

# Capability Statement

## CUTS-Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi

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### Introduction

Consumer Unity and Trust Society, Africa Resource Centre, popularly known as (CUTS ARC, Nairobi) is a non governmental Organisation (NGO). The organisation was duly registered as an NGO in Kenya in the year 2000 but began its operation in the year 2003. The organisation is a Resource Centre of CUTS International, headquartered in India. Over the past years, the Centre has established itself and contributed effectively in the policy making process in Eastern African region and particularly in Kenya. The strength of the organisation is drawn from its work methodology viz. research, advocacy, networking and capacity building in three key programmatic areas.

### CUTS Vision:

Consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice and equality, within and across borders

### CUTS ARC, Nairobi Mission:

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

### Programmes

- Trade and Development
- Consumer Protection and Governance
- Competition, Investment and Economic Regulations

### Major Activities

- Research
- Evidence Based Advocacy
- Outreach and Dissemination
- Capacity Building (Training)
- Networking

### Resources

- Five programme centres and six resource centres spread in India, Africa, and Europe. Visit [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)
- Seven staff with great diversity, experience and dedication.
- In-house editorial, desk top publishing and a library with research materials on contemporary issues of global economic development and governance.
- A network of local and international experts with whom the Centre regularly consults with.

### Attributes and Values

- Adopting a *centrist approach* in our research, advocacy and capacity-building activities.
- Ensuring outputs, outcomes, and effective follow-ups for implementation of policy recommendations.
- Focus on areas (subject areas and geographical areas) where need exists.
- Carved a niche for itself in research, advocacy and networking on several issues of public interest (modelled on an evidence-based advocacy and capacity building approach)
- Provided capacity building support to various groups of stakeholders across Africa.

## Outreach

- Publishing a wide spectrum of material for information dissemination for semi-literates to professionals in a reader-friendly format ranging from policy briefs to research reports
- Have created sustainable networks from national, regional and international levels.
- Extremely proficient at organizing campaigns, meetings, workshops and seminars from the village level comprising 5-6 participants to the international level with over 500 participants

## Advisers

The Centre carries its activities forward under the guidance of its advisory board and project-specific advisers who are renowned experts and practitioners on Centre's programme areas.

## Current and future research areas, significant achievements

### a) Current Research Areas

The Centre presently focuses on research and capacity-building activities at the national and multi-country levels, these include:

- Involvement in Competition Policy and Law of CUTS International project (2008-2010) in select seven west African countries: Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo funded by IDRC and DfID through the CUTS India office.
- Agriculture and Market Linkages: a project themed Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading Systems (FEATS) funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation through the CUTS Geneva office. <http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm>
- Building the capacity of civil society organisation in East Africa to respond to policy challenges in integration of the EAC vis-à-vis external bilateral, regional and multilateral trade arrangements like EPAs and WTO, a 2008-2010 project funded by German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the CUTS Geneva Resource Centre [www.cuts-grc.org/](http://www.cuts-grc.org/)
- Research on formulation of a joint African Strategy, looking at the aspect of the customs union i.e. challenges and opportunities; a project funded by FES, Kenya (2008 ongoing).
- Regional Integration (ongoing since 2007): initially launched with seed funds from **CIDA** and **DfID** to do capacity-building around the objectives of regional integration enshrined in the New Partnership for African Development (**NEPAD**) in the ongoing East African integration meant to become a Federation by 2010. Since then **FES, Kenya** has also come in as a key supporter of the Centre's regional integration activities.
- Research Project on the Competition policy and regulations in the energy sector in Kenya Supported by **Trust Africa** [2008-2009].
- EPAs (ongoing since 2005): a research, advocacy and capacity building project for Civil Society Organizations in six countries viz. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi. It is supported by **Royal Danish Embassy**. Subsequent support has been made by Overseas Development Institute, London; European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Netherlands; and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Kenya.

### b) Concluded Research Projects and Policy Advocacy/Selected Milestones

#### a. Research

- **Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)** The Centre has been coordinating the Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction project, over a period of the last four years (January 2005 to December 2008) with support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy and DFID, UK. This Project was implemented in selected countries in Asia, Africa and

Europe in a partnership mode. Research, capacity building and advocacy were carried out during the period. The Centre coordinated research, advocacy and networking aspects of the project in the East African region with partner organisations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. (2005-2008).

