

# Capability Statement

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

June 2019

# Capability Statement

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

## VISION

Consumer Sovereignty

## PROGRAMME AREAS

- Rules-based Trade
- Effective Regulation
- Good Governance

## RESOURCES

- Approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of office space with necessary equipment for efficient functioning and timely delivery
- About 140 staff with great diversity, experience and dedication
- A well-developed and reader-friendly web site: [www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org), and others in programme and resource centres
- In-house editorial and desk top publishing
- Affiliated to important national committees and a number of international organisations
- Relevant fellows
- Excellent knowledge base and good leadership which inspire other towards the successful attainment of goals and objectives
- International Advisory Boards comprising members from diverse backgrounds
- A well maintained library-cum-documentation centre with more than 6,000 books and subscription of about 60 journals and e-newsletters in a month
- Exposure for staff by organising national and international trips for them

[www.cuts-international.org](http://www.cuts-international.org)

*Established in 1984, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working on public interest issues. The following describes the Capabilities, which CUTS has developed over these 30+ years.*

## ATTRIBUTES & VALUES

- Adopting a centrist approach through research and advocacy
- Ensuring outcomes, rather than just outputs
- Focus on areas (subject and geographical areas) where a vacuum and need exists
- Carved a niche for itself in research, advocacy and networking on several issues of public interest (modelled on an evidence-based advocacy and capacity building approach)
- Providing capacity building support to various groups of stakeholders across Africa and Asia

## OUTREACH

- Publishing a wide spectrum of material for information dissemination for semi-literates to professionals in a reader-friendly format ranging from a wall newspaper to research reports
- Each programme centre has a flagship product: a periodic newsletter covering relevant issues
- Created sustainable networks from villages in India to the state, national, regional and international levels
- Extremely adept at organising campaigns, meetings and seminars from the village level comprising five-six participants to the international level with over 350 participants

# Consumer Protection



*CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training*

[www.cuts-international.org/CART.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CART.htm)

## MISSION

To enable consumers, particularly the poor and the marginalised to achieve their right to basic needs, sustainable development and good governance through strong consumer movement

## RESOURCES

- A centre located in Jaipur having professional and result-oriented human resource trained in innovative tools and techniques
- Having vast and deep networking profile in Rajasthan, India and at global level
- Wide outreach through its quality and informative publications

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Consumer Empowerment

- Advocated for the enactment and strengthening of Consumer Protection Act (COPRA) of India, 1986 and drafted National Consumer Policy
- Published reports on 'State of Indian Consumer, 2012' and 'State of Consumer Safety in India, 2016'
- Financial Consumer Protection to bank depositors and other financial consumers in urban and rural areas
- Received the Rhoda Karpatkin International Consumer Award 2013 for significant contributions to the welfare of consumers
- Elected to the Governing Council of Consumers International at Brazil on November 21, 2015
- Received India Power Award 2008 for its outstanding networking and various outreach activities towards consumer empowerment by the Council of Power Utilities, in association with KW conferences
- Sustainable consumption and lifestyles by way of promoting organic food and farming

### Good Governance

- Improving the public expenditure outcomes, through community participation, using social accountability tools and cross learning
- Promoting community monitoring of delivery of various services and working on urban governance through enhanced civil engagement

- Global Partner of 'Global Partnership for Social Accountability' of the World Bank
- Built a cadre of organisations equipped with adequate knowledge and capacity to utilise 'Right to Information' for reforming the processes of rural development schemes and ensuring transparency
- Intervened to improve the services of the Jaipur Municipal Corporation by emphasising the importance of local government and strengthening roots of local self-governance. Recognising CUTS contribution in the area of urban governance, the Government of Rajasthan conferred *Swachh* Rajasthan Award, 2016 on CUTS which was given by Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister of Rajasthan
- Established a prominent position and wide visibility in the area of good governance and is in high demand to work as a resource agency in the South and Southeast Asia region and elsewhere
- Set up a virtual Procurement Observatory with the objective of helping the State Government of Rajasthan, India to enhance its Public Procurement practices and outcomes

### **Sustainable Development**

- Value addition in government's programmes at state, regional and national level
- Sustainable mobility on research in the area of traffic calming with emphasis on safety of vulnerable road users, including environmental and economic issues
- Awareness and action across states under National Environment Awareness Campaign of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- Implementing Road Safety Advocacy for ensuring easy passage of the new Motor Vehicles Act in India
- Developed a document on Case Studies on Sustainable Consumption Cultures, Practices and Lifestyles in India

