

Updated on 22 July 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 217* 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	ActionAid International	ActionAid is an international organisation, working with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice.
3	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
4	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.
5	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.
6	Consejo Sindical Unitario de América Central y el Caribe (CSU)	CSU representa 30 y confederaciones centrales de la subregión. CSU tienen las organizaciones en Guatemala, Belice, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá y República Dominicana.
7	IBFAN-GIFA (International Baby Food Action Network / Geneva Infant Feeding Association)	IBFAN - GIFA is the international liaison office for the IBFAN network, a 35-year old coalition working on the nutrition of infants and young children. It serves as an interface between the network of more than 273 not-for-profit non-governmental organisations in more than 168 countries, and the UN organizations, human treaty bodies and Geneva-based international NGOs.

8	IUF-UITA-IUL - International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)	IUF is an international federation is currently composed of 387 trade unions in 125 countries representing a combined representational membership of over 12 million workers.
9	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).
10	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.
11	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.
12	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, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela.
13	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.
14	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.
15	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.

16	The Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO)	FTAO works to improve the livelihoods of marginalised producers and workers in the South. It is a joint initiative of Fairtrade International, the European Fair Trade Association and the World Fair Trade Organization-Europe. Through these three networks it represents an estimate of 2.5 million Fair Trade producers and workers from 70 countries, 24 labelling initiatives, over 500 specialised Fair Trade importers, 4,000 World Shops and more than 100,000 volunteers.
17	The Society for International Development (SID)	The SID is an international network of individuals and organizations founded in 1957 to promote economic and social justice and foster democratic participation in the development process”
18	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

19	Confederación de Trabajadores Municipales (CTM)	Argentina
20	Fórum das Organizações Não Governamentais Angolanas (FONGA)	Angola
21	Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARDC)	Antigua and Barbuda
22	Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network	Australia
23	New South Wales Nurses and Midwives’ Association	Australia
24	Australian Services Union (ASU)	Australia
25	SEARCH Foundation	Australia
26	Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika – IGLA	Austria
27	Civil Society Bahamas	Bahamas
28	Bahrain Transparency Society	Bahrain
29	Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD)	Bangladesh
30	Bangladesh Krishok Federation	Bangladesh
31	Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD)	Bangladesh
32	PGCB Sramik Karmachari Union (PGCBSKU)	Bangladesh
33	VOICE	Bangladesh
34	Barbados Association of Non Governmental Organizations	Barbados
35	Belize Enterprise for Sustainable Technology	Belize
36	Dynamique OSCAF (Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone)	Benin Republic
37	Plateforme des Acteurs de la Sociiété Civile au Bénin (PASCIB)	Benin Republic
38	Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD)	Benin Republic
39	Agence Afrique Performance (AfriPerf)	Benin Republic
40	Justicia, Salud & Desarrollo	Bolivia

41	Botswana Council of Non Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)	Botswana
42	Rede Brasileira Pela Integração dos Povos (REBRIP)	Brazil
43	Instituto Justiça Fiscal	Brazil
44	Cadre de concertation des OSC pour le suivi du CSLP (CdC/CSLP)	Burkina Faso
45	Civil Society Organization Network for Development (RESOCIDE)	Burkina Faso
46	Action Développement et Intégration Régionale (ADIR)	Burundi
47	Independent Civil-Servants Association (CICA)	Cambodia
48	Conseil des ONG Agrées du Cameroun (CONGAC)	Cameroon
49	Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)	Cameroon
50	The National Union of Public and General Employees	Canada
51	Syndicat de la fonction publique et parapublique du Québec	Canada
52	Global Compliance Research Project	Canada
53	Association Commerciale, Agricole, Industriel et du Service (ACAISA)	Cape Verde
54	Conseil Inter ONG En Centrafrique (CIONGCA)	Central African Rep.
55	Centre d'Information et de Liaison des ONG (CILONG)	Chad
56	Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad	Colombia
57	Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)	Colombia
58	La Asociación de Servidores Públicos Departamentales y Municipales	Colombia
59	Conseil de Concertation des ONGs de Développement (CCOD)	Congo
60	Cook Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (CIANGO)	Cook Islands
61	Comision Nacional de Enlace (CNE)	Costa Rica
62	Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País	Cuba
63	Conseil National des ONG de Développement (CNONGD)	D.R. Congo
64	Kalingo Carib Council	Dominica
65	Alianza ONG	Dominican Republic
66	Dominican Republic Trade union (CNUS)	Dominican Republic
67	Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)	Ecuador
68	Red Mujeres Transformando la Economía (REMTE)	Ecuador
69	Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights	Egypt
70	Red De Accion Ciudadana Frente Al Libre Comercio E Inversion Sinti Techan	El Salvador
71	Forum des ONG pour le Développement Durable (FONGDD)	Eq. Guinea
72	Cotonou Task Force	Ethiopia
73	Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia (PANE)	Ethiopia
74	Solidarité	France
75	Concertation Nationale Des Organisations paysannes et des Producteurs (CNOP)	Gabon
76	Worldview	Gambia
77	Agricultural Workers Union of TUC	Ghana
78	Public Services Workers' Union of TUC	Ghana

