

**JOINT STATEMENT
BY AFRICAN AND INDIAN CIVIL SOCIETY
ON
THE NAIROBI MINISTERIAL OF THE WTO**

Released On The Occasion Of The Third India-Africa Forum Summit

27 October 2015

We, on behalf of civil society in Africa and India, write to you, the Heads of Governments in Africa's 54 countries and India as you meet for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) through 26-29th October in New Delhi, India. As you all deliberate on a 'reinvigorated partnership-shared vision', we would urge you to consider the common economic, social and environmental challenges that all our countries face, while reminding you of the issues at stake at the forthcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference (MC10) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, between December 15-18th this year.

One of the main objectives of the WTO was to create more opportunities for the developing world, and even more so for least developed countries (LDCs), so they could advance their development progress. As a result, the world was to see a more balanced economic and, hopefully, socially just order. However, after twenty years of the WTO, we do not see any materialisation of those promises from global trade rules. In spite of some strengthening of developing country voices, the developed countries and the transnational corporations within them have grown more powerful, strident and aggressive. They have made it clear that they are interested in the WTO only to "take" from and not to "give" to developing countries. The current Director General, Roberto Azevedo, (himself from a developing country) and the WTO Secretariat and its functionaries, are taking pro-developed country positions in the desperation to retain WTO's relevance as a multilateral forum.

In fact, even the WTO's *Doha Development Round*, launched in 2001 and mandated to address core development issues faced by the South, continues to see stiff opposition by the developed countries to any concessions for developing countries and to removal of barriers, which could actually enable them to provide better economic and social opportunities to their people. Special and differential (S&D) treatment in agriculture and NAMA, for example through easier terms for tariff cuts, Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) in agriculture, preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs, and most importantly talks on agricultural subsidies, including the crucial issue of cotton subsidies, given by the West have failed to get anywhere. In this context we strongly support the statement made by the Kenyan Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Ms Amina Mohamed on July 1 that the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations cannot be concluded without "credible" developmental outcomes.

It is not only that the WTO is not helping realize development pathways in the South; it is actively threatening development policy space and development-oriented programmes in the developing world. The stiff resistance by the USA, EU, and other developed countries to negotiate a *permanent solution to the food security proposal and a development-oriented outcome in agriculture*, which is not only of key interest to India and several African countries, but also to many other developing countries, is a clear evidence of this challenge.

Agriculture and food, and the ability to continue to produce food, is a core development need in both India and Africa. We would like to also support the position of the Cotton-4 countries on elimination of all subsidies on cotton and Duty-Free-Quota-Free (DFQF) market access to LDCs on cotton and its products, which is of key interest to African countries as well as India.

In **NAMA** (Non-agricultural market access), the developed countries continue to insist not only on adverse formulas on tariff cuts that will force developing countries to cut more tariffs, but also on “Sectorals or zero-for-zero” where some sectors will see total elimination of tariffs with immediate effect. The NAMA proposals will severely limit domestic industrialization and job creation prospects in Africa and India.

The TRIPS Agreement under the WTO set up intellectual property rights (IPRs) standards which are being pushed through trade rules; it creates barriers to technology development and transfer in developing countries with impacts on access to medicines & health care, key agricultural inputs including seeds varieties and traditional knowledge. However, the TRIPS Agreement had offered some flexibilities to developing countries that could help them protect important development priorities. These flexibilities are now being increasingly challenged. Moreover, the TRIPS waiver for LDCs is continuously under negotiation and is used as a lever to extract other concessions. Now developed countries are opposing amendments to TRIPS Rules to prevent ‘biopiracy’ from Africa, India and several other developing countries.

The current WTO situation presents grave contradictions. Instead of creating spaces to foster growth and development, we see more and more aggressive demands are made of developing countries to prize open their economies on very unfair terms, which would threaten livelihoods, food security, locally beneficial industrialization and beneficiation (local value addition). The current negotiations at the WTO clearly indicate these contradictions, created by the aggressive positioning of the developed countries: pushing a binding Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) while not granting a permanent solution to food security and offering only a “best endeavor” (I will try my best) LDC package; offering no cuts in domestic subsidies but instead asking developing countries to cut subsidies and grant further market access; and blocking TRIPS flexibilities while pushing for higher IPR protection through TRIPS.

Further, the developed countries are creating parallel and aggressive mechanisms through secret negotiations of plurilateral agreements such as Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), Information Technology Agreement-2 (ITA-2), Agreement in Environmental Goods and Services, and bilateral trade and investment agreements all of which thwart the multilateral nature of the WTO.

