

People
Development
Trade
Economic Policy
Environment



GENEVA

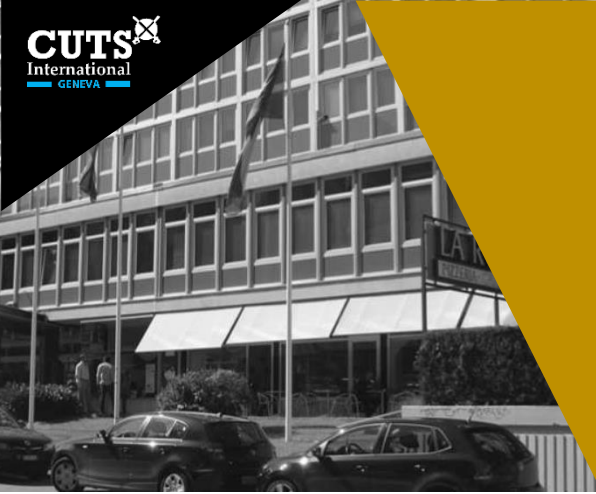
CUTS OFFICES



WHERE CUTS HAS WORKED

CUTS INTERNATIONAL, GENEVA

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ABOUT US

CUTS INTERNATIONAL, GENEVA IS A NON-PROFIT NGO THAT CATALYSES AND PROMOTES PRO-EQUITY, PRO-DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN GENEVA AND BEYOND.

THE CUTS FAMILY

Since its humble beginnings in 1983 as a local consumer advocacy group in India, CUTS has grown into an international think-and action- tank empowering people and institutions of the developing world across the economic policy landscape.

In the 1990's, as new issues impacting consumer welfare emerged, CUTS' work expanded to a number of policy areas which became the core of its current programmes: International trade and development; Competition, investment and economic regulation; Consumer safety; Human development; and Consumer protection and good governance.

CUTS adopts a bottom-up approach that promotes the engagement of key stakeholders in designing and implementing economic development policies, from the national to the international level. Our successful work methodology relies on research and analysis to inform advocacy and training activities, involving networks of beneficiaries at all stages.

With offices in India, Kenya, Zambia, Vietnam, Ghana, Geneva and Washington DC, CUTS' family of organizations has made its footprints in the realm of economic governance across the developing world and beyond.

IN GENEVA

CUTS International, Geneva was established in 2008 as the dream fulfilment of CUTS' Secretary-General, Pradeep S Mehta, to have a credible, Southern, pro-trade, pro-equity NGO voice in Geneva's international policy circles.

For over 10 years, we have made a name for linking people and issues in the world of multilateral trade with their counterparts across policy areas related to the trading system, functioning markets, climate and environment, and food and agriculture

FROM THE GROUND...

On the ground, our research-based advocacy projects in the Global South - where we have our roots and partners - have made us a prime interlocutor of developing countries and international organisations in Geneva.

...TO GENEVA CIRCLES

In Geneva, we collaborate closely with developing country trade negotiators, backing them with technical knowledge and updates on the situation on the ground. We have also become a trusted technical cooperation and knowledge partner of international organizations such as the WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, etc.

WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

To pursue economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people.

OUR MISSION

To establish and promote a pro-trade pro-equity credible Southern NGO voice as well as the means to achieve this in the policy-making circles working on trade and development and other related issues in Geneva.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 1 Trading system: Level-playing trading systems and rules for fair, equitable and sustainable development
- 2 Functioning Markets: Inclusive and progressive structural transformation
- 3 Environment and Climate Change: Growth with sustainable and climate-resilient economies
- 4 Food and Agriculture: Food security and sustainable agricultural systems

