



# International Trade and Midwifery

Current changes in the profession in  
a globalised environment

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## Outline

- A globalised trading environment (WTO / GATS)
- International Agreement with Europe (EPA)
- Negotiations with Canada
- Potential threat to local health care system
- Policy and planning
- Education, Training and Development
- Employment and utilization
- The role TTCSI
- Way forward TTAM and TTCSI projects





# International Agreement relevant to Health Services in Trinidad and Tobago

- GATS
- EPA
- Canada / CARICOM





# WTO: purposes

- To assist the free flow of trade by facilitating the removal of trade tariffs or other border restrictions on the import and export of goods and services
  - Multilateral trade agreements
- To serve as a forum for trade negotiations
  - Most favoured nation clause
  - National treatment clause
  - exceptions: poor countries
- To settle trade disputes based upon an agreed legal foundation





## Scope of GATS

- 153 countries (all WTO members)
- Any sector (160) in any service except:
  - Services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority (fire, police, ...)
  - Air Traffic regulations





# Key principles

- Non discrimination
  - Most Favoured Nation Treatment (MFNT): applies to all countries that signed GATS
  - National Treatment (NT): applies only to those sectors for which commitments are made
- Market access (6 quantitative limitations) Transparency: all regulations accessible and open to appeal
- Temporary exemption: to MFN and NT i.e., on short-term economic crises
- Lock-in effect: once a commitment is made, it is very difficult to withdraw it



## Types of commitments

- Medical & dental
- Hospital
- Nursing & Midwifery
- Others

Modes            1            2            3            4

- Market access
- National Treatment



## Modes of trade

MODE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<b>Mode 1</b> <b>Cross-border trade</b>	Trade takes place from the territory of country A into that of B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Telehealth</li> <li>- Passing of information by means of fax or email</li> </ul>
<b>Mode 2</b> <b>Consumption abroad</b>	Services consumed by nationals of country A in territory of country B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tourism</li> <li>- Consumers who cross borders to obtain medical treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Mode 3</b> <b>Commercial presence</b>	A service supplier of country A crosses the border to establish and provide a service in country B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a private hospital by a European company in Ecuador</li> </ul>
<b>Mode 4</b> <b>Movement of natural persons</b>	Temporary movement from country A to B to supply a service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Doctors moving to another country to temporarily provide their services</li> </ul>



## Future negotiations (WTO)

- To extend the number and extent of commitments made
- To remove existing limitations on current commitments
- To bind commitments so that they cannot be reversed



# Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

- Comprehensive agreement covering bilateral trade and investment relationship
- Trade in Goods (tariffs, origin, agriculture, etc.)
- Services, Investment, E-commerce
- Trade related issues (sustainable development, procurement, innovation, etc.)
- Dispute settlement & institutional provisions

# Rules on Services

1. Mainly GATS approach
2. National Treatment, MFN
3. Similar exclusions of sectors as investment chapter
4. Mutual recognition of qualifications
5. Special categories of natural persons for temporary entry:
  - Key personnel (managers, specialists) & graduate trainees
  - Business services sellers
  - Contractual services suppliers
  - Independent professionals
  - Short term visitors for business purposes



# Temporary entry access for CF Contractual Service Suppliers (CSS) in 29 sectors in EU

1. Legal advisory services in respect of international public law and foreign law
2. Accounting and bookkeeping services
3. Taxation advisory services
4. Architectural services
5. Urban planning and landscape architecture services
6. Engineering services
7. Integrated Engineering services
8. Medical and dental services
9. Veterinary services

## 10. Midwives services

11. Services provided by nurses, physiotherapists and paramedical personnel
12. Computer and related services
13. Research and development services
27. Advertising services
28. Market Research and Opinion Polling
29. Management consulting services
30. Services related to management consulting
31. Technical testing and analysis services
32. Related scientific and technical consulting services
33. Maintenance and repair of equipment
34. Chef de cuisine services
35. Fashion model services
36. Translation and interpretation services
37. Site investigation work
38. Higher education services (only privately-funded services)
39. Environmental services
40. Travel agencies and tour operators' services
41. Tourist guides services
42. Entertainment services other than audiovisual services