As you discuss issues of critical importance for us, for your people, at this important Summit, we put on the table the following specific recommendations that civil society in India and across African countries want to put forward to their leaders:

- *Ensure a strong development outcome at the Nairobi MC10 of WTO with significant gains for developing and least developed countries. The “success” of the Ministerial should not be valued in terms of reaching the low hanging fruits, which favours developed countries but one that actually equips developing countries to address key economic, social and environmental needs;*
- *The Doha Development Round should not be concluded in Nairobi or later without a meaningful development package and no other round should be launched without addressing the core development issues that the DDR was mandated to address. In*

particular, the Singapore Issues including government procurement, competition policy, investment and any “new issues” would severely restrict space for implementing development oriented policies and hence should not be touched;

- *Specific deliverables of a development package should include but not be limited to; a permanent solution on the food security proposal that allows essential subsidies to producers for supporting public food stockholding; discussions on domestic subsidies including on cotton subsidies, by the advanced countries like the USA and the EU, an agreement on elimination of export competition, special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing countries in all aspects of agricultural and NAMA negotiations including on tariff cuts and safeguard mechanisms, ‘Biodiversity Amendment’ to the TRIPS Agreement to prevent ‘biopiracy’, and a strong LDC package. On the other hand, further advances in and weakening of the flexibilities of the TRIPs Agreement, the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and further talks on plurilaterals and mega regional FTAs should be blocked; and,*
- *Conduct the negotiations in a transparent, inclusive and fair manner that truly reflects the multilateral nature of the WTO and not participate in small ‘green room’ discussions and dealings that leave a large number of Member States out of discussions that would critically impact their people and the planet.*

India and Africa have played a key role in WTO negotiations, most often supporting strong developing country positions. They have a crucial role to play in this Ministerial. It is of tremendous importance that the WTO Ministerial Conference is being held in Africa. As a strong and articulate advocate of developing country space in the WTO, the African countries, and Kenya in particular, has a responsibility to ensure a balanced and development friendly outcome at the Ministerial. The “success” of the Ministerial will only be a success if it delivers on key development objectives of the South that includes the interests of the people in Africa and India and benefits all people in the developing world. If it can’t, it is of no interest to us.

Working together, India and Africa must ensure our people have access to diversified opportunities for livelihoods, jobs and incomes, healthy food to eat and the ability to produce it locally, have access to adequate services, such as drinking water, health and sanitation, natural resources, and live in a safe and sustainable environment. *No trade rules should come in the way of attaining these objectives.* The WTO in particular must be allowed only to forward and not to hinder these objectives.

Our leaders must also remember the commitments they made in the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to “leave no one behind”. They know it will be impossible to follow the principles of this Agenda and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without fair trade rules and other means of implementation. That is why they fought so hard on these issues in these negotiations. But unless they hold strong against pressures and keep reiterating their development priorities and fight for the policy space to realise those, their commitments to the global community and to their own people will be meaningless. The WTO and the Nairobi Ministerial is the place where this commitment must be made real.

As Kenya prepares to host the WTO’s MC10, we urge you to keep in your mind your people and their needs, and not to put trade before people. As all of you prepare to engage with the WTO until December and beyond, you must ask yourselves the questions: ***What has the WTO done for us so far? What can I gain here that I can justify my engagement with the WTO to my***

people? What can I take back from Delhi, India that helps us all move trade and development in the right direction? We are all waiting eagerly to hear the answers from you.

Signatories as on 27 October 2015

Regional and National organizations from Africa		
1	FAHAMU	Africa Region
2	ACP Civil Society Forum	ACP Region
3	Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A)	Africa Region
4	Fórum das Organizações Não Governamentais Angolanas (FONGA)	Angola
5	Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD)	Benin Republic
6	Botswana Council of Non Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO),	Botswana
7	Cadre de concertation des OSC pour le suivi du CSLP (CdC/CSLP)	Burkina Faso
8	Civil Society Organization Network for Development (RESOCIDE)	Burkina Faso
9	Action Développement et. Intégration Régionale (ADIR)	Burundi
10	Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)	Cameroon
11	Conseil des ONG Agrées du Cameroun (CONGAC)	Cameroon
12	Global Social Economy Group (GSEG)	Cameroon
13	Association Commerciale, Agricole, Industriel et du Service (ACAISA)	Cape Verde
14	Conseil Inter ONG En Centrafrique (CIONGCA)	Central African Republic
15	Centre d'Information et de Liaison des ONG (CILONG)	Chad
16	Conseil de Concertation des ONGs de Développement (CCOD)	Congo
17	Conseil National des ONG de Développement (CNOGD)	D.R. Congo
18	The Housing and Land Rights Network- Habitat Initiatives Coalition	Egypt
19	Forum des ONG pour le Développement Durable (FONGDD)	Eq. Guinea
20	Cotonou Task Force	Ethiopia
21	Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia (PANE)	Ethiopia
22	Concertation Nationale Des Organisations paysannes et des Producteurs (CNOP)	Gabon
23	TANGO	Gambia
24	Worldview	Gambia
25	Agricultural Workers Union of TUC	Ghana
26	Abibiman Foundation	Ghana
27	Federation de Femmes Entrepreneurs et Affaires de la CEDEAO (FEFA)	Guinea
28	Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEI)	Guinea-Bissau
29	Alliance Pour la Reconstruction et le Developpement Post-Conflict (ARDPC)	Ivory Coast
30	Building Eastern Africa Community Network (BEACOC)	Kenya
31	Growth Partners Africa (GPA)	Kenya