## **OUTREACH**

### **Publications**

- Gram Gadar (Village Revolution): a monthly wall newspaper and rural development communication initiative being published in Hindi since 1983
- Panchva Stambh (5th Estate): a Hindi quarterly newsletter on issues of human development, governance and public service delivery
- Catalyst: quarterly e-newsletter in English covering news and events on the ongoing interventions of CART
- GSK ALERT (Monthly): a monthly mouthpiece of *Grahak Sahayta Kendra* covering details of consumer cases being handled by GSK on a monthly basis
- Consumer Dialogue (once in four months): it covers all consumer protection activities of the Centre with some specific judgements, news etc.

- Publishing newsletters (bi-lingual), briefing papers, articles, guides, training manuals, event reports, Information, Education and Communication and Behaviour Change Communication tools etc. for targeted groups

### **Networking**

- Active networking with voluntary organisations from grassroot groups across Rajasthan
- Campaigning successfully on a wide spectrum of public interest issues

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Strengthening the work of consumer protection with a deep focus on financial consumer protection
- Engaging intensively in urban governance and sustainable livelihood sector in India
- Ensuring strong road safety law and rules pertaining to the Centre as well as states and thus ensuring effective road safety in the country
- Raising awareness on sustainable consumption and lifestyle by focussing on organic culture from rural to urban areas by way of applying RAN tool to ensure safer, more sustainable food for all
- Giving the poorest consumers greater voice by way of promoting use of safer and sustainable products among low income consumers, and, in turn, enhance their health and well-being
- Intensive work on sustainable consumption and lifestyles in the country, thus ensuring SDG 12

# International Trade & Development



*CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment*

[www.cuts-citee.org](http://www.cuts-citee.org)

## MISSION

Pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people

## RESOURCES

- Headquartered at Jaipur, India, with 21 experienced research and programme staff
- Close working relationship with several governments in Asia and Africa and in Geneva on trade and trade-related developmental issues
- Developed a vibrant network of CSOs and other stakeholders working on trade and development issues
- Accredited to many inter-governmental and multilateral bodies such as WTO, UNCTAD, UNESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and Asian Development Bank
- Serving on various trade and trade-related committees of the Government of India, including having represented WTO Director General's informal NGO Advisory Body and Stakeholders' Panel on the Future of Trade
- An international advisory board comprising of 11 members from diverse backgrounds
- A well-developed and reader-friendly web site: [www.cuts-citee.org](http://www.cuts-citee.org)
- In-house editorial and desk-top publishing

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### **WTO Issues & FTAs**

- Conducting network-based research and advocacy for raising a range of civil society concerns, views and perspectives on the current round of multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO, the Bali package, the Nairobi package and the Post Nairobi work programme

### **Regional Integration in South Asia**

- Working on various aspects of South-South economic and trade cooperation including multi-modal transport and transit connectivity in South and Southeast Asia

### **Trade and Sustainable Development**

- Implementing a number of network-based and outreach-oriented projects on trade and poverty, trade and environment especially climate change, trans boundary cooperation in South Asia for food, water and energy security, sustainable value chains, pro-poor growth and waterways connectivity

### **IMPACT & OUTREACH**

- Developing capacities of state and non-state actors in the developing countries on issues relating to liberalisation and globalisation including the functioning of the multilateral trading system, environment, management of water resources, energy and food security, transport and transit connectivity
- Helping them to learn from other's successful experiences, in formation of institutions, generation of human capital and development of growth enabling and poverty alleviating infrastructure
- CITEE in Action: a quarterly report of activities of CITEE
- PTA Dossier: a quarterly dossier covering PTAs that India has entered into or expected to enter in future and PTAs of other countries and those that can have implications for the Indian economy in general and trade in particular

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Cross-fertilisation of knowledge and experience on trade and trade-related development issues particularly to enhance South-South cooperation
- Regularly employ Track 2 dialogues for better regional integration in South Asia and also work towards enhancing the informed decision making power
- Diversify into new emerging areas together with other centres under the ambit of multilateral trade negotiations
- Leverage increasing recognition of the role of trade in addressing developmental/environmental concerns
- Focus on network- and fieldwork-based action research, evidence based advocacy targeting policy, dynamic outreach to multiple stakeholder groups
- Strive for environmental sustainability

# Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation



*CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation*

[www.cuts-ccier.org](http://www.cuts-ccier.org)

## MISSION

Promoting fair markets to enhance consumer welfare and economic development

## RESOURCES

- Headquartered at Jaipur with experienced research and programme staff
- Affiliated to various international/national organisations
- Guided by an international advisory board comprising 20 members from diverse backgrounds

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Competition Policy & Law

- Advocacy campaign for the adoption of World Competition Day on 5th December. 2018's theme – Digital Economy, Innovation and Competition.
- Submitting regular recommendations and comments on themes involving competition/regulatory issues to the Competition Commission of India and other economic regulators or government agencies
- Developed a guidebook 'Framework for Competition Reforms' to highlight the need for pro-competitive reforms in key sectors in developing countries
- Implementing a study on 'Competition Assessment in Digital Payments in Infrastructure Sector'
- Empanelled by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to conduct competition assessments and market studies
- Undertaking an analysis of relevant market and competition assessment of ride-sharing industry based on primary data
- Developed Competition Impact Assessment Toolkit
- Biennial review of competition and regulation in select economic sectors in India and globally (ICRR)
- Involved in adopting and implementing competition regimes in developing and least developed countries

### **Economic Regulation**

- Established a Parliamentarians Forum on Economic Policy Issues (PARFORE) in India
- Undertaking extensive research on Digital Economy Framework in India, Vietnam and Philippines
- Undertaking research on Regulatory Impact Assessment - Regulatory Impact Assessment of Maharashtra City Taxi Rules, 2017 and Cost Benefit Analysis of Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958
- Submitting comments to consultation/discussion papers released by various government departments/ministries or sector regulators such as telecom, power and energy, digital payments, virtual currencies, mobility, etc.
- Increasing awareness/capacity of consumers to demand for a regulatory and policy ecosystem to further clean energy sources
- Modelled an approach to ensure consumer/citizens' participation in reforms in utility sectors in Asia/Africa

### **Investment Climate**

- Assessing the Impact of cross-border Electricity trade and Competitiveness among States of India on ease of doing business and attracting investments
- UNCTAD identified CUTS as a strategic partner on investment issues
- CUTS is a partner organisation in UNCTAD's e-Trade Initiative

### **Consumer Policy**

- Public consultation initiated by the TRAI, to improve data speeds and information and disclosure mechanism to help consumers in making informed choice for broadband services. Floated an idea for a Broadband Label
- Actively engaged on digital issues which impact consumers, such as privacy and data ownership
- Assessed the Quality of Service (QoS) for mobile internet services in India through a survey conducted in West Bengal, Rajasthan and National Capital Region. Launched an app, in partnership with IIT, Delhi in this regard
- Evaluated the impact of consumer participation in regulatory decision making for electricity sector

## OUTREACH

### Publications

- Spotlight: a monthly redesigned update is being thought to focus on a specific issue every month
- Competition Distortions Dossier: a quarterly dossier, which analysis policy issues which have an impact (positive/negative) on competition in India
- CCI Watch: a quarterly publication, which reviews and highlights the performance of CCI through the lens of media
- Future of Jobs in India Dossier: another quarterly dossier launched in October 2017, to highlight the challenges in jobless growth and imminent threat of increased automation and digitisation on job creation
- Analysis of Competition Cases in India: a quarterly publication which analyses major orders of the Competition Commission of India
- CCIER Activity Report: a quarterly report summarising major activities undertaken during the period. This document provides a quick overview of the various operations of the Centre and corresponding outputs/outcomes

## FUTURE PLANS

- Deepen work on competition policy and economic development; business regulation/private sector development; job creation
- Strengthen work on issues pertaining to clean and renewable energy
- Strengthen work on issues pertaining to regulatory impact assessment and competition impact assessment
- Strengthen work on issues pertaining to digital economy such as digital startups, FinTech(s), e-commerce, digital payments, connectivity, etc. in India
- Work for the agriculture market reforms at state level



# Human Development

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*CUTS Centre for Human Development*

[www.cuts-international.org/CHD.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/CHD.htm)

