

as of July 18, 2014

RE: Development must come before Trade Facilitation at the WTO

Dear Trade Ministers and Ambassadors to the WTO,

We are writing today to urge WTO Members to condition the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) to the conclusion and fulfillment of the Development mandate under the Doha negotiations.

As members of 172* civil society organizations and trade unions from over 150 countries of the global North and South, we have long advocated for a sustainable and socially just global trade framework. Since the inception of the WTO, developing countries have made positive proposals seeking to improve the rules of the global trade system in favor of development. Lamentably, throughout the Doha Round, we have witnessed the often successful efforts by developed countries to push aside key development-oriented proposals put forth by developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in favor of market access demands that benefit developed-country exporting and importing corporations.

Unfortunately, the outcomes of the 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali were similarly imbalanced. The issues of urgency for developing countries, such as the G33 proposal to allow developing countries to invest in Food Security, were sidelined, and the LDC proposals were concluded only in “best endeavor” language. However, the developed country agenda, reflected in the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), was concluded with binding rules that carry [extensive regulatory, capital and recurring cost implications](#), which, could divert limited resources away from priority development needs such as health, education, and domestic infrastructure investments in LDCs and developing countries. At the same time, there has been a gaping lack of enforceable commitment from the developed countries in terms of concrete additional and long-term financial contributions to support implementation of the Agreement, although this was promised at the onset of the trade facilitation negotiations. Thus, if allowed to enter into force as a stand-alone agreement irrespective of the rest of the issues of concern to developing countries and LDCs, the TFA would severely tilt the trade rules in the WTO even more in favor of developed countries and their multi-national corporations.

Developing country and LDC members of the WTO are correct to demand that the TFA only enters into force upon completion of the single undertaking under the Doha Work Programme, and particularly the fulfillment of its Development mandate. It must be recalled that developing countries only agreed to initiate the Doha Round on the basis that Development issues would form the core of the mandate. It would be unconscionable for the liberalization demands of the developed countries to form an “Early Harvest” at the expense of concluding binding rules on Food Security, LDCs issues, and other urgent development-focused proposals which require the full and immediate attention of WTO members.

Developing countries and LDCs have made concrete proposals regarding the Development mandate, including implementation issues, strengthening and operationalizing Special and Differential Treatment (SDT), agriculture, and LDCs issues, and it is these issues which must be re-prioritized in the agenda. In particular, [agriculture rules](#) must be changed to ensure that developing countries have the policy space to invest in increasing agricultural production, particularly among small farmers, to achieve Food Security. Many of these proposals are similar to the demands of civil society for a transformation of the current trade regime, which are detailed in the [Turnaround Statement](#) endorsed by hundreds of organizations working through the Our

World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) network. Thus, we urge WTO Members to condition the entry into force of the TFA to the conclusion and fulfillment of the Development mandate and further negotiations necessary for the transformation of the global trade regime.

In addition, we have been extremely dismayed to witness the pressuring discourse adopted by the WTO's new Director General, Roberto Azevêdo, in his address to Members in regard to the TFA, specifically witnessed in his speech to the latest Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on 25 June 2014. We strongly urge WTO members to ensure a proper functioning of the WTO secretariat in a manner that respects the member-driven nature of the organization.

*The original version sent on July 18 included 156 signatories.

Sincerely,

International and Regional organizations and Networks

1	ACP Civil Society Forum	The Forum is a coalition of 80 not-for-profit organisations working on issues relating to ACP-EU development cooperation. It seeks to cater for the diverse range civil society development issues within the wide geographic coverage of the ACP group.
2	African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)	AFRODAD aspires for equitable and sustainable development leading to a prosperous Africa. It contribute towards influencing policy change that redress and avert Africa's debt and development challenges based on a human rights value system
3	Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)	ANND is a regional network, working in 12 Arab countries with seven national networks (with an extended membership of 200 CSOs from different backgrounds) and 23 NGO members.
4	Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)	AWID is an international, feminist, membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. AWID members are researchers, academics, students, educators, activists, business people, policy-makers, development practitioners, funders, and more.
5	LDC Watch	LDC Watch is a global alliance of national, regional and international civil society organisations (CSOs), networks and movements based in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
6	LDC Watch-Africa	LDC WATCH-AFRICA LDC WATCH est le réseau international des organisations de la société civile et des mouvements sociaux des pays les moins avancés (PMA) dont l'objectif est de faire entendre la voix des populations de ces pays au niveau international, au sein des Nations-Unies et dans les organisations internationales afin de faire respecter les engagements en faveur de ces populations contenus dans les programmes d'action pour les PMA.