- Comparative Study of Sectoral Regulation in Developing Countries: Lessons for Policy, Governance and Implementation – A Case Study of Kenya. Unpublished Research Report (2007).
- **A multi country Diagnostic Research on Supply-Side Capacity and Export Response (2008).** This is a multi country research project funded by the Commonwealth Fund and covers four countries, viz. Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The broad objective of the research project was to find out the factors determining export success of a few firms in certain sectors of least-developed countries (LDCs) and small and vulnerable states (SVS) and to learn lessons from the success experiences so that appropriate interventions can be undertaken for the benefit of other potential entrepreneurs to strengthen the countries' efforts towards diversification.
- **A multi country study on trade on services and domestic regulation: background paper for Kenya, 2007.** The Kenya study provided background information on the country's services sector over the last two decades. It outlined and analysed the evolution of the sector in Kenya since two decades and its contribution to the country's Gross Domestic product, employment, exports and imports, investment flows and sectoral linkages. The study also analysed the competitiveness of the different sub-sectors in the service sector with the particular reference to inter -industry trade and intra- industry trade. This research project was funded by the Commonwealth Fund.
- **Investment for Development (IFD Project, 2002-03)** – a two-year research and advocacy project aimed at supporting pro-development foreign direct investment (FDI) in seven select developing countries: South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia in Africa and four other countries.

#### **b. Advocacy**

- Strengthening Skills on Commercial and Economic Diplomacy and Trade Policy Issues: Training Programme for Trade Ministry Officials from Selected Commonwealth. *Nairobi, 15-17 June, 2009* Supported by **Commonwealth Secretariat**. <http://www.cuts-citee.org/commercial-diplomacy.htm>
- Awareness on the multilateral trading system: Opportunities and challenges for East Africa. Implemented in corporation with the **WTO**. 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Nairobi. [www.cuts-grc.org/](http://www.cuts-grc.org/)
- Civil Society Response to Challenges of EAC integration; a regional conference organised under the BIEAC project, 27-28 April, 2009, Nairobi with the support of GTZ. [www.cuts-grc.org/](http://www.cuts-grc.org/)
- Trade Integration in East Africa: Assessing the Impacts of the Customs Union and the Challenges for the Common Market. This was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) (July 2008).
- The Center in liaison with CUTS Center for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER) has been involved in research, advocacy and capacity building of national level stakeholders in seven select countries of east and southern Africa of Uganda, Ethiopia, Namibia, Malawi, Botswana, Mauritius and Mozambique. <http://www.cuts-ccier.org/7Up-model-en.htm>
- **International Conference on “Civil Society Organisations and Aid for Trade: Roles and Realities”, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, Nairobi (CITEE)**
- Economic Partnership Agreement Project (EPAs). This is a research and advocacy-based capacity building project for CSOs in six countries viz. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi. The initial phase covering the period 2005-2007 was supported by the Royal Danish Embassy. Since then, several other donors and partners have supported the project; these include Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES); Overseas Development Institute (ODI); the Commonwealth Secretariat; the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the German Development Institute (DIE). Major achievements under this project include:
  - a) Capacity-building of civil society organizations
  - b) Capacity building of media institutions and Journalists on professional reporting on trade and integration issues
  - c) Publication of a Guide Book on Development Benchmarks in the EPAs funded by FES
  - d) Publication on EPAs and Services in the ACP funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat

- **Regional Integration (ongoing since 2007):** initially launched with seed funds from CIDA and DFID to do capacity-building around the objectives of regional integration enshrined in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) in the ongoing East African integration meant to become a Federation by 2010. Since then FES, Kenya has also come in as a key supporter of the Centre’s regional integration activities and has carried out the following activities:
  - a) *A Changing Global Order: Eastern Africa’s Role and Interests, event was carried out in 2007*
  - b) *Formulating Joint African Trade Strategy, event carried out in 2008.*

In these projects, the centre has published policy brief and conference volumes which are continuously shared with relevant stakeholders in all conferences organized by the Centre

**Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Centre plans its activities in close consultation with the Head office and other resource centres that are theme based. Centre advisors in the region and overseas are also key in developing and monitoring the strategic purposes of every ongoing and intended activities. The Centre enjoys a broad-based network of non-state actors, government and development partners from the South as well as renowned consultants who enable the organization to participate fully in policy advisory activities. These are links that enable the organization’s work to have an impact on all the relevant stakeholders from the top to the grassroots, owing to their positions and sectors they represent. Our multi-sectoral based partners have been very much involved in our regional programmes in the Eastern and Southern Africa; worthy to mention is recognition of the crucial role played by governments in policy making and implementation thus our partnership with various governments in the region. We continue to undertake our work here in Kenya following strict adherence to terms of reference formulated at high-level consultations.