## MISSION

To be an innovative centre for strategic interventions to raise the living standards of people

## RESOURCES

- A Centre working mainly in Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan at grassroots level, with 28 experienced programme staff
- Having vast and direct intervention in over 1100 villages
- Affiliated to various state/district committees/organisations
- Developed a vibrant network of CSOs, stakeholders and volunteers

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Empowerment and Livelihood

- Community-based action projects to improve the status of women and enhance livelihood security in rural areas
- Ensuring socio-economic development of women and persons with disability in rural areas
- Leadership development of minority (on the basis of religion) women
- Promoting and nurturing farmer producer organisations to increase their agriculture income
- Enhancing financial protection of consumers through financial literacy initiatives

### Good Governance

- Improving awareness among consumers and facilitating them through community participation and social accountability
- Advocating for rights of people and creating enabling environment for effective implementation of policies

### **Environmental Education and Protection**

- Developing a Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyle through Organic Production and Consumption
- Promoting Environmental Awareness and value addition in government's programme

### **Health and Sanitation**

- Creating health awareness among mother, child, adolescent and disabled people
- Community-based rehabilitation for the disabled

### **Child Rights**

- Reach out to every child in need of care and protection
- Activating and strengthening Child Protection Committees and developing workforce through competency based trainings for a strong government system towards preventing child labour and migration etc.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Publications**

- Participation and Action towards Community Empowerment (PACE – a quarterly e-newsletter in English covering news and events on the ongoing interventions of CHD)
- Publishing newsletters (bi-lingual), monographs, research reports and training manuals for targeted groups

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- Promote good governance with participation of community
- Strengthen the SHG movement, promoting micro-credit for livelihood activities, creating federations
- Strong advocacy for child rights and the disabled
- Raise awareness on conserving natural resources and climate
- Establish a Grassroots Resource Centre
- Increase shareholder's membership of farmers, with start agro-business, value addition and market linkage
- Provide skill development, entrepreneurship, financial consumer protection, local self-governance and leadership trainings to women and PwDs
- Promote sustainable consumption of organic farming

- Expand Disabled People Organisation, build capacity and leverage with government for welfare schemes
- Strengthen farmer producer organisations
- Raising awareness and promoting eye care services with active involvement of stakeholders

## Consumer Safety



*CUTS Safety Watch*

[www.cuts-international.org/cuts-crc.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/cuts-crc.htm)

### MISSION

Promote economic equity and sustainable development within and across borders through evidence-based advocacy and consumer empowerment

### RESOURCES

- The Centre has a dedicated team comprising of a mix of people from disciplines such as Economics, Development Studies, Energy Engineering and Business Management
- Active networking with various stakeholders in East and North East India

### PROGRAMME AREAS

The Centre focusses on the following programme areas:

#### ***Regional Cooperation & Grassroots Economic Development***

- Understanding major challenges and advocating for an inclusive policy to address challenges and facilitating effective implementation of the Motor Vehicles Agreement in and among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Myanmar
- Expanding tradable benefits of trans-boundary water: promoting navigational usage of inland waterways in Ganga and Brahmaputra basins
- Understanding the impacts of border *haats* on poverty reduction and possible future benefits and advocating for their replication and up-scaling along the India-Bangladesh border
- Promoting consumer and producer gains from trade between Bangladesh and Tripura in specific agricultural commodities
- Facilitating Bangladesh-India bilateral trade in select agricultural commodities, identifying NTBs to trade and preparing an NTB removal action plan
- Organise dialogues among South and Southeast Asian countries in the Indo-Pacific region to identify areas and strategies to promote trade and prosperity among countries
- Promoting river cruise tourism between India and Bangladesh

**Energy and Sustainability**

- Identifying strategies to promote green growth and creating a social coalition of key stakeholders
- Build long-term capacity of consumer groups to demand for demand side management and renewable energy initiatives
- Collaborated with New Town Development Authority to promote solar technologies among various category of end users
- Addressing issues of water, food and energy security in South Asia

**Consumer Protection and Safety****Road Safety**

- Assessing the status of Road Safety across BBIN Corridors
- Advocate for passage of the Proposed Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017

