



EVENTS

CREW Project: National Orientation on Competition Reforms

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia held the National Orientation Workshop (NOW) on October 13, 2015 at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka, Zambia. The meeting was used as a platform to share the progress and some of the achievements during the advocacy implementation stage of the CREW Project with the NRG members and other key stakeholders. The Framework for Competition Reforms (FCR) was also presented with the aim of possibly replicating the CREW project methodology in other key sectors in Zambia.



CUTS Accra, Ghana also organised a similar meeting on November 05, 2015 as part of the CREW project activities to share the key achievements of the advocacy stage of the project with the stakeholders. The event took place at the Coconut Grove Hotel in Accra, Ghana and was attended by officials of government agencies and ministries; representatives of the market queens/sellers associations in Ghana, farmers' association representatives, civil society organisations (CSOs), the academia and the media.

Side Events@WTO MC 2015

Regional Integration and Public Participation in Africa Regional Integration and Poverty Reduction

Side meeting on 'Regional Integration and Public Participation in Africa Regional Integration and Poverty Reduction in East Africa' jointly organised by CUTS Nairobi, Kenya and Sussex University and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) was held on December 17, 2015 on the sidelines of the WTO Ministerial conference in Nairobi.

Mega Regional Trade Agreements, Impacts on Developing Countries and Multilateral Trading System

Another CUTS event entitled 'Mega Regional Trade Agreements and their Impacts on Developing Countries and the Multilateral Trading System' with the support from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Geneva was organised on December 16, 2015 in Nairobi.

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EVENTS

Synergising Trade and Climate Change for Food Security and Livelihoods in the EAC

An event entitled 'Synergising Trade and Climate Change for Food Security and Livelihoods in the East African Community (EAC)' was organised by CUTS Nairobi and CUTS Geneva showcasing experiences from the Promoting Agriculture-Climate Trade Linkages in the East African Countries (PACT EAC) Project at Hilton Hotel on December 16, 2015 at Nairobi, Kenya.

Understanding the Causes of Distortions in Public Procurement Processes

Hosted by Zambia Public and Procurement Authority (ZPPA) at their head office, a brainstorming meeting with Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) Ministry of Agriculture and CUTS, Lusaka, Zambia was held on October 29, 2015. The meeting sought to understand the causes of distortions in public procurement processes focussing on procurement of farmer inputs. It was resolved in the discussions that the distortion in the procurement process could actually be as a result of the restrictive and non-competitive nature of the law governing procurement processes. CUTS was therefore invited to participate in the review process of the Act as a key stakeholder and provide inputs as highlighted from the CREW project.

EACOMP Project: Book Launch



The East Africa Competition Policy Synthesis report was launched on December 12, 2015 during the Binneal Conference under the CREW project with Trade Mark East Africa Community and Fair Competition Commission and CUTS team at Eka Hotel in Accra (Ghana). The conference of CUTS was attended by over 100 scholars and practitioners on the subject.

Gloria Atuhirwe from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) who supported this project of CUTS indicated that competition remains high-priority

on the agenda of TMEA and the work on the subject will continue in partnership with organisations like CUTS. The report highlights the fact that over the years, there is growing interest among both state and non-state actors in the EAC member states on 'competition issues'.

Validation Meeting of IVORI III Project

A validation meeting for 'Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration Process (IVORI) III' project was held on October 28, 2015 at Grand Palace Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia. The policy makers breakfast meeting was also held on this day with participation of Members of Parliament who expressed their interest in the discussions on regional integration.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Final NRG and NOW Meeting of CREW Project

CUTS Accra, Ghana will hold its VI NRG on CREW project in March 2016 to present the project's achievements to the stakeholders and to discuss the plan of action for the sectors understudied in the project.

Final NRG and NOW meeting of CREW project has been scheduled for March 11, 2016 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre. The meeting will be structured in form of a full-day workshop to encourage participation from non-project partners.

Engagement on the EIF Process

A Meeting with Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry has been scheduled for February 12, 2016. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss CUTS Lusaka's (Zambia) further engagement on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) process from a regional perspective and will be held at the New Government Complex in Lusaka (Zambia).

Tripartite Meeting

A tripartite meeting, to be held at the ZPPA head office in Zambia with CUTS, ZPPA and CCPC has been scheduled on February 11, 2016 to discuss the development of a pro-competitive procurement guideline.

