

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International) has been working out of its headquarters in Jaipur (India), since 1983. CUTS realised over time that its experience as a civil society organisation (CSO) aiming to influence such policies through research would be vital in evolving an informed civil society in other parts of the developing world as well.

The organisation, therefore, embarked on an ambitious endeavour to establish itself in Africa, to foster greater understanding among African civil society of ways to influence policies that affect the lives and livelihoods of ordinary African citizens.

CUTS Africa Resource Centres were established in Lusaka, Zambia in 2000; in Nairobi, Kenya in 2003; and in Accra, Ghana in 2013 respectively to promote South-South cooperation on trade, regulation and governance-related issues and strengthen the long-term capacity of state and non-state actors on these issues.



Few Accomplishments

- Represented Zambia at two WTO Ministerial Conferences, Bali (2013) and Nairobi (2015)
- MoU with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa Secretariat, East African Community and African Union
- Zambia Economic Advocacy Programme continues to consider CUTS as one of the five top Think-Tanks in Zambia, using evidence-based policy advocacy on trade and economic issues
- Provided assistance to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Zambia and Ghana in drafting a Competition Law and Framework Law for Consumer Protection
- Worked in bringing on board County Governments in Kenya to enhance climate change early warning systems for farmers
- Contributed to the development of national competition and consumer protection laws in Botswana, Namibia, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria etc.
- Developed an Inclusive Trade Policy Making index as a qualitative tool to measure the inclusiveness of the trade policy-making process in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- Assisted CSOs in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi to analyse trade policies' impact on welfare and livelihoods
- Analysed and advocated investment climate reforms in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa
- Member of the B20's Council for Africa's Economic Integration under the presidency of India in the G20

Climate-Food-Trade *Improving Policy Coherence in East Africa*

CUTS effort to promote the agro-processing industry in East Africa as an effective weapon against climate change's impact on agriculture leading to poverty reduction was captured in Kenya's new Trade Policy as a policy measure. It also found a place in Burundi's Industrialisation Policy.

In Tanzania, our advocacy efforts contributed to a decision by the government to tackle rampant deforestation in the country through stronger regulation of the charcoal trade sector in the revised Forest Policy.

Makerere University in Uganda launched a Centre for Climatic Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI) in June 2014 took our research on 'Climate, Food, Trade: Where is the Policy Nexus?' as an information resource to integrate the linkages between the three issues into the curriculum.



Battling the Headwinds

Challenges and Opportunities for the WTO



CUTS 40th Anniversary is being celebrated worldwide in 2023 by organising events with eminent persons on relevant subjects on which it works.

The first one on international trade policy was organised at the World Trade Organisation, Geneva with its dynamic Director General, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on April 06, 2023, in a fireside chat mode on the state of the WTO with Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS. (<https://bit.ly/3ZJsbVS>)

"Appreciate the focus on the opportunities & challenges confronting @WTO & the Multilateral Trading System. Thanks for your constructive criticisms."

– Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



Few Reflections

CUTS' success in addressing contemporary development issues, from the grassroots to the international policy-making arena, has made it one of the globally-noted organisation.



Hanna S Tetteh

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana



CUTS is the first NGO to have stepped out of its boundaries to work in a poor country in Africa to extend its knowledge and experience on economic policy issues as an 'appropriate technology'.

George K Lipimile

Executive Director
COMESA Competition Commission

CUTS provided highly valuable inputs to the Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA) report that changed both the content and value of the report and the draft African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) protocols.



David Luke

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Promoting Fair Markets and Creating Jobs



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