



EVENTS

Preparations Towards the WTO Ministerial Conference: *Perceptions from Kenya*

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) in partnership with CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi is implementing a new project entitled 'Promoting Agriculture, Climate Change and Trade in East Africa'. As part of the project, CUTS ARC, Nairobi prepared a short country update note titled 'Preparations towards the WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011: Perceptions from Kenya' the objective of the note were to:

- identify potential areas of interest for Kenya in the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva on December 15-17, 2011;
- identify ways in which national stakeholders are consulted in the preparations towards the Ministerial Conference; and
- gather perceptions from Kenyan society regarding the preparations for the 8th Ministerial Conference.



↳ Participants at the EAC Geneva Forum

In order to meet these objectives, CUTS conducted a number of interviews with key experts and stakeholders to input towards the preparations of the 8th WTO Ministerial in Geneva. The report was discussed in the first EAC Geneva forum held in Geneva on the sides of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference on December 14, 2011.

www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/EAC_Geneva_Forum-First_Kenya_Note.pdf

Preparations Towards the WTO Ministerial Conference: *Perceptions From East Africa*

The regional update note prepared by CUTS ARC Nairobi was a synthesis of all the five EAC Country Update Notes that were conducted in collaboration with PACT-EAC Country Partners. The partners included Agency for Cooperation and Development, ACORD (Rwanda), ADIR (Burundi), Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and Southern and Eastern Africa Trade and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI).

www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/EAC_Geneva_Forum-First_Regional_Note.pdf

The inaugural EAC Geneva Forum meeting under the PACT EAC project was held on December 14, 2011; in attendance were project partners, government representative and delegates from the EAC Member States, as well as a representative of the EAC Secretariat. The main agenda was the presentation of country update noted on the WTO Ministerial Conference and exchange of ideas among participants.

www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/EAC_Geneva_Forum-REPORT.pdf

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2nd Call for World Competition Day

This day was commemorated in form of a press briefing. It was jointly organised by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and CUTS International Lusaka. CCPC and CUTS decided to date the media from an understanding that these are stakeholders that mold the opinion of citizens; and a mindset molded on pro-competition reforms and ant cartels, is the recipe that Zambia needs.



Ambassador Love Mtesa, Board Chairman CUTS Lusaka and Vice Board Chairman for the CCPC Commissioner Akapelwa Simomo

Better Exploration of Trade as a Means of Poverty Reduction

CUTS International Lusaka is implementing an Aid for Trade (Enhanced Integrated Framework) project entitled 'Better Exploration of Trade as a Means of Poverty Reduction' (BETAMPOR). The objective of the project is to build capacity of state and non state actors (especially at the grassroots) in order to strengthen and influence participation in the EIF process thus helping promote the utilisation and ownership of the process.

In line with this objective, the Centre hold a sensitisation workshop in the southern part of Zambia (Livingstone in particular). Southern province is known of its agriculture and tourism potential and in line with these endowments the workshop was held to build/develop the capacity of especially grassroot players (organisations) to effectively and sustainably collaborate in the formulation and implementation of the EIF agenda and be able to engage in the complex trade arena.

Research

- The Centre in producing a newsletter highlighting trade and Aid for Trade (Aft) related issues. Key dignitaries featured in the newsletter include the Former Finnish Ambassador to Zambia, Sinikka Antila, and former Zambian Ambassador to Brussels and WTO Love Mtesa.
- Other forthcoming developments include the unveiling of a research looking at the current implementation of Aft in Zambia from the country's development point of view.

Facilitating Equitable Agricultural Development in sub-Saharan Africa (FEAD)

CUTS ARC, Nairobi in partnership with CUTS Geneva is undertaking a project entitled "Facilitating Equitable Agricultural Development in Africa" with support from William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of the US.

The project undertakes policy-oriented research and targeted advocacy, supported and strengthened through national and international networks. It aims to address the research and analysis gaps pertaining to the identification of causes, and the solutions, to the lack of a policy and practice environment in project countries that can encourage private sector investment in agriculture while ensuring that the subsistence and small farmers benefit from such investment. Similarly, it strives to deal with advocacy gaps that mainly arise due to limited understanding of relevant issues and minimal interaction between private sector and farmers' organisations.



Participants at the Validation Workshop in Nairobi on October 17, 2011

The long term objectives of this project are to develop an enabling environment for private sector led and farmer-friendly agricultural development, as well as to strengthen the grassroots links of CUTS in Africa that will enable it to be a sustained and strong pro trade, pro equity credible Southern NGO voice in Geneva.

A validation workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya on October 17, 2011 to validate the first draft of the research and the global studies.

NEW PROJECTS

Hands off the Land

CUTS International Lusaka is implementing a research-based project funded by the European Commission (EC), entitled 'Hands off the Land'. The project aims at raising public awareness especially in four countries Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Poland and the target groups are the general public, journalists, social justice activists.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a better compliance by European and home states regarding the promotion and protection of Human Rights to Adequate Food and Water as defined in the General Comment No. 12 and 15 in the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Cambodia and Colombia, especially in relation to large-scale investment in land and agricultural policies. The duration of the project is of three years.

New PACT EAC Project Launched!

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre, and CUTS ARC Nairobi with substantive support from other partner organisations in the EAC region implemented a project entitled "Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade linkages in the East African Community" (PACT EAC). It commenced on September 01, 2011 and will conclude on August 31, 2014.

PACT EAC consists of two separate but synergetic segments for human and institutional capacity building of EAC stakeholders to take better advantage of international trade for their growth and development and poverty reduction, particularly in the context of climate change. Two segments focus on issues related to trade-climate change-food security linkages and WTO discussions/negotiations respectively. Through research-based advocacy and networking and by linking grassroots with Geneva, the project seeks to assist EAC stakeholders in better understanding and dealing with the critical challenges of climate change, food security and effective participation in the multilateral trading system.