Media to Meet on Energy Crisis

A media breakfast is to take place at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka (Zambia) on Energy Crisis, scheduled in the fourth week of February, 2016. The purpose of the meeting will be to initiate debate on the prevailing energy deficit in the country among the policy makers and key stakeholders.

ONGOING PROJECTS

COMPAD Project

Evolution of a National Competition Regime

CUTS, with support from the Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund is implementing a 15-month COMPAD Project in Accra, Ghana. The goal of the project is to facilitate the process towards evolution of a national competition regime in Ghana, through an informed process, incorporating views of key actors and with support from Ghanaian business and consumers.

CREW Project: Reviewing Competition Reforms

Staple Food and Passenger Transport

The aim of the three-year CREW project implemented with funding support from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK and BMZ, Germany through GIZ (Germany) in Accra, Ghana is to identify and review all competition reforms passed during the period of the Fourth Republic relevant to the staple food sector (maize) and passenger transport.

PACT EAC Project for Integrated Policy Framework

The PACT EAC project implemented by CUTS Nairobi, Kenya brings together East African Community (EAC) stakeholders in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania countries and in Geneva, to pursue a more integrated policy framework on issues of food security, climate change and trade partners. These five countries regularly engage stakeholders in research, networking, advocacy and training. They also update their representatives at the WTO in Geneva on the situation on the ground every two months.

IVORI III

CUTS Accra, Ghana is implementing a project 'Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process-Eastern and Southern Africa or IVORI-III' to guarantee the CSOs' participation in the on-going initiative to bring 26 African countries from Cairo to Cape Town under one market.



NEW INITIATIVES

CUTS' Consumer Survey

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with support from the Zambia Economic Advocacy Programme will be undertaking a consumer survey to assess how the current economic situation of the country is having an impact on consumer welfare in different sectors of the economy. A tool has been developed based on specific variables and this tool will be the basis of the subsequent similar surveys that will enable CUTS to publish quarterly and biannual surveys documenting consumer issues and concerns.

Analysis of the Investment Framework and its Role in Promoting Equity

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with the support from Oxfam Zambia is implementing a project to analyse the investment framework and its role in promoting equity. The project seeks to generate a credible body of knowledge through vetting the current investment framework for purposes of understanding its potential to be a source of inequality or equity specifically among small medium agro businesses in Zambia and devise key policy and practice recommendations for uptake among the key stakeholders.

Understanding and Awareness Raising on Health Care Issues

'Understanding and Awareness Raising on Health Care Issues in Zambia' project initiated by CUTS Lusaka, Zambia aims to understand the health care issues and the regulatory effectiveness of the Zambian health system.

Equalising Community Accountability in Chieftom Towers

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia has launched 'Equalising Community Accountability in Chieftom Towers' project. CUTS initiated performance audits on selected towers in the inaugural areas of ZICTA project.

Investment & Equity Project for SMEs

The project 'Investment & Equity Project for SMEs' has been initiated by CUTS Lusaka, Zambia to address the inequality and growth of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

NEW INITIATIVES

Implications of Market Structure and Nature of Competition in the Zambia Agriculture Sector

A Case Study of Soyabeans and Banana Agro-processing Value Chains

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with support from Oxfam will be implementing a project to identify any anti-competitive practices as well as any market distortions (policy induced or otherwise) that need to be removed to complement the implementation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan. The main objective of the study is to undertake a competition assessment of the agriculture market in Zambia, using soyabeans and banana production as case studies.

State of the Economy: Energy Crisis in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia has been engaged under the Civil Society-Poverty Observatory Group (CS-POG) with the support from Oxfam Zambia to undertake an intervention to assess the challenges that are currently at play in the energy sector and identify policy options that would help government and other stakeholders to develop long-term sustainable solutions. Additionally, the intervention will assess the impact of the different policy pronouncements on potential investments into the sector.

PUBLICATIONS

Discussion Paper

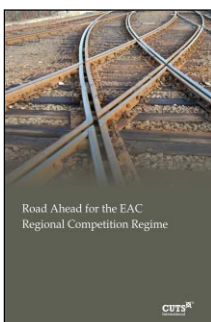
Regionalism in Africa

There has been a surge in regional trade agreements (RTAs) and regionalism is a heavily debated subject in the contemporary trade policy discourse. This is hardly surprising considering that well over 500 regional agreements with highly varied content and rich array of geographical configurations are in existence. Regional integration in the continent has its roots in the political forces determined by the colonial legacy that resulted in a configuration of geographically artificial states where arbitrary borders coupled with great ethno-linguistic diversity contributed to the continent's high number of conflicts and to its high trade and communication costs. This Paper concludes that regional integration is a key vehicle for helping Africa to raise competitiveness, diversify its economic base. African countries need to strategically position themselves for this new global trading landscape.



