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GREEN DEAL, SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND TURKIYE'S INTEGRATION

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GENDER EQUALITY AND TRADE

Prof. Dr. Rana ATABAY KUŞÇU

Gender equality, sustainable development, and trade form a triad of interconnected pillars essential for the advancement of societies on a global scale. These elements are not isolated concerns but rather integral components that, when addressed collectively, foster comprehensive progress.

Gender equality stands as a fundamental human right and a linchpin for societal development. Ensuring equal opportunities and rights for all genders is not merely a moral imperative but also an economic necessity. Empowering women economically through equal participation in the workforce and entrepreneurship is a catalyst for overall economic growth.

In tandem with gender equality, sustainable development emerges as a requisite for long-term societal well-being. Sustainable development balances economic, social, and environmental dimensions to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Integrating gender perspectives into sustainable development is imperative, recognizing the unique roles and contributions of women in areas such as resource management and community resilience.

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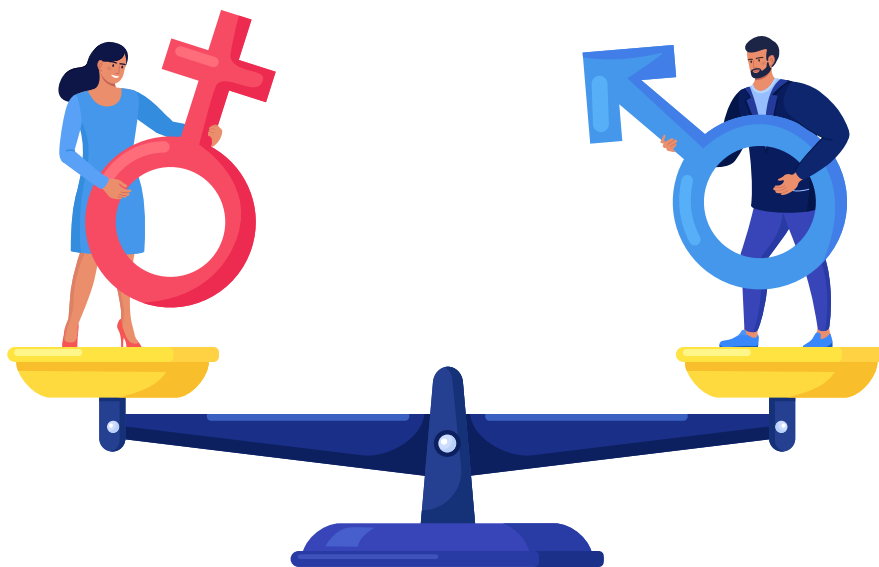


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Trade, as a driver of economic prosperity, is a key player in the global landscape. For trade to be truly effective, it must align with principles of fairness and inclusivity. Women often face barriers in accessing markets and resources, hindering their full participation in trade activities. Crafting trade policies that dismantle such barriers and promote gender-inclusive practices is essential for fostering equitable economic growth.

In the pursuit of sustainability, trade policies must not only consider economic factors but also environmental and social impacts. Responsible trade practices involve promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmentally friendly production methods. Aligning trade with sustainable development goals ensures that economic progress does not come at the cost of social justice or environmental degradation.

Gender equality, sustainable development, and trade are interwoven threads that collectively contribute to the fabric of a progressive and equitable society. To achieve meaningful and lasting advancements, it is imperative to address these elements collaboratively, recognizing their interdependence and the transformative potential that arises when they are treated as integral components of a unified agenda for global betterment.





Gender Equality in the Energy Sector Within the Scope of the European Green Deal

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The transition from a growth strategy that focuses on increasing gross domestic product to a new green growth strategy that promises a fair and prosperous society will only be possible with an approach that focuses on the planet and people. Establishing a people- and planet-focused economic structure, in other words, addressing sustainability holistically for a sustainable future; should be defined as the mutual interaction of environmental, economic, and social development.

Climate crisis, ecological collapse, economic vulnerabilities, and related social problems reveal the need to address sustainability in all its dimensions. "leaving no one behind" or the "Just Transition Principle" has a central role in the transition process defined as green, fair, and competitive, proposed by the European Green Deal, which is the road map of the sustainability ecosystem with its environmental, economic, and social aspects.

When we look at the Just Transition Principle in terms of sustainable development goals, we see that the principle is mostly addressed in the context of SDG 8, "decent work and economic growth", and therefore has a narrow focus. A just transition is not just a matter of the male-dominated population working in these sectors becoming unemployed due to the exit from the male-dominated fossil fuel-based sectors. A just transition, which should be viewed from a broader perspective, should also consider all interactive inequalities (SDG 10), especially gender inequalities (SDG 5).