An Info-Cocktail was organised to brief the EAC Missions representatives and other CUTS International Geneva collaborators about the PACT EAC project in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 20, 2011.

REPRESENTATIONS

Phanuel Mweene attended a workshop on Integrated Border Management (IBM) organised by Southern Africa Trade Hub (SATH) under the auspice of Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), in Lusaka on November 16, 2011.

Lee Haamunji attended an economic literacy and budget accountability for Governance Training Course, organised by Action Aid at Fringilla Lodge in Chisamba on October 09-21, 2011.

Samson Awino, as a session discussant, attended a high level meeting on "New actors in Africa, how is their entry affecting the continents relations with the EU" organised by South African Institute of International Affairs and European Centre for Development Policy and Management (ECDPM) in Johannesburg, South Africa on October 12, 2011.

Victor Ogalo and **Fredrick Njehu** attended a Regional Consultative Dialogue on Foreign Direct Investment in Agriculture organised by East African Legislative Assembly, East African Community and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Nairobi Kenya, on October 21-22, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

- Boosting Development in Kenya: Better Participation of Smallholders in Agri-Business
www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/PB1-Kenya_Policy_Brief.pdf
- EAC-EU Trade Negotiations: Bringing Equitable Agriculture Development to the Forefront
www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/PB5-EPAs_Policy_Brief.pdf
- Sowing Multilaterally, Reaping Locally: Can the WTO Promote Equitable Agriculture Development in the East African Community?
www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/PB4-WTO_Policy_Brief.pdf
- Equitable Development through Agriculture: Policy Options for Tanzania
www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/PB3-Tanzania_Policy_Brief.pdf
- Towards Equitable Agriculture Development in Uganda: A Look at the Terms of Trade amongst Stakeholders
www.cuts-grc.org/pdf/PB2-Uganda_Policy_Brief.pdf



CUTS Calls for Review Foreign Investment Incentives

Daily Mail, Zambia, December 28, 2011

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International Zambia has urged government to review incentives given to foreign firms to accrue increased revenue. It also said government should consider increasing the mineral royalty tax to 10 percent, in line with other countries in the region. Love Mtesa of CUTS observed that for a long time, government has been giving 'very' generous incentives to foreign companies, hence the need to revisit them.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-CUTS_calls_for_review_foreign_investment_incentives.htm

Mtesa Lauds PF's 90 Days in Govt

The Post, Zambia, December 27, 2011

The PF government has given Zambians a sigh of relief in the proposals and changes made so far, says Ambassador Love Mtesa. Reviewing 2011, Ambassador Mtesa said the past one year had been special in Zambia's history both economically and politically, adding that the Patriotic Front government should be commended for some of the changes affected since ascending to power in September. He said changes in mining taxation, Pay As You Earn, among others, had given Zambians some relief.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Mtesa_lauds_PFs_90_days_in_govt.htm

CUTS Urges Commitment to LCDs Development

Business News, December 15, 2011

World trade ministers must re-affirm their individual and collective commitment to the multilateral trading system and to the Doha Development Agenda in order to share prosperity in the face of global economic crisis, says CUTS. The WTO is holding its 8th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, aimed at resolving global trade disparities such as duty quotas, tariffs and subsidies.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-CUTS_International_urges_commitment_to_LCDs_development.htm

Introduce Prescription Drug Audits

Daily Mail, Zambia, November 10, 2011

CUTS has advised government to introduce "prescription drug audits" to monitor and restrict the use of medicine by health practitioners and pharmaceuticals. Simon Ng'ona of CUTS said the prescription drug audit is important because it will help consumers from being at the receiving end of the misuse of drugs by medical practitioners.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Introduce_prescription_drug_audits-CUTS.htm

Zambia to Invest More on Consumer Protection

Consumer Diaries, October 15, 2011

Simon Ng'ona

If Zambia is to harness enlargement in economic activities, government should invest more in consumer protection related activities, particularly in institutions that are mandated to enforce consumer protection laws. Effective consumer protection is an essential element to the well functioning of the economy as a whole.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Zambian_Government_Should_Invest_More_In_Consumer_Protection_Measures.htm

Finance Bank Sale Lacked Competition

Zambia Daily Mail, October 03, 2011

CUTS says the handling of Finance Bank sale by the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) was not in the interest of competition. CUTS chairman Love Mtesa said the sale of Finance Bank to First National Bank (FNB) raises a number of questions and uncertainty.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Finance_Bank_Sale_Lacked_Competition.htm

Fingers Must Burn Over Zamtel Sale

The Post Online, November 28, 2011

Fingers must burn over the fraudulent sale of Zamtel, says Ambassador Love Mtesa. He called for the repossession of Zamtel and prosecution of all those involved in the fraudulent sale of the country's largest telecommunication company. He said no stone should be left unturned over the fraudulent sale of Zamtel and people that were involved should be made to pay.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Fingers_must_burn_over_Zamtel_sale_says_Mtesa.htm

Sweeping of ICT Substandard Products by ZICTA Welcome

Consumer Diaries, November 04, 2011

The pronouncements by the Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) to enhance on consumer protection measures through an apprehensive monitoring and shelving off, of substandard ICT products is a welcome move. A functional and effective regulatory system is one of the pre-conditions to guarantee democracy in the market that benefits both the market players and consumer welfare.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Sweeping_off_of ICT_substandard_products_by_ZICTA_welcome-CUTS.htm