<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Accra/IVORI/Publications.html>

Synthesis Report



Road Ahead for the EAC Regional Competition Regime

This is a report highlighting national and regional-level findings on the current status of the East African Community Competition Policy and Law implementation. The report details policy constraints for implementation of the same and also highlights the sectors for market inquiry given the conduct exhibited by a number of enterprises. The report further provides recommendations on how to promote competition in the region. The report entitled 'Road Ahead for the EAC Regional Competition Regime' is intended to provide a baseline on the status of competition in the region and catalyse regional discussions on the need for an effective competition regime amongst the partner states nationally and regionally.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/nairobi/eacomp/pdf/EACOMP_Synthesis_Report_Competition_Regime_in

Research Report

Competition Regime in Ghana – a need of the nation

The report highlights the advantages of implementing competition policy in Ghana. All consumers have an interest in the successful application of competition policy in this country. Unfortunately, over the years, this is not an area of policy that has received the attention it deserves. Ghana has no comprehensive competition legislation, in spite of having had a few draft statutes formulated, which appear not to have caught the fancy of policy makers as a priority matter.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/compad/pdf/Report-Competition_Regime_in_Ghana-a_need_of_the_nation.pdf



PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter/E-newsletter



Tradequity

The newsletter carries a cover story 'Post-Doha Trading System – *Five Point Agenda for African Economies*' that states that the package that came out of the December 2015 World Trade Organisation Ministerial conference in Nairobi has been hailed as one of the most substantial packages that has been reached over the WTO's 20 years. Besides, the newsletter carries Economics & Development, Trade, Regional & Environment and Consumer issues news.

<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/>

<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/tradequity.htm>

<http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/tradequity.html>

Consumer Watch

This e-newsletter is a joint initiative of CUTS Lusaka/Zambia and Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA), published with the objective of enhancing consumer welfare through sensitisation, information dissemination and capacity building of consumers, business entities and the government.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/Consumer_Watch-Oct15-Jan16.pdf



REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator and **Abubakari Zakari** of CUTS Accra, Ghana met Jorge Velazque of Jacobs, Cordova & Associates (provider of regulatory reforms services) to introduce the Centre and also held discussions on possible synergies between the two firms in the area of economic regulations.

Rosebela Oiro of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended the international conference on 'Quality of Service and Consumer Experience' organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The East Africa Communications Organisations (EACO) and Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) at Laico Regency in Nairobi, Kenya on November 23-25, 2015.

Appiah Kusi Adomako, met Goski Alabi, President of Consumer Advocacy Centre, Ghana on October 21, 2015 to discuss possible collaborations with CUTS on consumer issues.

Rijit Sengupta, CUTS Africa Regional Director, **Simon Ng'ona**, Centre Coordinator and **Faith Mwamba** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia and also had a meeting with the World Bank on December 12, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss some work around assessing the political economy for competition in Zambia, which the World Bank is co-opting CUTS to undertake.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** of CUTS, Accra, Ghana had a meeting with the Editor of the Business and Financial Times, one of the leading print media houses in Ghana, on November 24, 2015. The meeting was to introduce CUTS' work and also build partnership with media persons.

Faith Mwamba and **Mao Kasonso** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a Tripartite meeting organised by CCPC in collaboration with CUTS and ZPPA on October 29, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the fertiliser procurement system in the maize sector in Zambia.

Eugene Jernigan of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended the 'Investment to End Poverty and Development Data Hub' round table forum organised by Development Initiatives on October 13, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

Faith Mwamba of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a meeting organised by CCPC in collaboration with the World Bank on November 27, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to launch the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) framework that has been developed by the World Bank.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** met with the editorial team of the Daily Graphic – Ghana's leading print media on November 25, 2015 to introduce CUTS' work and also build a partnership.

