

BACKGROUND

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International) has been working out of its offices in India, since 1983. It started as a consumer rights group working on local issues but has graduated over the years into an international civil society organisation (CSO) having implemented projects combining research, policy advocacy and capacity building in various parts of the world including Asia and Africa.

The establishment of CUTS Nairobi in 2003 was aimed to consolidate and expand CUTS activities on international trade, competition policy, sectoral regulation and consumer protection in the East African region. This Centre was conceived to enable sharing lessons and expertise on issues between Asia and eastern Africa, given Nairobi's strategic location and visibility in the international circuit.



5th National Reference Group meeting of PACT EAC project, in Nairobi, March 04, 2014

ABOUT THE CENTRE

CUTS Nairobi has been envisaged to function as a resource centre for research analysis, advocacy, networking and capacity building activities by CUTS International and its partners in the region. CUTS Nairobi works closely with partner institutions in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, among others. Nairobi also aims at facilitating a close and beneficial relationship between CSOs and other key stakeholders in the region including the business community, regulators, government departments and regional authorities.

OBJECTIVES

- Act as a resource centre for information and knowledge on trade and development, competition, consumer protection, governance, investment and regulatory issues;
- Build local, national, and regional capacities of multiple stakeholders on various elements of trade, regulation and governance;
- Promote greater South-South civil society cooperation on trade and sustainable development; and
- Undertake research-based advocacy and capacity building at the national, regional and international levels.

MODUS OPERANDI

CUTS mode of operation follows an integrated model called RAN (Research, Advocacy, Networking and Capacity Building) and forms the basis for every project and partnership. The organisation relies heavily on building local capacity on trade and sustainable development issues to achieve lasting impacts.

The organisation uses the following methods for implementing its activities:

- Policy Research
- Capacity Building and Advocacy
- Issue-based Networking
- Information Dissemination and Outreach

Richard Sezibera, EAC Secretary General delivering CUTS 30th Anniversary Lecture in Nairobi on August 19, 2013



Launch of REKETA Project in Tanzania on May 24, 2013

PROGRAMME AREAS

- Trade and Development
- Regional Integration
- Competition and Economic Regulation
- Consumer Protection and Governance

PROJECTS

Completed & Ongoing

- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)
- Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)
- Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)
- Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)
- Regulatory Reforms in the Electricity Sector through Capacity Building: A Case of Kenya and Tanzania (REKETA)
- Accelerating Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law (EACOMP)
- Empowering Marginalised Community Groups for Inclusive Governance in Kenya's Health Service Delivery (EMACIGHES)
- China-UK-Africa Trade

Forthcoming

- Consumer Rights Empowerment for Democratic Governance in Kenya
- Strengthening and Widening Civil Society Collaboration in the EAC Trade Policy Issues
- Public-Private Dialogue on Trade Facilitation Reforms in the EAC
- Linking Policy with Grassroots for Livelihood Protection in Climate-affected Communities

- Competition Concerns in the Logistics Sector in the EAC and Impacts thereof
- SMEs Development in Selected Counties of Kenya

ACHIEVEMENTS

- First ever Consumer Status Report for Kenya in 2012
- Established an active network of CSOs in the East African region on trade and economic policy
- Closely involved in the development of the Competition Act 2009 and Consumer Protection Act 2012 of Kenya
- Bridging the gap between other CSOs and government
- Cooperation with the EAC Secretariat through MoU
- Participation in various committees of the government and regulatory agencies in Kenya
- Training on Trade, Competition and Consumer issues for state and non-state actors

PUBLICATIONS

- Harnessing Small Scale Farmers' Potential in Kenya
- State of the Kenyan Consumer 2012
- What Will East Africans Eat in 2040? Who Will Produce the Food and How?
- Unshackling the Growth of Kenyan SMEs
- A Changing Global Order: Eastern African Perspective
- Bridging the Gap: Towards a Conducive Policy Framework for Socio-Economic Development in Kenya
- Beyond Rhetoric: Ensuring EPAs Deliver on Development

Tradequity

A free quarterly newsletter which covers news and analysis on trade and sustainable development issues relevant for African countries key stakeholders and scholars with interest in Africa countries.



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Participants at a Seminar in Nairobi, 2005

OUR PARTNERS



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CUTS Nairobi



To function as a resource, coordination as well as networking Centre to promote South-South cooperation for sustainable and people-centred economic development.