

Bridging the Gap

“Encouraging dialogue between North and South”

CUTS
International

CUTS International London Resource Centre, Year 1, No 2/2005

Bringing a Human Face to the WTO: A Vital Role for Civil Society Organisations



H.E. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, WTO Director-General and H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda at the WTO Symposium

The title of this year's World Trade Organisation (WTO) Public Symposium, "WTO after 10 years: Global problems and multilateral solutions", said a great deal about the situation that the WTO finds itself in at the time of its 10th anniversary. Despite some notable successes in its 10-year history, the WTO members face severe challenges in ensuring that these successes extend to the large number of developing countries that have yet to benefit significantly from the world trading system.

Much of the discussion at the symposium, which brought together participants from governments, parliaments, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media, focused on this challenge, and revealed some important areas where civil society organisations (CSOs), both in the South and the North can play a role in finding a way forward.

Domestic trade debates

A frequently expressed response to this question by presenters and participants at the symposium was the

need for greater trade policy debate in the domestic setting of developing countries. This sentiment was, for example, expressed by Jamaica's former Ambassador to the UN, Anthony Hill, in a session looking at transparency and participation in the national trade policy process:

"From my 30 years of experience representing Jamaica at international institutions, having skilled and knowledgeable negotiators is no substitute for a broad-based trade-policy consultation, as this gives negotiators a strong mandate from which to defend national economic interests", he said.

At a session organised by the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC), which looked at Africa's future in the WTO, TRALACs capacity building manager, Paul Kalenga, highlighted "the lack of capacity amongst many African governments and non-state actors (NSAs) in relation to trade. This is hindering their efforts to maintain ownership of their trade reform processes and to carry out broad-based consultations on trade

policy". He argued "African countries are currently involved in so many trade negotiations at the multilateral and bilateral levels that they lack the expertise and consultative capacity to effectively engage with these processes in defence of their development concerns."

At the same session, Trudy Hartzenberg, TRALACs Executive Director, emphasised the important role that CSOs can play in contributing to the trade policy debate at the national level in Africa and in strengthening the capacity of developing countries to pro actively engage in international trade policy-making.

Institutional reforms

Another response to the challenge of making the WTO work for development, expressed at the conference was to implement institutional reforms of the WTO to allow it to address development concerns more effectively. Peter Sutherland, former WTO Director General and Chair of the recent review of the WTO's institutional mechanisms, said that "the WTO's members, its Secretariat and its Director General needs to be given a more real life perspective by integrating the WTO more effectively with development focused institutions such as the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United Nations (UN)". He also said, "CSOs have an important role to play in bringing this real life development perspective to the deliberations that take place at the WTO".

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Project on Competition Law Launched in Uganda

7Up3

A Project entitled: 'Capacity Building on Competition Policy and Law in Select Countries in Africa' was launched by CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS-CCIER), at a two day conference in Entebbe, Uganda, on March 22-23, 2005.

The project is the third in a series looking at competition policy in developing countries. The first, (7Up1), was earlier implemented in seven Commonwealth countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India) and the second (7Up2) in South and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao People Democratic Republic (PDR), Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and Nepal). The goal of the 7Up3 project is to promote fair markets in seven African countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda. The launch meeting was attended by leading CSOs from the project countries as well as academics, consumer activists, representatives of competition authorities and experts on competition.

In his presentation, the Executive Director of Zambia's Competition Commission (ZCC), George Lipimile, showed that the anticompetitive market in Africa has its roots in privatisation programmes imposed as part of the structural



Kimera Henry Richard, Chief Executive of Consumer Education Trust (CONSENT), Uganda speaking at the conference. CONSENT is the 7Up3 project partner in Uganda

adjustment programmes. The only companies that actually bought government enterprises were those already operating in the market, thus weakening competition. This point was supported by Lucian Cernat of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), who argued that the benefits of trade liberalisation may not materialise in developing countries if they do not have an effective competition law.