7	Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG)	PANG is a Pacific regional network promoting economic justice in globalisation with specific attention to:1) Accountability and transparency in economic and trade policy processes, 2) Poverty eradication, 3) Equitable development and sustainable livelihoods (opportunity, access, impact) and 4) Food sovereignty and environmental sustainability.
8	Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD)	La PIDHDD es un actor político, conformado por Capítulos Nacionales que articulan organizaciones sociales e instituciones de la sociedad civil, que promueve la plena vigencia y realización de los derechos humanos; Actualmente, se cuenta con capítulos nacionales constituidos y en funcionamiento en 16 países del continente americano: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Dominicana, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haití, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela.
9	Public Services International (PSI)	Public Services International (PSI) is a global trade union federation dedicated to promoting quality public services in every part of the world. PSI brings together more than 20 million workers, represented by 650 unions in 150 countries and territories.
10	Social Watch	Social Watch is an international network of citizens' organizations struggling to eradicate poverty and the causes of poverty, to ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and the realization of human rights. Social Watch is committed to social, economic and gender justice, and emphasizes the right of all people not to be poor.
11	Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)	An African initiative to strengthen Africa's capacity to take a more effective part in the emerging global trading system and to better manage the process of Globalization.
12	Third World Network (TWN)	Third World Network (TWN) is an independent non-profit international network of organisations and individuals involved in issues relating to development, developing countries and North-South affairs.

National Organizations

13	Confederación de Trabajadores Municipales (CTM)	Argentina
14	Fórum das Organizações Não Governamentais Angolanas (FONGA)	Angola
15	Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARDC)	Antigua and Barbuda
16	Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network	Australia
17	New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association	Australia

18	Australian Services Union (ASU)	Australia
19	Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika – IGLA	Austria
20	Civil Society Bahamas	Bahamas
21	Bahrain Transparency Society	Bahrain
22	Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD)	Bangladesh
23	Bangladesh Krishok Federation	Bangladesh
24	Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD)	Bangladesh
25	PGCB Sramik Karmachari Union (PGCBSKU)	Bangladesh
26	Barbados Association of Non Governmental Organizations	Barbados
27	Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology	Belize
28	Dynamique OSCAF (Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone)	Benin Republic
29	Plateforme des Acteurs de la Société Civile au Bénin (PASCIB)	Benin Republic
30	Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD)	Benin Republic
31	Agence Afrique Performance (AfriPerf)	Benin Republic
32	Botswana Council of Non Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)	Botswana
33	Rede Brasileira Pela Integração dos Povos (REBRIP)	Brazil
34	Cadre de concertation des OSC pour le suivi du CSLP (CdC/CSLP)	Burkina Faso
35	Civil Society Organization Network for Development (RESOCIDE)	Burkina Faso
36	Action Développement et Intégration Régionale (ADIR)	Burundi
37	Independent Civil-Servants Association (CICA)	Cambodia
38	Conseil des ONG Agrées du Cameroun (CONGAC)	Cameroon
39	Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)	Cameroon
40	The National Union of Public and General Employees	Canada
41	Syndicat de la fonction publique et parapublique du Québec	Canada
42	Association Commerciale, Agricole, Industriel et du Service (ACAISA)	Cape Verde
43	Conseil Inter ONG En Centrafrique (CIONGCA)	Central African Rep.
44	Centre d'Information et de Liaison des ONG (CILONG)	Chad
45	Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad	Colombia
46	Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)	Colombia
47	La Asociación de Servidores Públicos Departamentales y Municipales	Colombia
48	Conseil de Concertation des ONGs de Développement (CCOD)	Congo
49	Cook Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (CIANGO)	Cook Islands
50	Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País	Cuba
51	Conseil National des ONG de Développement (CNONGD)	D.R. Congo
52	Kalingo Carib Council	Dominica
53	Alianza ONG	Dominican Republic

54	Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights	Egypt
55	Red De Accion Ciudadana Frente Al Libre Comercio E Inversion Sinti Techan	El Salvador
56	Forum des ONG pour le Développement Durable (FONGDD)	Eq. Guinea
57	Cotonou Task Force	Ethiopia
58	Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia (PANE)	Ethiopia
59	Solidarité	France
60	Concertation Nationale Des Organisations paysannes et des Producteurs (CNOP)	Gabon
61	Worldview	Gambia
62	Agricultural Workers Union of TUC	Ghana
63	Public Services Workers' Union of TUC	Ghana
64	Inter Agency Group of Development Organizations (IAGDO)	Grenada
65	Federation de Femmes Entreprenuers et Affaires de la CEDEAO (FEFA)	Guinea
66	Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEI)	Guinea-Bissau
67	Women Across Differences (WAD)	Guyana
68	Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA)	Haiti
69	Programme de Plaidoyer Pour une Intégration Alternative (PPIA)	Haiti
70	CNS Vote For Health campaign	India
71	Asha Parivar	India
72	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)	India
73	All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP)	India
74	All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation (AINLIEF)	India
75	Right to Food Campaign	India
76	Institute for Global Justice (IGJ)	Indonesia
77	SP PDAM (Unions Regional Water Company Jakarta)	Indonesia
78	Union of Engineering and Technical Professions South Electricity Sector (UETPSES)	Iraq
79	Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL)	Italy
80	FairWatch	Italy
81	Alliance Pour la Reconstruction et le Developpement Post-Conflict (ARDPC)	Ivory Coast
82	Jamaica Civil Service Association	Jamaica
83	Lawyers' for Defending Human Right Society	Jordan
84	Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN)	Kenya
85	National Council of NGOs	Kenya
86	Economic News Africa (Econews Africa)	Kenya
87	Union of Kenya Civil Servants	Kenya
88	Kenya Union Of Commercial Food And Allied Workers (KUKFAW)	Kenya
89	Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (KANGO)	Kiribati