Women will be disproportionately affected by ecological collapse, economic vulnerabilities, and social problems during the transition period, where not everyone is affected equally. Existing gender roles, power relations that work against women, and their unequal position in accessing resources and opportunities cause the burdens of transition to fall more heavily on women's shoulders. Therefore, the just transition principle envisaged by the Green Deal requires a transformative paradigm that broadly addresses how different individuals, groups, and gender identities affect, and prioritize those who are subjected to systematic exclusion and inequalities. It is essential to mainstream this perspective in all action plans and policies regarding a just transition.

We need a Gender-Sensitive European Green Deal if we want to create a sustainable, durable, and inclusive economy and society in a geography where half of the population is female. Below are some findings that should be considered for the creation of a gender-sensitive European Green Deal in the field of energy:



REVIEWS Cont.

1- Today, in many countries, including the European Union, the majority of those educated in the field of energy are men. The reasons why working hours in the energy sector are not flexible and workplaces do not provide enough training opportunities for women are due to both sexist stereotypes and the lack of an inclusive workplace culture. In addition, women who want to increase energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy or energy-efficient buildings have extremely limited access to financial resources. For economic and social sustainability, regulations regarding financial inclusion, working conditions, and the right to education must be made.

2-In terms of unpaid care work such as child and elderly care, domestic work, and relations with people, household energy consumption is high and almost all these jobs are undertaken by women due to gender inequality. However, it is known that women's energy consumption, especially in transportation, is lower than men. Updating the tax-related legislation should be supported by data-based studies on this subject; The reality of care labor must be considered in taxing energy consumption.

3- Low participation rates of women in policymaking, both in the European Parliament and in the context of energy ministries, prevent the desired transformation from occurring in the male-dominated energy sector. It is extremely important to abandon policies that lack gender sensitivity and to establish a perspective that focuses on women's needs in decision-making processes.

4-Consumers have a central role in the transition to renewable energy. While male dominance is observed in energy production and consumption based on fossil fuels, many interview-based studies show that women have a responsible consumption (prosumer) approach based on household energy production due to their greater ecological sensitivity. Therefore, gender-sensitive prosumer models can be considered as a consumption model in the transition to renewable energy.

5-It seems that women are more affected by energy poverty than men. In addition to being a woman, when other causes of vulnerability such as age and ethnicity are added, the situation of energy poverty deepens. In this context, women who are not homeowners, work part-time, live as single parents, are refugees, immigrants, or disabled, and are not on equal terms with men in terms of wages and retirement income should be supported. However, first, energy poverty must be defined with an understanding that considers its multidimensional structure, including gender.

6-In the process of transforming existing buildings into energy-efficient buildings, many tenants, especially the vulnerable women mentioned above, are forced to leave their homes, rents increase, disadvantaged groups move to suburbs with poor transportation facilities and unhealthy urbanization, and existing inequalities increase. It is seen that especially elderly women who do not own a home and live alone have a higher rate of being evicted by their landlords than elderly men in the same situation. In addition, the fact that the presence of women in the construction sector is lower than that of men results in women not having a say in decision-making processes regarding building renovations.

7-Energy taxation is a form of taxation that affects consumption and investment decisions entirely aimed at combating climate change. Energy taxes are essentially a consumption tax and can create different results depending on the different consumption needs and priorities of men and women. Since taxes to be introduced to reduce the use of fossil fuels at home will affect energy-poor women the most, tax exemptions should be phased out and tax compensatory measures should be taken into consideration. It is extremely important to shape taxes on energy consumption according to gender.

As a result, in the process of updating energy-related legislation and policies, considering the issues of energy production and consumption, energy efficiency, energy saving, renewable energy investments, renovation of buildings, and taxation of energy, as well as the relations between gender, forms the basis of a gender-sensitive European Green Deal and just transition principle.





#NOEXCUSE

STOP VIOLANCE AGAINST WOMEN

Every year on 25 November, the EU marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to renew its commitment to eradicate violence against women and girls in the EU and beyond, and call for action to stand in solidarity with victims and survivors.

Value of EU trade deals surpasses €2 trillion

In 2022, EU trade through free trade agreements surpassed €2 trillion for the first time, with a nearly 30% average growth in trade with the top 20 agreement partners, according to the 3rd Annual Report on EU Trade Policy. The European Commission, collaborating with Member States and businesses, successfully removed over 30 trade barriers in 19 countries over the last five years, unlocking €7 billion in EU exports in 2022 alone. The EU's network of trade agreements, covering 74 countries and accounting for 44% of all EU trade, outpaced trade with other partners. Trade agreements played a pivotal role in fostering economic growth, resilient supply chains, and diversification.