The relevance and timeliness of 7Up3 was expressed by many participants and CUTS Secretary General, Pradeep S Mehta echoed a shared sentiment by concluding: "Competition law is not a luxury of the developed world, but one of the necessary tools in our fight against poverty."

On the second day of the conference, CUTS' partner organisations from the project countries presented the preliminary country papers on the state of domestic competition policy and law.

The project will run over two years and is funded by Department for International Development (DFID) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

As part of 7Up3, LRC will employ a Legal Researcher to explore good practices competition law in Europe.

South-South Economic Cooperation Explored

The IBSA initiative

At present, South-South trade constitutes only 10 percent of world trade. Recognising the strong positive impact development-friendly trade and investment policies can have on economic development, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) launched a project entitled: 'South-South Economic Cooperation' Exploring IBSA Initiative, in Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 15, 2005. The project will focus on the emerging cooperation between India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) and look at supply and demand side factors hindering the expansion of inter-country trade.

CUTS-CITEE will implement the project in collaboration with country partners: South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), in South Africa, and Institute of International Trade Negotiations (ICONE), in Brazil. London Resource Centre (LRC) will have an administrative role.

The launch conference, attended by CSOs, media and businesses as well as representatives from Indian and Brazilian missions, drew attention to the range of obstacles currently preventing the forging of closer ties between the IBSA countries, such as poor infrastructure and conflicting geopolitical interests.

Marco Marceline from ICONE argued that Brazil needs to do a lot more to prioritise optimising trade agreements

than only satisfying its narrow geopolitical interests, and that the main priority for IBSA cooperation should be trade and enhanced cooperation within the WTO. On the other hand, several speakers noted that while keeping the main focus on trade, the IBSA initiative needs to take into account non-economic factors such as employment, health and education. James Lennox from the South African Chamber of Business and Kuseni Dlamini from AngloGold both gave the business perspective: "Businesses are often confused" Lennox said, "over the lack of coordination and transparency in trade agreements". In order to address this lack of transparency, both speakers emphasised the importance of integrating businesses into the IBSA initiative.

The IBSA project will produce three country papers, one for each country, which will focus on the historical trade relationship between the three countries, as well as convey the results of a field study on the perceptions of different stakeholders on promoting trade and investment. In addition, the country papers from India and South Africa will explore two or three significant products/sectors, which could play a pivotal role in enhancing trade between the IBSA countries, analysing the current constraints on the demand, as well as the supply-side.

This is a one-year project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Opportunity to Widen Trade Debate

Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)

'Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction', a project implemented by CUTS-CITEE in collaboration with CUTS-LRC, was launched in Jaipur, India, on March 18-19, 2005. Gideon Rabinowitz from LRC participated in the launch conference.

The project, to be implemented over the next four years, in 16 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe aims to discover more about how trade policies affect the livelihood of the poor. Through consultations with a wide variety of stakeholders in each of the project countries, and the production

of country research and advocacy papers, the project will build the capacity of CSOs in the project countries to advocate for pro-poor policies at the national, regional and international levels.

The launch was held as a two-day conference where experts from South and Southeast Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa shared their countries' experiences on trade liberalisation and development. The conference showed the vast differences between regions affected by trade liberalisation. Some countries have been able to benefit from trade liberalisation in terms of both economic growth and poverty reduction. Others have seen trade liberalisation stimulate economic growth and its inability to convert that into a significant improvement in poverty levels. Special concern was expressed about countries in sub-Saharan Africa, many of which have been even further marginalised in the global trading arena over the last decade, despite liberalising their trade regimes quite significantly. Panellists recommended a rights-based approach, with emphasis on grassroots involvement in trade policy-making, and a stronger focus on coherent domestic policies.

At the conference, Bipul Chatterjee, Director of CITEE, presented the Linkages project as an opportunity to widen the debate on trade to include the voices of economically and politically marginalised groups. He emphasised that there is an urgent need to learn more about the complex links between trade, development and poverty and to involve grassroots movements in the dialogue on how trade affects their livelihoods.