**Other areas**

- Build capacity of consumer groups/CSOs working in the electricity sector to enable them to deal with the issues involved, take-up action research, share experiences, and carryout advocacy with policymakers and regulatory agencies to effect pro-consumer changes in the electricity regulatory/policy processes
- Create awareness among electricity consumers in rural and urban areas about the grievance redressal procedure for electricity consumers and guide them to get their complaints registered in appropriate Forums
- Create awareness among electricity consumers about basic safety measures while handling electrical equipment
- Create a discourse among various stakeholders on why there is a need for introducing a label for broadband services and how the same could be done

**OUTREACH****Publications**

- Published several books, monographs, briefing papers, articles and training manuals under different projects

**Networking**

- Strong networking and association with different CSOs in East and North Eastern India (West Bengal Bihar, Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya)

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- Work towards greater connectivity, regional economic cooperation and integration in Eastern South Asia
- Promote sustainable development with emphasis on energy security
- Build civil society capacity on regulatory and policy issues to enhance their participation in policy making
- Strengthen work on consumer safety with focus on consumer awareness and capacity building

## Accra

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[www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra)

### MISSION

Function as a resource Centre for information on trade, regulation and governance, competition law and policy with sustainable development being the cross-cutting thread, in the West African region

### RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- Network of local and international experts
- Support of CUTS HQ and global offices on programmatic and developmental issues

### PROGRAMME AREAS

#### ***Trade and Development***

- Developed a strong working relationship with the ECOWAS Commission. Currently, a MoU between the two is being signed
- Established a permanent resident representative in Abuja, Nigeria
- Signed an MoU with Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Strong footprint in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement process and support to CSOs working in this area

#### ***Competition and Regulatory Policy***

- Advocating for evolution and effective implementation of the national competition regime in Ghana
- Served as a knowledge resource to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on issues bordering on Competition Law and Policy
- Developing competencies of competition practitioners in West Africa region

#### ***Consumer Protection and Law***

- Advocating for a fully functional Consumer Policy and Law through round-table discussion and media advocacy
- Developed strong relationship with consumer protection regulatory bodies, such as the Bank of Ghana, National Communications Authority, Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, among others
- Advocated for financial literacy and inclusion

**Energy Sustainability**

- Working on energy sector public budget expenditure to improve energy access

**ACTIVITIES**

- Issue-based networking
- Information dissemination and outreach
- Research-based advocacy
- Capacity building of state and non-state actors

**OUTREACH**

- Tradequity: quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa
- Accra Bi-Weekly News Bulletin on Trade and Economic Development

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Making NHIS Work for the People
- Financial literacy and inclusion
- Agriculture and food security
- Cost of regional non-integration to consumers and producers
- Trade and climate change linkages
- Competition reforms in the PPP procurement process
- Cities Governance Initiative
- Road safety in Accra

# Lusaka

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[www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra)

## MISSION

Function as a regional (Southern African) centre of excellence for action (policy) research, advocacy and networking on issues of trade and development, economic regulations, and governance

## RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- Network of local and international experts

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Trade and Development

- Capacity building of Southern African civil society and government institutions on trade negotiations process
- Capacity building of Southern African civil society and government institutions on the role of women in the informal sector

### Competition and Regulatory Policy

- Conducting a regulatory assessment of the animal feed value chain in Zambia
- Undertaking an assessment of the Current Status of Energy Management in the Mining sector

### Consumer Issues

- Undertaking research on the implications of debt on Zambian households and the individual costs of living
- Undertaking research on the perceptions of Zambian farmers on the Farmer Input Support Programme with a focus on the e-voucher
- Facilitate the development of a food policy with the Lusaka City Council

## ACTIVITIES

- Research-based advocacy
- Capacity building of state and non-state actors
- Information dissemination and outreach
- Issue-based networking

## **OUTREACH**

- Tradequity: quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa
- Consumer Watch
- CUTS Lusaka quarterly newsletter

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- Renewable energy policy and practice
- Trade and agribusiness
- Effects of inflation on consumers with a particular focus on low income earners
- Implications of tax policy on low income consumers

# Nairobi

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[www.cuts-international.org/arc/nairobi](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/nairobi)

## MISSION

Function as a resource, coordination as well as networking Centre to promote South-South cooperation for sustainable, people-centered economic and social development

## RESOURCES

- Well-equipped office with professionals
- Network of local and international experts
- Support of CUTS HQ and global offices on programmatic and developmental issues

