

# CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE

## TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

### Multinational Firms and Gender Equality



**Proposed Title:** Multinational Firms and the Global Transmission of Gender Policy and Practice

**Guest Editor:** Jennifer Poole (American University, Washington DC)

A long and well-established literature exists on the role of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in transferring technology around the globe, enhancing local productivity. Alongside the purely economic implications of foreign investment, transnational corporations are increasingly expected to maintain social and environmental responsibility and standards. The idea that cross-border investment spreads cultural norms and practice has received widespread attention among sociologists—for example, there is strong anecdotal evidence of multinationals spreading high-quality health standards and customer service. However, little econometric work exists largely due to data constraints. Importantly, we know very little about the impacts of foreign direct investment and multinational enterprises on gender policies and practice.

In this special issue, *we focus on the role of multinational firms in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality across the world.* The special issue will cover topics including (but not limited to) the following areas:

1. cross-country differences in legal frameworks and policies related to women's employment and empowerment
2. the role and effects of gender provisions in trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties
3. theoretical links between foreign investment and gender equality
4. firm-level differences in gender practice across domestic and foreign-owned affiliates
5. micro-evidence on the ability of multinationals to promote women empowerment
6. empirical evidence on the mechanisms (e.g., technological change, supply chains, worker mobility) causing changes in employment practice of women by MNEs

An important criterion for article selection will be the relevance of the findings for MNEs, policy discussions and recommendations, the practical concerns of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, and communities engaging with these practices.

**Length of contributions:** Between 5000–8000 words

**Submission deadline:** March 31, 2020

**Special issue to be published in December 2020**

Submissions should be sent to: [tncj@unctad.org](mailto:tncj@unctad.org)

Home page: <http://unctad.org/tnc>

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**Additional questions regarding this special issue  
and submissions can be sent to**

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