This is a four-year project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, and DFID, UK.

LRC will coordinate the European aspect of the project, which will include producer-consumer dialogues on issues, such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and product quality, as well as engage with European governments on the coherence between their development and trade strategies.

The European launch will take place in London in mid-July.



Preparing for the conference



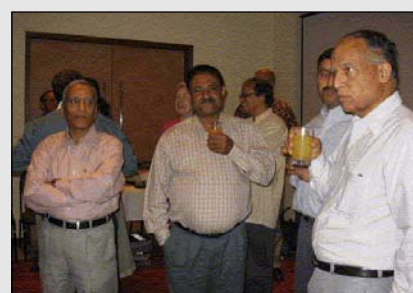
Shirin Akhter from Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh, speaking at the conference



In total 45 representatives participated in the roundtable discussions



Post conference entertainment in Indian style



Conference participants discussing between sessions

Asian Project on Competition at a Vital Stage

7Up2

7Up2, an advocacy and capacity building project on competition policy and law in six countries in Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and India) implemented jointly by CUTS-LRC and CUTS-CCIER is making progress as planned and has already showed significant results.

Project partners have completed perception surveys, which clearly show anticompetitive practices in all the project countries and the limited awareness and technical knowledge relating to these issues among all stakeholders, including government. Country reports have been submitted from all project countries and are being commented on by the Project Coordination and Management Unit.

Apart from research, project partners have also been involved in advocacy activities, meeting with policy makers, regulators and academics. In Vietnam, the Project Coordination and Management Unit published a response, *Bill Blow-up*, to the Draft Competition Law, which was discussed in the Vietnamese National Assembly in November 2004. The *Bill Blow-up* was widely circulated and very well received by relevant people and organisations in Vietnam. The recommendations were eventually reflected in the final adopted version of the Law.

Protesters call for trade justice

Global Week of Action, April 10-16, 2005, culminated with an all-night vigil for trade justice

An estimated 25,000 campaigners gathered in London, on April 14, 2005 for a night of protest, calling on trade justice for the poorest countries in the world.

The night began in Westminster Abbey. Here a packed church listened to testimonies from the South on the effects of unfair trade policies on ordinary lives, as well as hearing readings from celebrities such as Vanessa Redgrave and Pete Postlethwaite and music performed by Beverly Knight, Jools Holland and Ronan Keating. Before his interpretation of Elvis Presley's 'In the Ghetto', Keating explained to the audience how he had become involved in the fight for trade justice following a 'life-changing' visit to Ghana: "When I was leaving, one of my Ghanaian friends gave me a drum. Many years ago before telephones and the Internet, drums were the way of communicating. She gave me this drum on the understanding that I would come back and communicate the message. If we stick together and shout loud enough, we will make a difference."



Trade campaigners in London observed a one minute silence at midnight

After the Westminster event, thousands of people walked together around Parliament Square with candles in their hands, forming a huge white band, the symbol of the MakePovertyHistory campaign. As Big Ben struck midnight, silence fell over the mass, to mark the lives being destroyed every day as a result of unfair international trade rules. This impressive quiet was followed by a deafening noise of drums, whistling and shouting to wake UK politicians up to trade justice. The vigil continued all-night and at dawn protesters led a procession towards Downing Street.

The event was organised by Trade Justice Movement, a coalition of 65 organisations. The all-night vigil was part of the Global Week of Action, the biggest mobilisation on trade ever, which saw hundreds of events and protests in more than 70 countries around the world.

Undermining the Millennium Development Goals: Is EU walking the walk or merely talking the talk?

Even though the EU is in theory firmly committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the actual policies with regard to trade and aid suggest a different approach in practice

This was one of the main conclusions at the BOND (a network of UK-based NGOs working in international development) European Union (EU) Assembly, held in London on April 13, 2005.