32	Kenya food Rights Alliance (KeFRA)	Kenya
33	Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum (KESSFF)	Kenya
34	Mazingira Institute	Kenya
35	National Council of NGOs	Kenya
36	Society for International Development (SID)	Kenya
37	The Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Kenya
38	Child Focused CSOs for SDGs	Kenya
39	Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN)	Lesotho
40	West African Women Association (WAWA)	Liberia
41	Plate-Forme Nationale des Organisations de la Societe Civile de Madagascar	Madagascar
42	Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)	Malawi
43	Foundation pour le Developpment au Sahel (FDS)	Mali
44	La convergence Malienne contre les accaparements des terres (CMAT)	Mali
45	Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)	Mauritius
46	National Forum for Mozambiquan NGOs and CBOs (TEIA)	Mozambique
47	Forum da Sociedade Civil para os Direitos da Criança (ROSC)	Mozambique
48	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisations Forum Trust	Namibia
49	National du Réseau des Ong de Développement et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (RODADDHD),	Niger
50	National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)	Nigeria
51	Nigeria Network of NGOs	Nigeria
52	Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet)	Nigeria
53	Pelam	Rwanda
54	Rwanda Civil Society Platform	Rwanda
55	Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisation (SUNGO)	Samoa
56	Forum das Ong de São Tomé e Príncipe (FONG-STP)	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
57	Plate-forme des acteurs non étatiques pour le suivi de l'Accord de Cotonou au Sénégal	Senegal
58	Liaison Unit of the non-governmental organisations of Seychelles -(LUNGOS)	Seychelles
59	Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
60	Masifundise and Coastal Links South Africa	South Africa
61	South African NGO Council (SANGOCO)	South Africa
62	Smile Again Africa Development Org (SAADO)	South Sudan
63	Council for NGOs (CANGO)	Swaziland
64	Tanzania Association of NGOs	Tanzania
65	Groupe d'Action et de Reflexion sur l'Environnement et le Développement (GARED)	Togo
66	Consumer Education Trust	Uganda
67	The Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Uganda

68	Green Living Movement (GLM)	Zambia
69	Zambia Council for Social Development	Zambia
70	National Association of NGOs (NANGO)	Zimbabwe
71	The Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	Zimbabwe

Organizations and Individuals from India		
72	Adivasi Women's Network, Jharkhand	India
73	All India Census Employees Association (AICEA)	India
74	All India Drug Action Network	India
75	All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)	India
76	All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation (AINLIEF)	India
77	All India Women's Conference	India
78	Aman Biradari	India
79	Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU)	India
80	Asia Pacific Farmers Forum, India Chapter	India
81	Association for Promotion of Sustainable Development	India
82	Bharatiya Krishak Samaj (BKS)	India
83	Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU)	India
84	Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)	India
85	Centre for Equity Studies	India
86	Centre for Organisation Research & Education, Manipur	India
87	Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)	India
88	CNS (Citizen News Service)	India
89	Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)	India
90	CREATE, Tamilnadu	India
91	Delhi Science Forum	India
92	Diverse Women for Diversity	India
93	Drug Action Forum, Karnataka	India
94	East Coast Fish Workers Union in India	India
95	ED -EMPOWER INDIA	India
96	Family Planning Association	India
97	Farmcare Foundation	India
98	Focus on the Global South	India
99	Food Sovereignty Alliance	India
100	Forum Against FTAs	
101	Freedom Foundation-India	India
102	Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS), Jaipur	India
103	ICCO COOPERATION, India, South & Central Asia Regional Office	India
104	India FDI Watch	India
105	Indian Social Action Forum - INSAF	India
106	Initiative for Health & Equity in Society	India
107	IT for Change	India