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Trade and Development

- Using political economy analysis approach to interrogate the underlying formal and informal rules, interests, politics, the decision-making spectrum toward the livestock sector and related markets in Kenya
- Promoting Climate-Aware, Food Security Enhancing and Trade Driven Agro-Processing in the EAC through policy interventions
- Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness in Kenya through Cassava Value Chain
- Filling gaps in coordinated policy making and implementation among EAC member states on issues related to agriculture, climate change, food security and trade
- Capacity building of Eastern African civil society and government institutions on various perspectives on the EPA negotiations process
- Analysed the interplay of agro-processing with climate change, trade and food security in each EAC bloc which informed advocacy activities towards developing lasting policy solutions
- Contributed to trade reforms and their impact on food security in the EAC

### Consumer Awareness and Education

- Building capacity of consumers to drive demand for high standards of food safety in the supply chain - a functional and legitimate institution on food safety that will voice consumers' concerns
- Catalysing the realisation of people's energy needs through green and inclusive energy systems that create economic opportunities for women and men while mitigating climate change

- Promoting Transparency and Participation in Public Procurement at the Regional level through Empowered Civil Society Alliances
- Building consumer demand for milk safety and loss reduction in the dairy sector in Kenya
- Enhanced understanding among ESA civil society, government and business on competition concerns
- Contributed to the establishment of the Africa Competition Forum
- Empowered marginalised consumers to demand their rights and actively participate in ensuring good governance in the Kenyan service sectors
- Competition and economic regulation
- Building demand for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kenya

### **Regional Integration**

- Assessed the challenges in the implementation of the EAC competition policy and law in each of the EAC partner state
- Examined the lessons for poverty reduction to East African integration and how benefits from it could be maximised

### **OUTREACH**

- Tradequity: quarterly newsletter with relevant news and analysis on Africa

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Integrating the Voices of Economic Justice Advocates in the EAC Economic Development Agenda through a Right-based Approach
- Food Nutrition and Security
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Financial literacy and inclusion
- Renewable energy policy and practice
- Trade facilitation reforms
- Cost of regional non-integration to consumers and producers
- Agriculture and food security
- Trade and climate change linkages
- Competition reforms and implications on consumers and producers (key sectors)

# Geneva

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[www.cuts-geneva.org](http://www.cuts-geneva.org)

## MISSION

To establish and promote a pro-trade pro-equity credible Southern NGO voice linked with the grassroots, and with a holistic multi-stakeholder approach in the policy-making circles working on trade and development-related issues in Geneva

## RESOURCES & PARTNERS

- Observer status to the WTO, UNCTAD and UNFCCC and excellent working relationships with ITC, FAO, UNEP etc.
- Experienced staff including former government officials and WTO negotiators
- Strategic alliances and partnerships with like-minded organisations in over 50 countries, including African and LDCs
- Ability to leverage CUTS centres on three continents, for fast and cost-efficient operations with access to an extensive network of partners and experts
- Robust financial management and M&E systems, with track record of successfully handling multi-million US\$ projects

## PROGRAMME AREAS

### Trading System

- The WTO rules-based multilateral trading system is facing formidable challenges. We strive to preserve a strong and functioning trading system, promoting balanced and fair rules for all to support sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels.

### Functioning Markets

- Inclusive and progressive structural transformation require sound regulations and well-functioning markets. We help governments craft sound policy environments on trade, competition, investment, consumer protection, services, industrial and private sector development, technology and innovation, e-commerce and more.

### Environment

- Climate change is threatening sustainable development, particularly in countries with low capacity for resilience and policy adaptation. We strive for climate-resilient, sustainable economies and livelihoods, through support for environmentally-sound policies and strategic use of global climate talks.

### **Food and Agriculture**

- Despite its huge potential in many developing countries, the agriculture sector often falls short of securing food for all and faces multi-pronged challenges. Tackling these from domestic realities to global agricultural trade rules, our support aims to promote sustainable agricultural systems that ensure food security.