Trade policies against the MDGs

The panel discussion was kicked-off with a presentation on trade by Action Aid's Trade Policy Officer, Tom Sharman. He argued that through trade negotiations at the multilateral (WTO) and the regional Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) levels, the EU is pushing for policies that will undermine the MDGs.

At the WTO level, Tom Sharman claimed the push for liberalisation on services and eliminating tariffs on manufactured goods, endangers the economies of many developing countries that get their main tax income from imports. Elimination or even lowering of tariffs may lead to a decrease in public spending on basic services, such as education and health and thus, jeopardise MDGs 2, 3, 4 and 6. Whether it is in fact desirable or sustainable in the long term to finance public spending via taxes on import was not addressed by Sharman.

At the EU level, Tom Sharman presented the work of the Cotonou Lobby Group, of which CUTS International and Action Aid are members. The Cotonou Lobby Group is involved in advocacy activities at the highest level to secure a development-friendly outcome to the EPA negotiations. Key demands include an end to forced liberalisation which could see developing countries having to liberalise as much as 90 percent of their trade with the EU within the next ten years. Studies have clearly shown that this could severely threaten the livelihoods of many local farmers (i.e. MDG 1 in particular), as they will not be able to compete with cheap (frequently subsidised) exports from the EU. The Cotonou Lobby Group also calls for the Singapore issues to only be included ACP countries specifically request this, as well as the development of clear alternatives to countries which do not want to sign up to an EPA.

Aid – too little, too late?

Corresponding to the MakePovertyHistory call for more and better aid, Constanza de Toma from Save the Children fund, UK, presented the BOND EU advocacy paper, which calls for the EU to commit itself to spend on average 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) on overseas development assistance (ODA) by 2010, and to allocate a larger part of aid to the poorest, and to basic services. Currently, the EU average is below 0.3 percent. While the EU does have plans to reach an average of 0.56 percent by 2010, and 0.7 percent by 2015, this is obviously not soon enough to reach the 2015 MDG deadline.

De Toma also stated that over the last couple of years, the amount of aid allocated to education, as well as to general health has decreased, which could undermine the efforts to meet the MDGs. In the latest EU MDG stocktaking report, girls' education was not even mentioned. In order to prove that they take their commitment seriously, the EU has to divert more funds to basic services.

In relation to conditionality, she called for the EU to eliminate conditions attached to aid, and push for similar policies to be adopted at the multilateral level, where the strict fiscal targets set by the IMF in their poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs)

prevent developing countries from spending adequate amounts on public services, such as education and health.

But even as EU policy was challenged by BOND members, the prevailing view remained that it can make a valuable and unique contribution to development. Because of the huge amounts of funds channelled through the EU and the transnational nature of the institution, EU development policies have the potential to reach beyond narrow national geopolitical interests. Therefore, EU funding – and indeed EU trade policies – are still pivotal to global poverty reduction strategies.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2: Achieve universal education
- 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4: Reduce child mortality
- 5: Improve maternal health
- 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The Findings of the Commission for Africa: A blue print for development focused EPAs?

CUTS International welcomes the report of the Commission for Africa (CfA) and the urgent challenges it poses for the UK Government and the EU, particularly in the ongoing EPA negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

More specifically, CUTS International welcomes:

1. The report's endorsement of enhanced Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions to allow African countries the policy space to follow a growth-orientated mixture of protectionist and open trade policies.

CUTS International calls on the EU to follow these recommendations by including development oriented S&DT provisions in EPAs.

2. The report's focus on supply-side capacity-building including investment in infrastructure and education in Africa.

CUTS International calls on the EU to follow their commitment to build ACP supply capacity before any significant liberalisation takes place through EPAs.

3. The report's call for the phase-out of agricultural subsidies by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), not only in the interest of improving market access for African farmers, but also in the interest of European consumers.

CUTS International calls on the EU to act on these recommendations by eliminating Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies. Whilst development-oriented reforms are being implemented, CUTS International also calls on the EU to show suitable flexibility to ACP countries in EPA negotiations, so as to protect ACP farmers from CAP-supported exports.