**Partners**

The organization works with several national, regional and international organizations on issues of developing countries’ interests, apart from working with several policy-making bodies, governmental bodies and inter-governmental bodies. Our major partners include, but not limited to:

<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>FUTURE PARTNERS</b>
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<p><b><i>Donor Agencies</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IDRC,</li> <li>▪ TRUST AFRICA, Senegal</li> <li>▪ Overseas Development Institute (ODI)</li> <li>▪ European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM);</li> <li>▪ German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</li> <li>▪ Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Kenya</li> <li>▪ DfID-Kenya</li> <li>▪ Canadian International Development Authority (CIDA)</li> <li>▪ Commonwealth Secretariat</li> <li>▪ MS- Uganda</li> <li>▪ GTZ</li> <li>▪ William and Flora Hewlett Foundation</li> <li>▪ DANIDA</li> <li>▪ SIDA, Kenya</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ford Foundation, Eastern Africa</li> <li>▪ Henrich Boll Foundation</li> <li>▪ US-AID</li> <li>▪ DFID-UK</li> </ul>
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<p><b><i>Civil Society, NGO, and INGOs</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CUTS Centres in India, Lusaka, London, Geneva and Hanoi</li> <li><b><i>Kenya</i></b></li> <li>▪ Econews Africa</li> <li>▪ Institute of Economic Affairs</li> <li>▪ Oxfam</li> <li>▪ Kenya Civil Society Alliance (KCSA)</li> <li>▪ Action Aid</li> <li>▪ Social Development Network Kenya SODNET</li> <li>▪ Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)</li> <li>▪ Central Food Network</li> <li>▪ Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum (KSSFF)</li> <li>▪ Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN)</li> <li>▪ Eastern Africa Coalition on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (<i>EACOR</i>)</li> <li>▪ Consumer Information Network (CIN)</li> <li>▪ Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)</li> <li>▪ Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)</li> <li><b><i>Uganda</i></b></li> <li>▪ SEATINI</li> <li>▪ Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA)</li> <li>▪ Community Development Initiative (CDI)</li> <li>▪ Consumer Education Trust (CONSENT)</li> <li>▪ Africa Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE)</li> <li><b><i>Tanzania</i></b></li> <li>▪ Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO)</li> <li><b><i>Rwanda</i></b></li> <li>▪ ACORD</li> <li><b><i>Burundi</i></b></li> <li>▪ Association des Commerçants du Burundi (ACOBU)<sup>1</sup></li> <li>▪ ONG</li> <li><b><i>Ethiopia</i></b></li> <li>▪ Action Aid</li> <li>▪ Aha Ethiopian Consumer Protection Association (AHaECoPA)</li> <li><b><i>Malawi</i></b></li> <li>▪ Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Research Institutions</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis. (KIPPRA).</li> <li>▪ Institute of Policy analysis and research (IPAR).</li> <li>▪ Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA)</li> <li>▪ Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania</li> <li>▪ Centre for Social Research (CSR), Malawi</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Association of Burundian Traders

<p><b><i>Governments</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kenyan Ministries of Trade, Industrialization, Planning and National Development, Agriculture, and East African Cooperation;</li> <li>▪ Various government departments in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda,</li> <li>▪ Government of Rwanda</li> <li>▪ Government of Burundi</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Government Agencies</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uganda Communications Commission</li> <li>▪ Communications Commission of Kenya</li> <li>▪ Monopolies and Prices Commission of Kenya (MPC)</li> <li>▪ Kenya and European Post Lome Trade (KEPLOTRADE)</li> <li>▪ ERC</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Private Sector</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)</li> <li>▪ Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI)</li> <li>▪ Uganda Manufacturer's Association (UMA)</li> <li>▪ Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)</li> <li>▪ Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)</li> <li>▪ Various regional Chamber of Commerce Offices in Tanzania</li> <li>▪ Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> <li>▪ Uganda Chamber of Commerce and Industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rwanda Private Sector</li> <li>▪ Burundi Private Sector</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>IGOs</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ East Africa Community (EAC)</li> <li>▪ Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)</li> <li>▪ Africa Union (AU)</li> <li>▪ UNECA</li> <li>▪ UNDP Office-Kenya</li> <li>▪ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNCTAD</li> <li>▪ NEPAD</li> <li>▪ EAC SECRETARIAT</li> <li>▪ COMESA</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Universities</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ University of Nairobi</li> <li>▪ University of Dar es Salaam</li> <li>▪ Addis Ababa University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Makerere University</li> <li>▪ University of Rwanda</li> <li>▪ University of Burundi</li> </ul>

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