# EPA Schedule: EC Health Sector

Midwives Services (CPC 93191)	Description of reservations
<b>Commercial Presence (Annex 4.I)</b>	BG, FI, MT, SI: Unbound FR: While other types of legal form are available for EC investors, foreign investors only have access to the legal forms of "société d'exercice libéral" and "société civile professionnelle". LT: Economic needs test may be applied. Main criteria: employment situation in the sub-sector
<b>Cross-border supply (Annex 4.II)</b>	<b>For Mode 1:</b> AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK: Unbound FI, PL: Unbound except for nurses <b>For Mode 2:</b> None
<b>Key personnel &amp; graduate trainees (Annex 4.III)</b>	AT: In order to establish a professional practice in Austria, the person concerned must have practised the profession in question at least three years preceding the setting up of that professional practice BE, LU: For graduate trainees, authorisation by the competent authorities required for foreign natural persons CZ, CY, EE, RO, SK: Authorisation by the competent authorities required for foreign natural persons FR: Condition of nationality. However, access is possible within annually established quotas HU: Nationality condition IT: Residence requirement LV: Economic needs determined by the total number of midwives in the given region, authorized by local health authorities PL: Nationality condition. Foreign persons may apply for permission to practise
<b>CSS &amp; IPs (Annex 4.IV)</b>	For Mode 1 AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK: Unbound FI, PL: Unbound except for nurses For Mode 2 None



# EPA Schedule: Cariforum Health Sector

Midwifery Services (CPC 93191)	Limitations on <a href="#">market access</a>	Limitations on <a href="#">national treatment</a>
<p><b>ATG, BEL, DMA, DOM, GUY, GRD, JAM, KNA, LCA, VCT, SUR, TTO</b></p> <p><b>BRB (CPC 93110 only)</b></p>	<p><i>BRB, DMA, DOM, GRD, JAM, VCT, SUR, TTO: 1), 2), None</i></p> <p><i>ATG, KNA: 1) Unbound; 2) None</i></p> <p><i>DMA: 3) Unbound. None from 1 January 2018</i></p> <p><i>ATG, BRB, GRD, KNA, TTO:3) Unbound</i></p> <p><i>DOM, JAM: 3) None</i></p> <p><i>VCT: 3) Unbound. None from 1 January 2020</i></p> <p><i>SUR (Services provided by midwives and nurses): 3) None</i></p> <p><i>ATG, BRB, DMA, DOM, GRD, JAM, KNA, VCT, SUR, TTO: 4) Unbound except as indicated in the horizontal commitments</i></p>	<p><i>BRB, DMA, DOM, GRD, JAM, SUR, VCT, TTO: 1), 2), None</i></p> <p><i>ATG, KNA: 1) Unbound; 2), 3) None</i></p> <p><i>DMA: 3) Unbound except as indicated in the horizontal commitments</i></p> <p><i>BRB, DOM, GRD, JAM, VCT, SUR, TTO: 3) None</i></p>



# CARICOM / CANADA

- CARICOM and Canadian Heads of Government agreed during the Sixth Canada-CARICOM Summit in January 2001 in Jamaica to begin exploratory work on a Free Trade Agreement.
- First Round of the CARICOM-Canada Trade Negotiations commenced on November 10, 2009.
- Discussions held on issues regarding Market Access of agricultural and industrial goods; Services, Investment; Institutional Issues and Dispute Settlement.
- Canada recognized that the provisions in the Agreement should reflect the differences in development between CARICOM and Canada, as well as the differences in development between the CARICOM Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and the CARICOM More Developed Countries (MDCs).