4. The report endorses a minimum level of reciprocity in EPAs and a period of at least 20 years for implementing these reciprocal trade provisions, if necessary. This will allow ACP countries to protect their markets which are vital to the livelihood of poor and marginalised inhabitants.

CUTS International calls on the EU to allow the ACP countries to make an independent decision on the appropriate level of EPA reciprocity as well as the appropriate period for its implementation. This should include a review of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XXIV, if required.

To ensure Africa has genuine independent ownership of its trade policies, CUTS International calls for more resources to be directed towards building African negotiating capacity.

Whether the findings of the Commission for Africa will become a blue print for development focused EPAs is up to the EU and its member states. CUTS International calls on the UK Government to take advantage of their presidency of the EU to convert these recommendations into a political commitment to development-focused EPAs.

CUTS International (LRC) Campaigns to MakePovertyHistory

In March 2005, CUTS International (LRC) signed up to MakePovertyHistory and we have since been expanding our commitment to the campaign. LRC has participated in several events including those happening during Global Week of Action (see article page 4). LRC also participated at the MakePovertyHistory Assembly Meeting along with other coalition members and participated in the debate about the way forward for the campaign.

The sentiment was that MakePovertyHistory has been very successful in terms of generating publicity and public awareness around the brand and the core messages. The Mandela moment at Trafalgar Square (when Mandela addressed an estimated 22,000 people) was a huge boost to the coalition and the Click advert featuring a wide range of celebrities snapping their fingers every three seconds to symbolise a child dying of poverty, was shown on 15 TV channels simultaneously.

On the other hand, campaigners cautioned that the huge success and visibility of the campaign could make it vulnerable to cooption from politicians eager to capitalise on its good public image, especially during the election campaign.

An example of this tendency could be seen clearly on what MakePovertyHistory declared at the World Poverty Day on April 24. All English party front men from Tony Blair and Gordon Brown to Charles Kennedy and Michael Howard were united in supporting the campaign, albeit they emphasised different aspects in their speeches. While Charles Kennedy called for a speed-up of debt relief, and Blair and Brown used the occasion to promote International Financing Facility and Labours track record on development assistance (doubled since 1997), Michael Howard focused on the role trade can play in alleviating poverty: "Let's make free trade fairer and fair trade freer," he said.

Mehta on World Bank's Trade Policy Evaluation Advisory Committee



CUTS Secretary General, Pradeep S Mehta has been appointed to the High Level External Panel for the Trade Assistance Evaluation for the World Bank's (WB's) Operations Evaluation Department (OED). The five-

member panel, was selected on the basis of outstanding professional credentials; a leadership role among key stakeholder groups; breadth of interests and expertise in key areas; and understanding the WB's role and operations.

The Panel will advise the OED on how to evaluate the design, conduct and outputs of the Bank's activities in the area of trade policy (lending and non-lending). The consultations will take place over the next year. Panel members will share their personal views on OED reports, and are required to maintain confidentiality until the OED has submitted its final report to the WB.

Forthcoming Event

NEPAD into Development

CUTS-Africa Resource Centre (CUTS-ARC), jointly with Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management (PELUM) Association, is organising a workshop to facilitate the launch of the partnership project entitled: 'Information-based Advocacy, Networking, and Capacity Building on NEPAD in Zambia', at Lusaka, Zambia, on June 8-9, 2005. The Project is being supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and implemented to increase awareness and involvement of stakeholders on New Economic Partnership on Africa's Development (NEPAD) activities in Zambia, and build capacity to implement it through public-private partnership.

The objectives of the project and consultative workshop are to:

- bring NEPAD initiative into harmony with relevant partnership agreements and development initiatives in Zambia, such as private sector development;
- strengthen understanding among stakeholders of the dynamics between NEPAD and various trade agreements; and
- assess the level of public and private sector commitment towards the implementation of the developmental projects under NEPAD, and identify areas for the direct involvement of stakeholders e.g. farmers, manufacturers, financial institutions and business community, etc.