90	Syndicate of Kadischa	Lebanon
91	la syndicat des ouvriers et d'employer de l'établissement des eaux de Liban nord	Lebanon
92	Consumers Protection Association (CPA)	Lesotho
93	Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN)	Lesotho
94	Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho (PARIL)	Lesotho
95	West African Women Association (WAWA)	Liberia
96	Plate-Forme Nationale des Organisations de la Societe Civile de Madagascar	Madagascar
97	Malawi Economic Justice Network	Malawi
98	Amalgamated Union of Employees in Government Clerical and Allied Services (AUEGCAS)	Malaysia
99	Appui Solidaire Pour Le Renforcement De L'aide Au Developpement (ASRAD)	Mali
100	Foundation pour le Developpement au Sahel (FDS)	Mali
101	Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOS)	Marshall Islands
102	Association pour le developpement et de la promotion des droits humains	Mauritania
103	Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)	Mauritius
104	Unión Popular Valle Gómez	Mexico
105	Grupo Tacuba	Mexico
106	Asesoría e Investigación	Mexico
107	Jóvenes frente al G20	Mexico
108	Foro Social México Global	Mexico
109	Red Nacional Genero Y Economía	Mexico
110	Asociación Nacional de Industriales de Transformación	Mexico
111	Centro de Estudios Sociales y Culturales	Mexico
112	FSM Alliance of NGOs (FANGO)	Micronesia
113	National Forum for Mozambiquan NGOs and CBOs (TEIA)	Mozambique
114	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisations Forum Trust	Namibia
115	Nauru Island Association of NGOs (NIANGO)	Nauru
116	Union of Public Services in Nepal (UPSIN)	Nepal
117	All Nepal Peasants Federation	Nepal
118	Nepal Film Workers Union	Nepal
119	Abvakabo FNV	Netherlands
120	Platform Aarde Boer Consument	Netherlands
121	National du Réseau des Ong de Développement et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (RODADDHD)	Niger
122	Labour,Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
123	Nigeria Civil Service Union	Nigeria
124	National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)	Nigeria

125	Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees	Nigeria
126	Amalgamated Union (AUPCTRE) Affiliate of Nigeria Labour Congress	Nigeria
127	Niue Island (Umbrella) Association of NGOs (NIUANGO)	Niue
128	Baluchistan Rural Development & Research Society (BRDRS)	Pakistan
129	Public Sector Employees Federation of Pakistan (PSEFP)	Pakistan
130	Federación Nacional de Asociaciones y Organizaciones de Empleados Públicos (FENASEP)	Panama
131	Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL)	Papua New Guinea
132	Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Agua Potable del Perú FENTAP	Peru
133	Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)	Philippines
134	Rwanda Civil Society Platform	Rwanda
135	Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisation (SUNGO)	Samoa
136	Forum das Ong de São Tomé e Príncipe (FONG-STP)	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
137	Plate-forme des acteurs non étatiques pour le suivi de l'Accord de Cotonou au Sénégal	Senegal
138	ARCADE	Sénégal
139	Forum Africain des Alternatives	Sénégal
140	Panafricaine pour l'Education au Développement durable	Sénégal
141	Forum social sénégalais (FSS)	Sénégal
142	Liaison Unit of the non-governmental organisations of Seychelles - (LUNGOS)	Seychelles
143	Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
144	Development Service Exchange (DSE)	Solomon Islands
145	Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU)	South Africa
146	South African NGO Council (SANGOCO)	South Africa
147	Association pour la Taxation des Transactions financière et l'Aide aux Citoyens (ATTAC)	Spain
148	Confederation of Public Services Independent Trade Unions	Sri Lanka
149	Iyanola (St.Lucia) Council for the Advancement of Rastafari Incorporated (ICAR)	St. Lucia
150	Windward Islands Farmers' Association (WINFA)	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
151	Stichting Projekta	Suriname
152	Council for NGOs (CANGO)	Swaziland
153	Berne Declaration	Switzerland
154	Governance Links Tanzania	Tanzania
155	Tanzania Association of NGOs	Tanzania

156	The Asia Foundation	Timor-Leste
157	Groupe d'Action et de Reflexion sur l'Environnement et le Développement (GARED)	Togo
158	Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT)	Tonga
159	Grassroots Organisations of Trinidad & Tobago (GOTT)	Trinidad & Tobago
160	Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)	Tuvalu
161	Centre for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)	Uganda
162	Consumer Education Trust	Uganda
163	World Development Movement	United Kingdom
164	National Justice and Peace Network	United Kingdom
165	Central America Women's Network (CAWN)	United Kingdom
166	Trade Justice Movement	United Kingdom
167	American Federation of Teachers	United States
168	Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO)	Vanuatu
169	Aljawf Women Organization For Development	Yemen
170	Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmer's Forum (ESAFF) Zambia	Zambia
171	Zambia Council for Social Development	Zambia
172	National Association of NGOs (NANGO)	Zimbabwe