. Therefore, the perspectives for undertaking gender-related work in these two areas are also, at least in the short term, not particularly optimistic.

#### **Proposed work**

6. As one way to obtain useful and constructive suggestions for the inclusion of gender-related aspects in the work programme, the secretariat requests approval from the Committee for a project to obtain more participation by non-governmental organizations who work with women in trade-related fields in the ECE region. The project would consist of researching and identifying such NGOs and then sending them an invitation to participate in our work, together with an information package on the Division's work programme, together with a calendar of meetings.

7. In addition, under the work programme related to enterprise development, resources are being shifted to a new horizontal work programme in the enterprise development area where it may be somewhat easier to incorporate a gender perspective into some of the projects, and particularly any related to management.

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