108	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)	India
109	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Orissa	India
110	Janpahal	India
111	Kerala Paristhithi Aikya Vedhi, Kerala	India
112	Krityanand UNESCO Club, Jamshedpur	India
113	Madhyam	India
114	Mahila Dakshata Samiti	India
115	Nagpur Municipal Corporation Employees Union	India
116	National Center for Labour (NCL)	India
117	National Child Rights Coalition	India
118	National Federation of Dalit Land Rights Movements	India
119	National Organisation of Government Employees (NOGE)	India
120	National Working Group on Patent Laws and WTO	India
121	Navdanya	India
122	New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI)	India
123	Organic Farmers' Market, Chennai	India
124	Pairvi	India
125	Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samiti (PBKMS)	India
126	Programme on Women's Economic, Social, Cultural Rights (PWESCR)	India
127	Public Services International, Asia and the Pacific	India
128	Rashtriya Raithu Seva Samithi, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh	India
129	Research Foundation for Science Technology & Ecology	India
130	Restore Gardens, Chennai	India
131	Right to Food Campaign	India
132	Rythu Swarajya Vedika, Telanga and Andhra Pradesh	India
133	Safe food Alliance, Tamilnadu	India
134	Samanvaya, Tamilnadu	India
135	Sathi All for Partnerships	India
136	Save our Rice Campaign	India
137	Socialist Party (India)	India
138	SOIL	India
139	South Asia Food sovereignty Network, Kolkata Secretariat	India
140	South Asia Peasants Coalition, India Chapter	India
141	South Solidarity Initiative, Action Aid India	India
142	SPREAD, Koraput	India
143	Sunray Harvesters, M.P.	India
144	Swadeshi Andolan	India
145	SWALA (an association of 274 custodian farmers), Jharkhand	India
146	Tamilnadu Women's Forum	India
147	Thanal, Kerala	India
148	Tharchaarbu Iyakkam, Sirkali, Tamilnadu	India
149	The Hawkers Federation	India
150	The India Alliance for Child Rights	India
151	The National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)	India
152	Third World Network	India

153	Toxics Watch Alliance	India
154	Udayani Social Action Forum, Kolkata	India
155	Voluntary Health Association, Punjab (VHAP)	India
156	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA)	India
157	Water Initiatives Odisha (WIO)	India
158	WFF Asia Coordination Committee	India
159	Women 2030,	India
160	Women's Coalition Trust	India
161	Womens Collective	India
162	World Forum of Fisher Peoples	India
163	Zo Indigenous Forum, Mizoram	India
	Individual endorsements	
164	Asad Ashraf, Journalist	India
165	Dr. Ashok Ray, Visiting Fellow, OKDISCD Guwahati	India
166	B.C. Pande, Gyan Vigyan Samithi	India
167	Daksha Vaja, Gujarat	India
168	Daljit Ami, Journalist	India
169	Dr Shakeel, Centre for Health & Resource Management (CHARM) Bihar	India
170	Dr Kuntal Biswas, Registrar Medical College Hospital Kolkatta	India
171	Dr Mohan Rao, Professor Centre for Social Medicine & community Health	India
172	Dr Narendra Gupta, Prayas, Rajasthan	India
173	Dr Pyara Lal Garg Former Professor Surgery , Punjab	India
174	Dr. Ambrose Pinto SJ, Principal, St. Aloysius College, Bangalore	India
175	Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University	India
176	Dr. C. P. Chandrasekhar, Professor, Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	India
177	Dr. Govind Kelkar, Landesa	India
178	Dr. Harbagh Singh, Neurologist	India
179	Dr. Kamal Nayan Kabra, Economist	India
180	Dr. Murali Kallummal, Consultant, IIFt, New Delhi	India
181	Dr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, TERI	India
182	Dr. Pyara Lal Garg, Former Professor	India
183	Dr. Smitha Francis, Adjunct Faculty, Ambedkar University, New Delhi	India
184	Harsh Mander, Aman Biradari Trust	India
185	Kalyani Menon-Sen, Feminist Learning Partnerships	India
186	Shalini Bhutani, Legal Researcher, New Delhi	India
187	Dr. Indira Hirway, Director and Professor of Economics, Center For Development Alternatives, Gujarat	India
188	Dr. B. Krishnamurthy, Professor & Head, Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University	India
189	Dr B Ekbal Neurosurgeon former Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala	India
190	Uma Shankari. Rashtriya Raithu Seva Samithi, Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh	India

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- 1) Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India
- 2) Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India
- 3) Smt. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India
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- 46)H.E. President, Jacob Zuma, South Africa
- 47)H.E. President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, South Sudan
- 48)H.E. President, Omar Hassan Ahamed Albashir, Sudan
- 49)H.E. King, Mswati III, Swaziland
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- 53)H.E. President, Yoweri Museveni, Uganda
- 54)H.E. Acting President, Guy Scott, Zambia

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