# Potential threats to health care systems

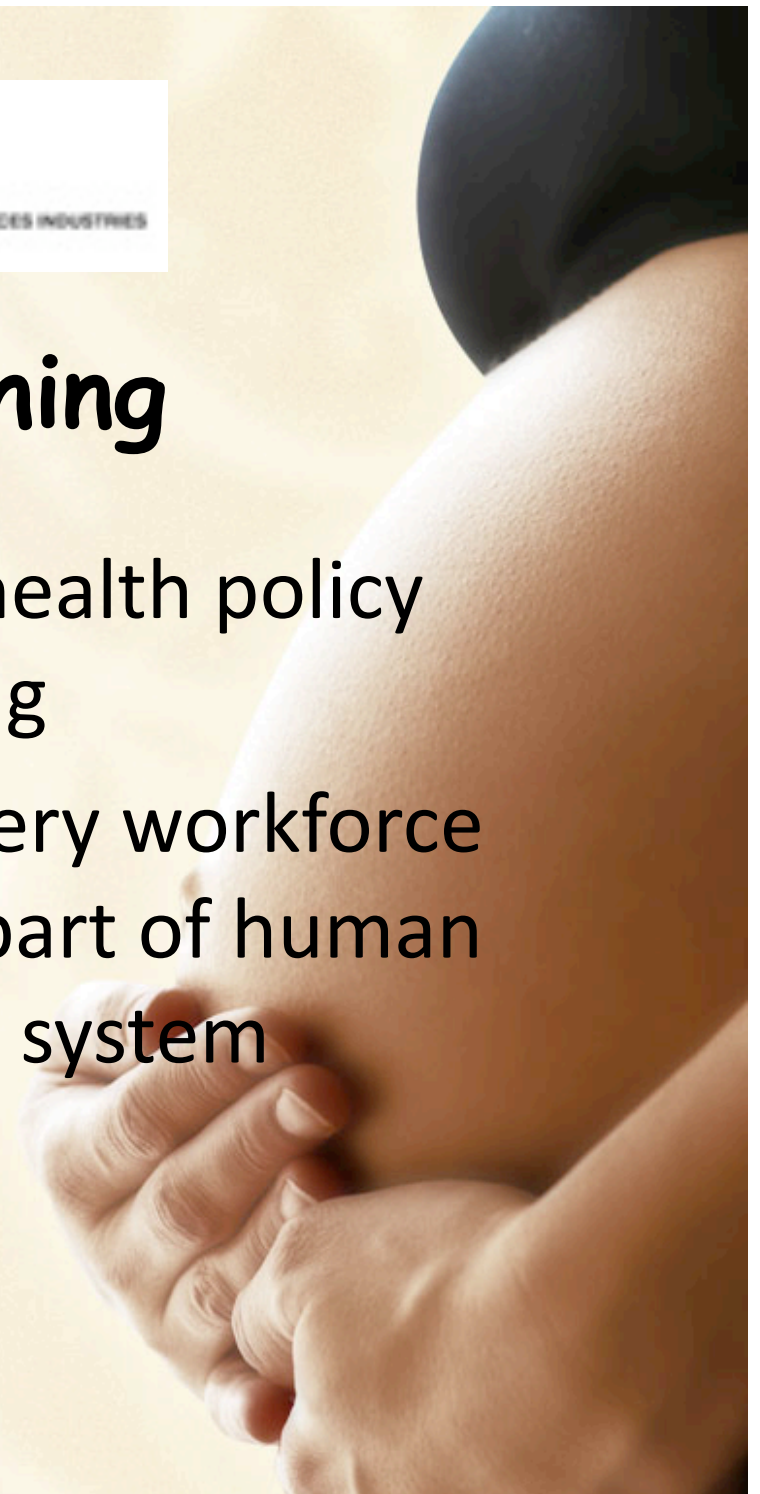
- Increase of the “cream skimming” practice by private sector
  - favours healthy and wealthy (↑ inequalities)
  - draw personnel away from public health services
  - ↓ support for universal public health programs
- Undermines public health systems denying the basic principles of cross-subsidisation and risk pooling
- Risk of domination by transnational corporations to the exclusion of domestic development
- Risks migration of workers to developed countries





## Policy and Planning

- Involvement of Midwives in health policy formula and program planning
- Strategic planning for midwifery workforce management as an integral part of human resource planning and health system development
- Financing





# Education, Training and Development

- Coordination between education and service
- Student recruitment
- Complementary-based education
- Multi-disciplinary learning
- Lifelong learning culture
- Continuing education system





# Employment and Utilization

- Appropriate skill and competencies
- Relevant nursing and midwifery infrastructure
- Effective leadership, entrepreneurship and management
- Good working conditions and efficiently organized work
- Career advancement opportunities
- Incentive systems
- Job satisfaction