The project envisages a draft of a National Advocacy Document that will assist in providing a framework for action plan on NEPAD implementation in Zambia.

Strive against Social Crimes

The right approach to fight against social crimes like adulteration, counterfeiting and spurious products is to inform and empower the consumers at large. This recommendation came out of the panel discussion organised by CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre (CUTS-CRC) to celebrate World Consumers Rights Day, in Calcutta, India, on March 30, 2005.

Indian journalist Jayanta Basu moderated the discussion. Mala Banerjee, President of Federation of Consumer Association, West Bengal; K K Sengupta, a consumer activist; and R K Adhikari, Deputy Commissioner from the Enforcement Branch of Calcutta Police, were among the main speakers at the event.

Long Term Capacity of CSO's

CUTS-CITEE, in association with CUTS Centre for Consumer Action Research and Training (CART), organised the launch meeting/first training seminar under the Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade and Economics (GRANITE) project, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, from February 24-27, 2005.

With a special focus on women and marginalised communities, the project seeks to build the long-term capacity of grassroots CSOs and local media, in India, to deal with the complex issues of globalisation. It focuses on the WTO, economic development and governance in India, with emphasis on two sectors, agriculture and textiles and clothing (T&C). The project will be implemented in eight Indian states over two years with support from NOVIB (Oxfam, The Netherlands) and NORAD.



Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, Trade Minister of Sri Lanka, Saman Kelegama of IPS, and Mohan Kumar, Deputy High Commissioner of India at the Inaugural

Development Strategies

CUTS-CITEE, in association with Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), organised the launch meeting of a Project entitled 'WTO Doha Round & South Asia: Linking Civil Society with Trade Negotiations', in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on March 9-10, 2005. The Project is being supported by NOVIB.

The project will focus on the five key issues of agriculture, non-agricultural market access, development dimensions, services, and trade facilitation.

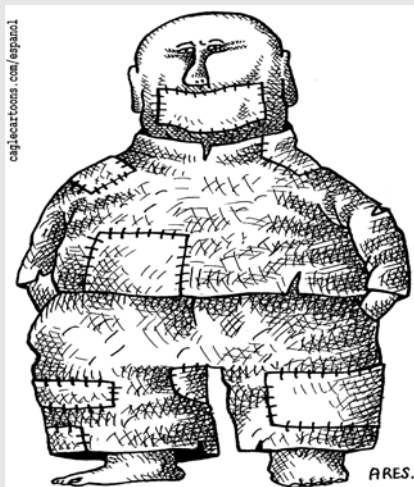
New LRC Policy Brief

Are CSOs Genuine Partners in the EPA Negotiations?

The Cotonou Agreement governs economic and political relations between the ACP countries and the EU. It legislates for the involvement of NSAs, including CSOs, in the negotiation of EPAs.

EPAs that are supposed to be reciprocal trade agreements, will probably require ACP countries to open their economies to the EU, their largest trading partner, to a greater extent than ever before. CSOs, therefore, have a very important role to play in helping to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the ACP economies so that decisions can be made as to which sectors are to be opened to greater competition with the EU and what period of time they need to prepare for these reforms.

However, CSOs are struggling to play this role due to their lack of awareness of the issues surrounding EPAs and a severe lack of the necessary resources and human capacity



required in order to play an active role in negotiations.

Further, the monitoring processes that are meant to ensure their involvement are not functioning properly due to a lack of political will from some ACP states and the EU in making CSOs active partners. In order to make EPAs responsive to the prevailing economic realities, ACP states and the EU need to provide more resources to CSOs and to show greater political will to include them in both the national and regional consultations that should take place during the EPA negotiation process. CSOs also need to inform themselves of their rights under Cotonou to participate in the EPA negotiations, so that they can hold their

governments and institutions to the commitments they have made to include them.

A copy of this LRC brief is available upon request from the LRC office in London.