79	Inter Agency Group of Development Organizations (IAGDO)	Grenada
80	Alianza Política Sector de Mujeres	Guatemala
81	Federation de Femmes Entreprenuers et Affaires de la CEDEAO (FEFA)	Guinea
82	Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEI)	Guinea-Bissau
83	Women Across Differences (WAD)	Guyana
84	Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA)	Haiti
85	Programme de Plaidoyer Pour une Intégration Alternative (PPIA)	Haïti
86	Wemos	Holland
87	CNS Vote For Health campaign	India
88	Asha Parivar	India
89	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)	India
90	All India Union of Forest Working People (AIUFWP)	India
91	All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation (AINLIEF)	India
92	Right to Food Campaign	India
93	Karnataka Government Employees Union (KSGEU)	India
94	Jagruti - The Awareness	India
95	Bharatiya Krishak Samaj	India
96	Institute for Global Justice (IGJ)	Indonesia
97	SP PDAM (Unions Regional Water Company Jakarta)	Indonesia
98	Union of Engineering and Technical Professions South Electricity Sector (UETPSES)	Iraq
99	Comhlámh	Ireland
100	Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL)	Italy
101	FairWatch	Italy
102	Alliance Pour la Reconstruction et le Developpement Post-Conflit (ARDPC)	Ivory Coast
103	Jamaica Civil Service Association	Jamaica
104	Lawyers' for Defending Human Right Society	Jordan
105	Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN)	Kenya
106	National Council of NGOs	Kenya
107	Economic News Africa (Econews Africa)	Kenya
108	Union of Kenya Civil Servants	Kenya
109	Kenya Union Of Commercial Food And Allied Workers (KUKFAW)	Kenya
110	Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Organisation (KANGO)	Kiribati
111	Syndicate of Kadischa	Lebanon
112	la syndicat des ouvriers et d'employer de l'établissement des eaux de Liban nord	Lebanon
113	Consumers Protection Association (CPA)	Lesotho
114	Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN)	Lesotho
115	Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho (PARIL)	Lesotho
116	West African Women Association (WAWA)	Liberia

117	Plate-Forme Nationale des Organisations de la Societe Civile de Madagascar	Madagascar
118	Malawi Economic Justice Network	Malawi
119	Amalgamated Union of Employees in Government Clerical and Allied Services (AUEGCAS)	Malaysia
120	Appui Solidaire Pour Le Renforcement De L'aide Au Developpement (ASRAD)	Mali
121	Foundation pour le Developpement au Sahel (FDS)	Mali
122	Oeuvre Malienne d'Aide a L'Enfance du Sahel (OMAES)	Mali
123	Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOS)	Marshall Islands
124	Association pour le developpement et de la promotion des droits humains	Mauritania
125	Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)	Mauritius
126	Unión Popular Valle Gómez	Mexico
127	Grupo Tacuba	Mexico
128	Asesoría e Investigación	Mexico
129	Jóvenes frente al G20	Mexico
130	Foro Social México Global	Mexico
131	Red Nacional Genero Y Economia	Mexico
132	Asociación Nacional de Industriales de Transformación	Mexico
133	Centro de Estudios Sociales y Culturales	Mexico
134	Centro de Promoción y Educación Profesional Vasco de Quiroga, A. C.	Mexico
135	Grupo de Trabajo G8/G20	Mexico
136	FSM Alliance of NGOs (FANGO)	Micronesia
137	National Forum for Mozambiquan NGOs and CBOs (TEIA)	Mozambique
138	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisations Forum Trust	Namibia
139	Nauru Island Association of NGOs (NIANGO)	Nauru
140	Union of Public Services in Nepal (UPSIN)	Nepal
141	All Nepal Peasants Federation	Nepal
142	Nepal Film Workers Union	Nepal
143	Abvakabo FNV	Netherlands
144	Platform Aarde Boer Consument	Netherlands
145	National du Réseau des Ong de Développement et Associations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (RODADDHD)	Niger
146	Labour,Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
147	Nigeria Civil Service Union	Nigeria
148	National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS)	Nigeria
149	Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees	Nigeria
150	Amalgamated Union (AUPCTRE) Affiliate of Nigeria Labour Congress	Nigeria
151	Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development (NDWPD)	Nigeria
152	Niue Island (Umbrella) Association of NGOs (NIUANGO)	Niue
153	Baluchistan Rural Development & Research Society (BRDRS)	Pakistan
154	Public Sector Employees Federation of Pakistan (PSEFP)	Pakistan
155	Dharti Development Foundation	Pakistan
156	Roots for Equity	Pakistan