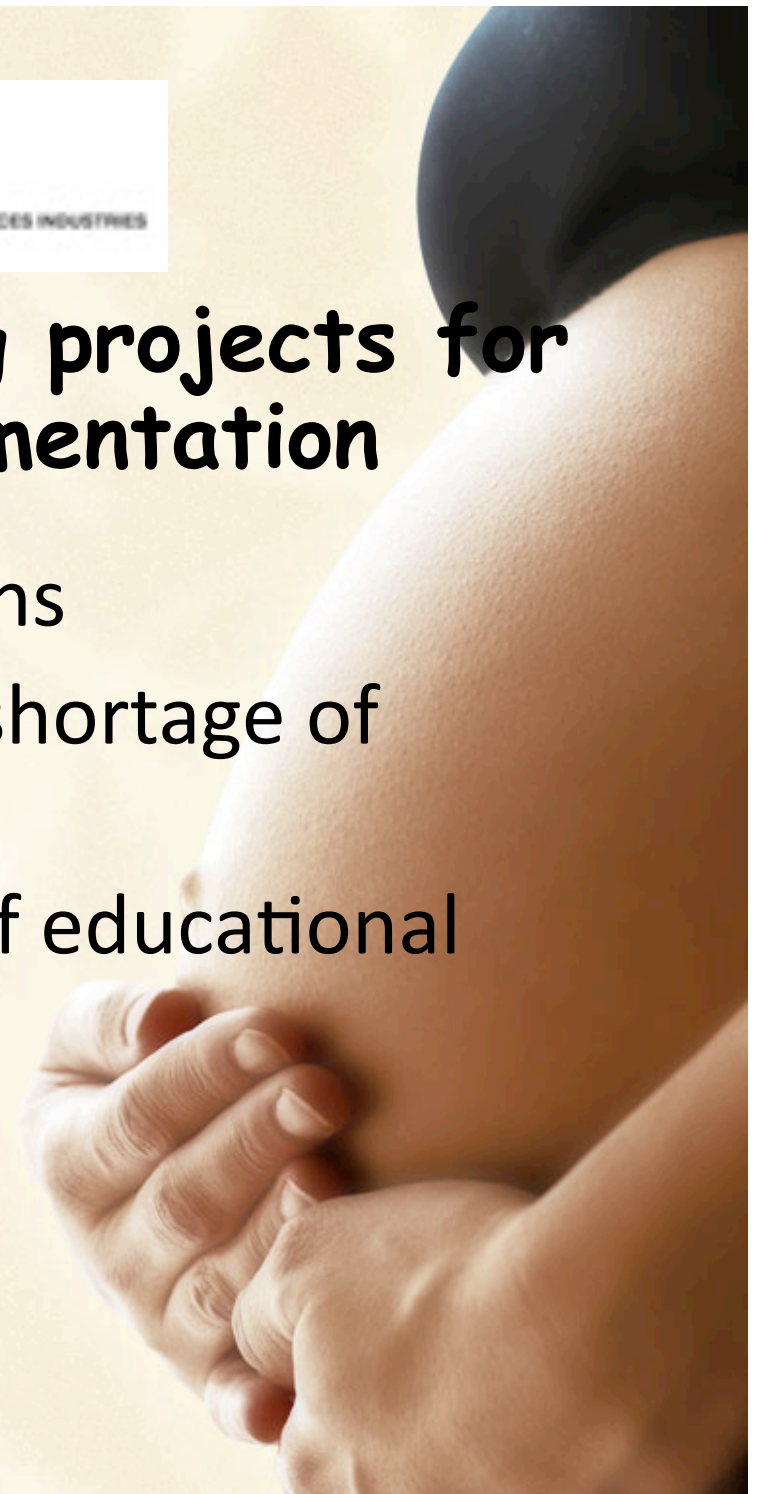
# The role of the TTCSI

- Umbrella organization –non-governmental, business support organization established
- The voice off 27 professional services associations (70 % of sector)
- Identify and exploit market opportunities
- Lobbies government and international agencies on behalf of services providers;
- Develops capacity among local services providers;
- Assists in the development of standards and certification to facilitate access into foreign markets
- Ensures that member interests are represented in trade negotiations.



## **TTAM / TTCSI upcoming projects for discussion and implementation**

- Caricom / Canada Negotiations
- Develop projects to address shortage of midwives
- Lobbying for Strengthening of educational system
- Recruitment campaign
- Others





“In every Country where I have seen real progress in maternity care, it was women’s group working with midwives that made the difference.”

Marsen Wagner MA MSPH



*THANK YOU...*