



PRESS RELEASE

CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS ON WTO TO UPHOLD DEVELOPMENT MANDATE IN THE DOHA ROUND

Representatives of more than 40 civil society organisations, academics, media and international organisations from Africa and Europe gathered in Nairobi from 3rd - 4th, November 2015 calling upon World Trade Organisation (WTO) member States to desist from eroding the Doha Development Round (DDR) mandate.

The forum was organised by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Negotiations and Information Institute and the Kenya Human Rights Commission in hindsight of the World Trade Organisation 10th Biannual Ministerial Conference scheduled to be held from 15-18th December 2015.

Under the theme *"The road to Nairobi: The Doha Development Round at the Crossroads: Civil Society Forum in Preparation for the World Trade Organisation's 10th Ministerial Conference"*, the Forum was held with a view of deliberating the implications of the WTO Doha Development Round particularly for African countries, discussing the recent challenges in World Trade Organisation particularly the burgeoning Mega Regional Trade arrangements and their implications on the DDR and the Multilateral Trading System. Additionally, the Forum developed and shared a civil society strategy for participation during the MC10.

In an outcome document prepared subsequently, civil society called upon WTO Member countries to remain faithful to the Doha Development Round Mandate given the fact that the current state of negotiations revealed a significant departure from the original promises of the DDR and the anticipations developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) had in the process.

The outcome paper also observed that "Africa's growth continues to be driven mainly by primary production and exports alongside little economic transformation, coupled with excessive unemployment and poverty, development deficits in infrastructure, entrepreneurship, human resources and science and technology. The above constraints have been further exacerbated by a more volatile global economic and financial environment which continues to affect the growth and development prospects of poor countries".

The Forum called on the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States to demand that the WTO ensures that the Nairobi Ministerial Conference adheres to key principles such as transparent,

inclusive, and; consensus-based Member-driven process decision making and; that any agreement on a development package takes into account the concerns and interests of all ACP States.

Jane Nalunga the Country Director of Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Negotiations and Information Institute –Uganda noted that “trade should be a tool for social economic development and therefore that outcomes of trade processes and negotiations should deliver on food security, industrialisation, employment and preservation of policy space for undertaking development programmes”

Civil Society organisations also agreed to pursue joint follow up actions at the national, regional and global level to raise awareness to the masses, engage governments prior and during the MC 10 in Nairobi. These actions will include mobilising the wider civil society to participate in MC10 mainstream and parallel activities, developing awareness and education materials and further deliberating on the post Nairobi MC10 agenda.

Notes for Editors

The Doha Development Agenda (DDA) was launched in November 2001 in Doha, Qatar, at the WTO’s Fourth Ministerial Conference. The outcome document, the Doha Declaration focused on the concerns of the developing countries promising major reforms to agriculture, particularly reductions in subsidies and tariffs provided by developed countries, Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), special and differential treatment for developing countries, services, and trade facilitation.

For more information contact:

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
East African Regional Office| 47, Ndovu, Mikocheni B
P.O. Box 105527 Dar es Salaam
Tel: +255 22 2774528
www.rosalux.co.tz

Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute - Uganda
P. O. Box 3138 Kampala
Tel: +256 414 540856
seatini@infocom.co.ug
www.seatini.org/uganda

Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute - Kenya
Physical Address: Consumate Court A Suite 2 Ole Odume Road.
P. O. Box 26063 – 00504 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 736 242319
info@seatinikenya.org
<http://seatinikenya.org>

Kenya Human Rights Commission
Gitanga Road opp. Valley Arcade Shopping Center,
P.O Box 41079-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254-20 2044545, +254-20 2106709
admin@khrc.or.ke
<http://www.khrc.or.ke>