### **IMPACT & OUTREACH**

- **Broke Policy “Silos”:** Inspired several national policies to draw synergies across trade, climate change, food security and agro-processing issues. This includes Kenya’s Environment and Trade Policies, Uganda’s Trade Sector Development Plan, and Rwanda’s Trade Policy Forum.
- **Smarter Negotiations:** Through using CUTS’ analysis, grassroots contacts and regular forums, developing country trade and climate negotiators are better able to advance their interests. For instance, we maintain regular forums for Geneva delegates from South and Southeast Asia, West Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Eastern and Southern Africa as well as for climate change negotiators from East African Community, to provide objective, evidence-based and demand-driven technical assistance.
- **People Ownership:** Enabled more stakeholders to participate in a number of policy-making and implementation processes across Western, Southern and Eastern Africa as well as South and Southeast Asia, where we established national and regional networks.
- **Sustained Results:** Our projects inspired a substantial number of locally-owned, spin-off initiatives. For instance, our PACT EAC (Promoting Agriculture-Climate-trade Linkages in the East African Community) projects alone were found to have triggered over 40 similar initiatives in East Africa.
- **Outreach:** Over 3,300 stakeholders around the world receive our research and advocacy communications regularly. We also strategically use print, electronic and social media to effectively reach and influence our target constituencies.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Helping developing countries better take advantage of the WTO for their development, including its regular work, negotiations, reform and capital linkages with Geneva.
- Enabling them to keep pace with trade-related developments, including regional trade agreements (e.g. African Continental Free Trade Area), plurilaterals and initiatives on new issues such as e-commerce, gender, MSMEs and investment facilitation.
- Assisting developing country stakeholders to better deal with climate change through informed participation in the UNFCCC negotiations and coherent policies at the national and regional levels.
- Promoting coherent policy environments boosting industrialisation and structural transformation for all, including women, youth and agro-processing MSMEs.
- Improving inclusiveness in the formulation and implementation of trade, climate change, investment, competition, environment, agriculture and food security and other related policies.

## Washington D.C.

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[www.cuts-wdc.org](http://www.cuts-wdc.org)

### MISSION

Deeply rooted on the ground and strongly networked with governments and inter-governmental organisations, CUTS International, through its 6th overseas Center in Washington DC (CUTS WDC) proposes to address bilateral and multilateral trade and economic matters of strategic importance to India and the US in the broader Indo-Pacific context.

### PROGRAMME AREAS

#### Trade

- Road to US-India FTA, a comparative and contemporary research leading to a future Indo-US free trade and investment agreement. Address tariff, non-tariff, non-scientific, technical barriers to trade, standards and movement of labor. Issues surrounding IPRs, e-commerce, services, dispute settlement, agriculture trade, etc., will be analysed through joint studies.

#### Strategic Issues

- High technology trade across defence, homeland security and IT. Identify challenges and business opportunities while working on strengthening bilateral engagement. America First and Make in India will be promoted as complementary concepts for improved bilateral economic relations.

#### Energy

- Plug into the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP). Identify opportunities to trade in clean and renewable energy. Address policy and regulatory barriers, investment concerns and suggest relevant policy solutions.

### METHODOLOGY AND KEY FUNCTIONS

The Center produces policy papers & briefing papers and has rolled out a dynamic programme of round tables & events to ensure strategic outreach through social media, articles, blogs, issue notes, podcasts etc. The target audience of the Center are policymakers in governments, global trade bodies, inter-governmental organisations, business representatives, think-tanks, civil society and the informed public in both the countries and the Quad.

## SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE PLANS

The possible revenue streams that would help sustain the activities of the Center would be:

- Consultancy and Advisory work
- Research and project Grants

The possible sources would be US Foundations, US Govt Agencies, Indian diaspora and US and Indian businesses, etc. The Center is currently under incorporation and the plan of a full-fledged operations team is something that CUTS intends to take up, gradually.

In addition, the Center proposes to play two broad roles as explained below:

- **Resource Center**: act as a 'Resource Center' for American trade and investment policy community for:
  - Providing critical analysis on relevant policy issues, as per the programme areas, that are important for strengthening Indo-US bilateral and multilateral relations
  - Provide useful information, data, resource materials pertaining to trade and investment matters
  - Liaise and link up with relevant actors within government, business community and civil society/academia for work on trade and investment issues
- **Voice of the South, from the South**: act as a 'Voice of the South, from the South' and present evidence, data and information that would be relevant for:
  - various organs of UN organisations, like UNDP
  - relevant platforms and divisions in the World Bank and IMF
  - institutions and entities that can engage with actors in US foreign policymaking - especially in developing countries of Africa and Asia