Don't Miss Out

- Upcoming opportunities



Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF)

Funding agency: DFID, UK

Eligible organisations: UK-based non-profit organisations

Funding criteria: The CSCF supports rights-based projects aimed at developing the capacity of Southern CSOs to engage in local and national decision making processes. This year, DFID has expanded the priorities of the CSCF to include innovative service delivery and work in difficult environments, but to succeed all projects must take a rights-based approach

Funding available: 100 percent funding up to £500,000 for a maximum of five years

Deadline: June 30, 2005 for concept notes

For more information, go to:
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/civilsocietycf.asp>

within the following priority areas: Internally displaced people, conflict prevention and development and security. The programmatic fund will cover core costs and administration costs and not be as focused on outcomes. Projects, which can be funded by other DFID funds, will not be considered

Funding available: Up to 100 percent - total budget not available

Deadline: This is a new fund. The first call is expected to go out during May/June 2005

For more information, go to:
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/organisation/conflicthumanitarianassistance.asp>

Asia Pro Eco II – Post Tsunami Programme

Funding agency: The EC

Eligible organisations: Associations, development non-government organisations (NGOs) and local and regional authorities from EU member states and Asia

Funding criteria: The Asia Pro Eco II B – Post Tsunami Programme is a tailor-made programme specifically designed to help local communities rehabilitate and reconstruct effectively in the Tsunami hit areas of India, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand and Sri Lanka

Funding available: Up to 100 percent of global eligible costs. Total budget is • 13,800,000

Deadlines: June 24 and October 25, 2005 for concept notes

For more information, go to:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/data/AOF56885.doc>

Aid for Poverty-related Diseases in Developing Countries: Combating Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis

Funding agency: The EC

Eligible organisations: Agencies, chambers, associations, banks, development NGOs, federations, unions, research centres, universities

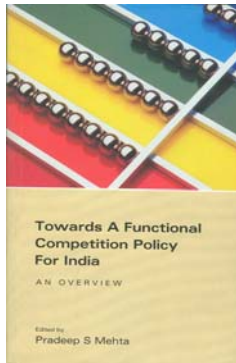
Funding criteria: The call is launched by AIDCO to support actions accelerating the fight against communicable diseases in the poorest countries

Funding available: Between • 50,000 and • 100,000 per project

Deadline: June 21, 2005

For more information, go to:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/data/AOF57355.doc>

PUBLICATIONS



Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India

CUTS-CCIER, Jaipur, India, launched the report 'Towards a Functional Competition Policy for India' at a two-day international conference, 'Moving the Competition Policy Agenda in India', in New Delhi, India, on January 31 and February 1, 2005.

The Project report covers systemic as well as sectoral issues and endeavours to assist the Government of India to come up with a Competition Policy that is 'implementable'.

Research Reports

- Ecolabelling: Is it a Visible Instrument for Trade Promotion?
- Trade in Environmental Services: *An Indian Perspective*
- Eco-Labeling: Does (Should) One Size Fit All?
- Enhancing Collective Export Competitiveness on Textiles and Clothing: A Study of the Select South Asian Countries
- Movement of Natural Persons and South Asian Countries

Advocacy Documents

- Improving Labour Standards through Development: A Positive Agenda
- Linkages between Environmental Standards and Poverty: A People-centred Approach

Bill Blow-ups

- Patent (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004
- The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2005

Research Project Reports

- Unpacking Transparency in Government Procurement
- Trade Facilitation – Reducing the Transaction Cost or Burdening the Poor!

Monograph

- Trade Remedial Measures

Trade Law Brief

- GSP Dispute: Winning the battle, losing the war

All Publications are available from CUTS through LRC

In the coming issue...

- Latest news and updates from LRC and CUTS projects
- Report from the European launch of Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction
- News from LRC campaigning and advocacy activities in the UK and Europe
- Event update from MakePovertyHistory including the G-8 rally in Edinburgh
- Viewpoint: What the South expects from the UK Presidency of the EU

The next issue of 'BRIDGING THE GAP' will be published in July 2005

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