Notably, exports in pharmaceuticals to Vietnam rose by 152%, cars and parts to South Korea by 217%, meat to Canada by 136%, and EU services' exports to Canada by 54%. These agreements also made EU exports more resilient by offsetting losses with a surge of €174 billion in exports of sanctioned goods to preferential partners, compensating for a €27 billion decline in exports to Russia. Additionally, efforts to secure access to critical raw materials and reduce over-dependence on a single country, as seen in the EU-Canada (CETA) agreement, contributed to the EU's strategy for economic transformation.

[For more detail](#)



EU calls for accelerated emissions reductions and clean energy transition at COP28

At the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference starting on 1 December in Dubai, the European Union called on all Parties to take urgent action to bring down greenhouse gas emissions this decade and respect the commitments they made under the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to below 2°C, and to aim for 1.5°C.

Commissioner for Climate Action Wopke Hoekstra lead the EU negotiating team in the formal decision-making process of COP28. COP28 marked the culmination of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, a moment for all Parties to examine the progress made and the necessary actions to correct our course towards a safer climate and uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement. The EU encouraged all partners to agree to global energy goals that seek to accelerate the phaseout of unabated fossil fuels, as part of increasing global ambition on climate change mitigation. The Global Stocktake must also set the clear expectation that Parties will immediately begin work on post-2030 targets (NDCs) and that these represent economy-wide reductions in all greenhouse gases consistent with avoiding a 1.5°C temperature rise and a net-zero global economy by mid-century.

[For more detail](#)

DG Okonjo-Iweala: We need to use every weapon in our arsenal to fight the climate crisis

Speaking at the launch of “Trade Day” at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, DG Okonjo-Iweala stressed this thematic day should inspire world leaders to make fuller use of trade as part of the climate action toolkit. DG Okonjo-Iweala highlighted that the international community remains well short of the Paris Agreement targets. She said that the trillions of dollars of low-carbon investments needed to achieve those targets are now facing higher borrowing costs. She referred to the 10-point set of “Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action”, the new WTO publication launched on 2 December that explores how integrating trade policy options, such as reviewing import tariffs on low-carbon solutions, into national strategies can help economies mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its consequences.

“We hope that you find it useful as we move towards dealing with this existential threat that is climate change,” she said. For the first time, trade was featured as a specific theme at COP. Throughout the Conference, a Trade House hosted in-depth discussions on how trade and trade policies can help address different aspects of the climate challenge. The pavilion was hosted by the WTO, ICC, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (ITC).



[For more detail](#)

Silver Bullet for Meaningful Climate Action

The crises the world faces - access to energy, climate change, food insecurity, health - have a greater impact on vulnerable populations. These crises are also deepening the gaps between women and men. In developing countries, the impacts on women and girls are felt more acutely. At the current rate, it will take 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and 169 years to achieve gender equality in economic participation and opportunities (Deininger & Canagarajah, 2023). European experts : "Humans will land on Mars before we reach full gender equality in the EU" (EIGE, 2023). As is well known, the climate crisis is not "gender neutral". Women in poor and rural communities are at the forefront of experiencing the worst impacts of climate change. In low- and middle-income countries, women create employment in the agricultural sector. During periods of drought and erratic rainfall, women work harder to provide income and resources.

This in turn increases the pressure on girls who drop out of school to help their mothers to reduce the increased burden. In addition, women are disproportionately affected by natural disasters. In the 1991 cyclone disaster in Bangladesh, 90 % of the 140,000 people killed were women. During Hurricane Katrina in the United States, the majority of people stranded in New Orleans when the hurricane hit were Black women and their children, the poorest demographic group in New Orleans (Woo Ji, 2023). Globally, women aged 25-34 are 25 % more likely to live in extreme poverty than men. Women make up 43% of the global agricultural labour force and women and girls account for 60-80% of global food production. Despite this, women constitute only 15 % of agricultural land owners. These linkages show that social inclusion and climate action cannot be considered in isolation from each other.