Faith Mwamba and **Susan Nasilele** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a meeting organised by the Zambia Council for Social Development to discuss the reconstitution of the South African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal on January 21, 2016. The discussions were centered on the challenges and opportunities if any, among the sub-regional and continental courts.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** met Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund team on December 22, 2015 to provide progress report on COMPAD project and also share project success stories with the team.

Faith Mwamba, **Mao Kasonso** and **Bwalya Mukuka** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in the 4th State of the Economy Meeting held on January 25, 2016. The discussions during the meeting were centered around the energy crisis and how the current state of power deficit in the energy sector has hindered the development.



Inflation in Worst Four Year Start

The Post, Zambia, January 30, 2015

Zambia's inflation is having its worst start in four years despite a marginal decrease from December, the Central Statistics Office said. The annual rate of inflation rose to 7.7 percent in January compared to 7.3 percent at the start of 2014. It is the worst start to a year since 2011, CSO data showed. According to the data, inflation at the start of 2011 was 6.3 percent but rose at the open of 2012 and 2013 to 6.4 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. Petrol and Diesel prices have fallen from around K10 a litre to K7.60 and K6.59 per litre respectively. CUTS Lusaka, Zambia, Centre Coordinator Simon Ng'ona said, "High prices of essential commodities erode the household incomes of the country's poor".

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Inflation_in_worst_4-year_start.html

Law to Curtail Procurement Flaws Mooted

The BFT Online, December 09, 2015

Unfavourable practices in the public procurement process, including the flagrant abuse of single-source contracts are undermining the relevance of the process as a tool for national development and a level playing field in contract biddings, policy think-tank CUTS Accra, Ghana has indicated.

The Centre is therefore advocating a robust national competition policy and regulatory regime that will keep the malfeasances in check and enjoin managers of public funds to make intelligent decisions that maximise value for money. The Centre Coordinator of CUTS Accra, Ghana Appiah Kusi Adomako said: "Competition policy and law is the wave of the future in ensuring that taxpayers get value for money. Among other benefits, it will curb the abuse of single-source contracts in the country and ensure a level playing field for bidders".

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/media-Law_to_curtail_procurement_flaws_mooted.html

What are the Deliverables for Nairobi WTO Conference?

Eugene Jernigan

East African Newspaper, October 31-November 06, 2015

There is a consensus within the World Trade Organisation circles and in 2015's host country Kenya that the Nairobi Ministerial Conference must succeed. The WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo and Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed have been championing the success of the conference. However, critics are questioning who will benefit from the conference. Their scepticism is based on the opinion that since the formation of the WTO, most EU and the US policies have undermined Africa's development agenda, especially in the agricultural sector.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/nairobi/article-What_are_the_deliverables_for_Nairobi_WTO_Conference.htm

Report Finds Fault with Zambia's Communication Towers

ITWeb Africa, January 06, 2015

A report released by CUTS Lusaka, Zambia has revealed that communication towers in Zambia's rural areas do not meet technical or legal requirements. According to the report, the towers fall short of meeting the 5 km macro-coverage radius requirement, as specified in the bidding document. The Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA), the country's telecom sector regulator, is currently installing 169 mobile phone communication towers nationally in a bid to connect rural areas and minimise communication problems.

<http://www.itwebafrica.com>

'World Competition Day 2015' Observed

Government of Ghana, December 08, 2015

CUTS Accra (Ghana) joined its counterparts worldwide to demand that December 05 be declared by the United Nations General Assembly as 'World Competition Day'. World Competition Day, which is yet to be officially declared as such by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, is already being celebrated in about 100 countries worldwide and was first marked in Ghana by CUTS Accra, in 2013.

In a statement, Appiah Kusi Adomako, noted that public procurement had a complex relationship with market competition. Adomako also said public procurement processes had a direct bearing on social gains for both producers and consumers, hence, the need for government and policy makers to develop effective tools to prevent or deter corruption in public procurement.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/media-World_Competition_Day_2015_Observed.html

Ghana to Have a Fully Functional Competition Regime in 2016

Modern Ghana, November 11, 2015

"Competition regime and consumer protection issues reinforce each other. Both aim to ensure wider consumer choice in the market for goods and services, through innovation and efficient resource use by players in the market to promote economic welfare, Kofi Amenyah, Director Legal Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) made these remarks during a keynote address on behalf of Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Honourable Trade Minister at a national workshop on competition policy organised by CUTS Accra, Ghana.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/COMPAD/Media-Ghana_to_have_a_fully_functional_competition_regime_in_2016.htm