157	All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union (CBA)	Pakistan
158	Federación Nacional de Asociaciones y Organizaciones de Empleados Públicos (FENASEP)	Panama
159	Grupo de Agroecología y Soberanía Alimentaria (GASA)	Panama
160	Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL)	Papua New Guinea
161	Federación Nacional de Trabajadores del Agua Potable del Perú FENTAP	Peru
162	Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)	Philippines
163	WomanHealth Philippines	Philippines
164	Campaign for a Life of Dignity for All (KAMP)	Philippines
165	Mission for Victims of Human Trafficking Overseas Filipino Workers and their Families Board of Women's Work - The United Methodist Church	Philippines
166	Rwanda Civil Society Platform	Rwanda
167	Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisation (SUNGO)	Samoa
168	Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI)	Samoa
169	Forum das Ong de São Tomé e Príncipe (FONG-STP)	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
170	Plate-forme des acteurs non étatiques pour le suivi de l'Accord de Cotonou au Sénégal	Senegal
171	ARCADE	Sénégal
172	Forum Africain des Alternatives	Sénégal
173	Panafricaine pour l'Education au Développement durable	Sénégal
174	Forum social sénégalais (FSS)	Sénégal
175	Liaison Unit of the non-governmental organisations of Seychelles - (LUNGOS)	Seychelles
176	Africa Youth Coalition Against Hunger Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
177	Economic Justice Netowrk Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
178	Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
179	Development Service Exchange (DSE)	Solomon Islands
180	Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU)	South Africa
181	South African NGO Council (SANGOCO)	South Africa
182	Centre for Civil Society Economic Justice Project	South Africa
183	Cooperative and Policy Alternative Center	South Africa
184	Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)	South Sudan
185	Association pour la Taxation des Transactions financière et l'Aide aux Citoyens (ATTAC)	Spain
186	Confederation of Public Services Independent Trade Unions	Sri Lanka
187	Iyanola (St.Lucia) Council for the Advancement of Rastafari Incorporated (ICAR)	St. Lucia
188	Windward Islands Farmers' Association (WINFA)	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
189	Stichting Projekta	Suriname
190	Council for NGOs (CANGO)	Swaziland
191	Berne Declaration	Switzerland

192	Health Innovation in Practice	Switzerland
193	Governance Links Tanzania	Tanzania
194	Tanzania Association of NGOs	Tanzania
195	The Asia Foundation	Timor-Leste
196	La'o Hamutuk (The Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis)	Timor-Leste
197	Groupe d'Action et de Reflexion sur l'Environnement et le Développement (GARED)	Togo
198	Civil Society Forum of Tonga (CSFT)	Tonga
199	Grassroots Organisations of Trinidad & Tobago (GOTT)	Trinidad & Tobago
200	Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)	Tuvalu
201	Centre for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)	Uganda
202	Consumer Education Trust	Uganda
203	Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)	Uganda
204	World Development Movement	United Kingdom
205	National Justice and Peace Network	United Kingdom
206	Central America Women's Network (CAWN)	United Kingdom
207	Trade Justice Movement	United Kingdom
208	War on Want	United Kingdom
209	American Federation of Teachers	United States
210	Global Exchange	United States
211	Washington Fair Trade Coalition	United States
212	REDES-FoE	Uruguay
213	Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO)	Vanuatu
214	Aljawf Women Organization For Development	Yemen
215	Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmer's Forum (ESAFF) Zambia	Zambia
216	Zambia Council for Social Development	Zambia
217	National Association of NGOs (NANGO)	Zimbabwe