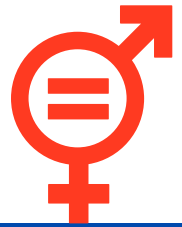
The facts show that action must be taken. For example, the Canada-China Cooperation on Climate Change (C5) Project, funded by the Canadian Climate Change Development Fund (CCCDF) and managed by CIDA, aims to empower women in China to actively participate in climate change-related policies and programmes. Specific objectives include raising awareness of gender inequalities, developing analytical capacity on gender equality issues, setting targets for male/female participation (with the expectation of a minimum 30 % female participation), and increasing the awareness, skills, confidence and motivation of women working on climate change. In parallel, CIDA funded the Canada-China Co-operation Project on Cleaner Production, targeting emissions in various industries. This initiative, which included training for women in technical roles, led to the establishment of the Women and Environment Network (WEN) and demonstrated the proactive involvement of women in the implementation of cleaner production techniques and environmental initiatives. Canada-China Cooperation on Climate Change Project exemplify the importance of empowering women in climate action, recognizing the vital role they play in sustainable development. To forge a meaningful path forward, it is imperative to integrate gender perspectives into policies, foster awareness, and ensure active female participation across all sectors.

Unveiling the Journey towards Gender Equality: A Spotlight on SDG 5

As the world evolves and becomes more aware, gender equality has become an important aspect of our lives. Women and girls are among the groups affected by many global crises, particularly in the climate, health, economic and social spheres. Not only are millions of women and girls losing economic access and opportunities, but these changes are having far-reaching impacts on the global economy. To mitigate this impact, integrate women and girls into society, increase their education and income levels, and ensure prosperity and social justice for them, the United Nations has set "Gender Equality" as the fifth Sustainable Development Goal for the target year 2030. This fifth goal is important for achieving the other Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular, to understand the relationship between gender and the environment, it is necessary to recognize how gender equality and women's empowerment can positively impact the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. The intertwined nature of environmental challenges and gender inequality, emphasizing that slow progress in environmental goals has distinct impacts on women and men. Also, climate change and environmental disasters often disproportionately affect women due to existing socio-cultural gender disparities and power imbalances. The degree of vulnerability varies among women, influenced by the level of gender inequality they face and other contributing factors.

The acknowledgement of these connections between gender disparity and environmental degradation suggests that addressing both issues simultaneously can expedite positive outcomes and contribute to sustainable development. According to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2023 Report, with only seven years to go, only 15.4 percent of the Goal 5 indicators with data are "on track", 61.5 percent are "somewhat off track" and 23.1 percent are "very or very far" from the 2030 targets. National and local cooperation is important for achieving many goals, such as "Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere", "Ensure women's full and effective participation in decision-making processes of political, economic and social life and equal opportunities for women to be leaders in decision-making mechanisms at all levels", "Adopt and strengthen sound policies and legally enforceable legislation to advance gender equality and empower women and girls at all levels". Gender equality is an universal goal that must be prioritized in national policies, finances, and institutions.



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WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR?



Within the scope of the module, from **Trakia University Stara Zagora, Bulgaria Faculty of Economics, Georgi Aleksiev, PhD and Assist. Prof. Emil Mutafov, PhD** met with students with the title **"Green Procurement Policies And International Trade & Green Supply Chain Management In The Green Deal Context"**.

We focused on green procurement, logistics management, and the purpose and benefits of a green supply chain during the course. We have examined the contribution of green product lifecycle management to reverse logistics and the circular economy. We discussed about how green marketing can help to overcome internal and external hurdles to green procurement.



CALL FOR PAPER ANNOUNCEMENT

In the face of escalating environmental challenges and the urgent need for global cooperation, the concept of the Green Deal has emerged as a transformative framework for achieving sustainable development. This holistic approach encompasses environmental protection, economic growth, and social equity.

Türkiye, a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, holds a pivotal position for advancing sustainable trade practices and contributing to the success of the Green Deal. The "International Conference on Sustainable Development and Trade" aims to explore the interplay between the Green Deal, Sustainable Trade, and Türkiye's Integration into these processes.

This paper call has made in the Jean Monnet Module - EU project call titled "Green Deal, Sustainable Trade and Türkiye's Integration". Publications will be published as part of this Europe project.

For more detailed information: you can visit eutrade.medipol.edu.tr



THEMES

- ✓ The European Green Deal: A Comprehensive Overview
- ✓ Türkiye's Green Transformation: Progress and Prospects
- ✓ Sustainable Trade and Global Supply Chains: Opportunities and Challenges
- ✓ The Green Deal and Its Implications to Türkiye
- ✓ Sustainable Trade Practices
- ✓ Türkiye's Green Deal Integration and Role in Sustainable Development
- ✓ Green Deal
- ✓ Sustainable Trade
- ✓ Innovation and Technology for Sustainability

IMPORTANT DATES

1st January, 2024
Abstract submission

15th January, 2024
Paper Acceptance Notification

31th March, 2024
Full Paper Deadline

Organized by

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SUBMISSION



Full papers that are evaluated and deemed suitable for publication will be published in the Journal of International Trade, Logistics and Law.

For Submission

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