OUR PROGRAMMES



TRADING SYSTEM



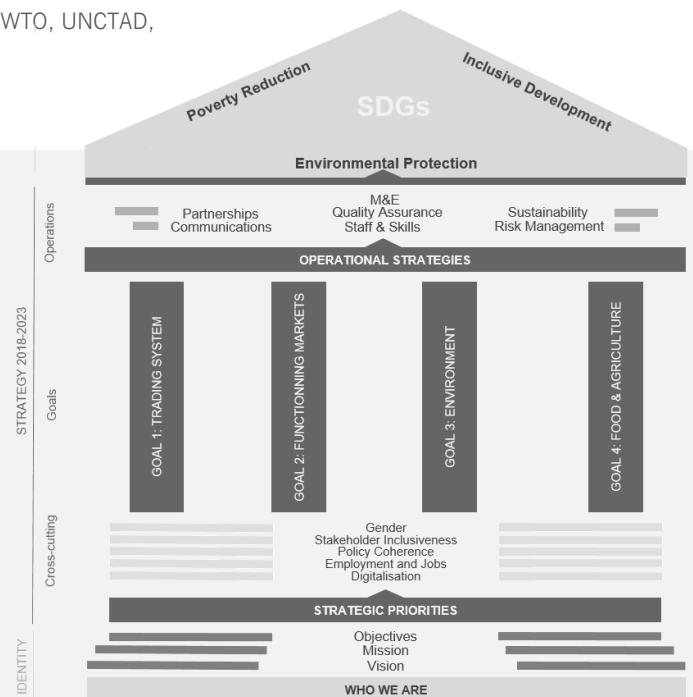
FUNCTIONING MARKETS



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

WE STRIVE TO PRESERVE A STRONG AND FUNCTIONING MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM INCLUDING THROUGH SUPPORT FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION OF SMALLER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND LDCs, AND TO PROMOTE BALANCED AND FAIR RULES FOR ALL TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

THEMES

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

The WTO rules-based multilateral trading system is facing formidable challenges and is under serious threat of becoming weaker. At a time when plurilateral processes are shaping rules in new trade areas, preserving a strong and equitable trading system is of paramount importance to developing countries. At CUTS, we strive to promote balanced and fair trade rules for all.

TOPICS

WTO LEADERSHIP AND REFORM
WTO NEGOTIATIONS
WTO REGULAR WORK
JOINT STATEMENTS:
MSMES, E-COMMERCE, WOMEN AND TRADE,
INVESTMENT FACILITATION

PLURILATERAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Amidst slowing advances at the WTO, plurilateral and regional agreements have been increasingly shaping global trade rules. We strive to ensure that these new trade regimes contribute to a more equitable trading system globally, supportive of sustainable development.

TOPICS

PLURILATERALS
REGIONAL AGREEMENTS
GENDER

TRADE POLICY AT WORK

Trade can, when well-regulated, be a powerful force for sustainable development, structural transformation and poverty reduction. While developing countries make significant efforts to secure preferences and flexibilities in negotiated trade rules, effectively implementing and taking advantage of these rules often remains a challenge.

TOPICS

NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND STANDARDS
TRADE POLICY
TRADE PREFERENCES
TRADE FACILITATION

TRACK RECORD

Our work helps WTO members converge on creative solutions to restore WTO's leadership for setting global trade rules, sensitive to small developing countries' special needs.

It also helps developing country groups to identify, defend and advance their interests in WTO discussions and negotiations on a level-playing field, backed by evidence and private sector feedback.

We help them efficiently leverage WTO regular work to learn from others, redress trade concerns, and fulfil their own obligations

We also work to bring together developed and developing country negotiators to share information and perspectives with a view to building trust and convergence among them and the trading system as a whole.

Through our work, we strive to ensure that plurilaterally-negotiated new trade regimes preserve inclusivity, fairness and cohesion of the trading system globally.

We also seek to ensure that regional and preferential trade agreements negotiated by and among developing countries leverage trade integration in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development for people.

We help developing countries monitor and wisely use standards and Non-Tariff Measures to support their sustainable development, as well as boost their participation in global trade and value chains.

We assist them in effectively implementing rules agreed in trade agreements, leveraging them to best improve the contribution of trade to sustainable development

At trade policy and firm level, we help them leverage preferences and Special and Differential Treatment granted by trading partners for better integrating in global trade.

We promote predictable and efficient administrative procedures that make moving goods across borders cheaper and faster, hence boosting the competitiveness of MSMEs.

IMPACTS

"The forum provides useful information on WTO issues, especially perspectives from national stakeholders which are important in [guiding our positions](#) for the country and region".

Elia Mtweve, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the WTO in Geneva.

KEEPING PACE WITH TRADE DEVELOPMENTS PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/KeepingPace



An informal monthly forum of WTO delegates from both developing and developed countries was convened in 2016-2018. This aimed to improve trust and convergence between them towards the Buenos Aires WTO MC11. By then, delegates reported greater, [more open and regular exchanges](#) among them, as well as better understanding of each other's

TRUST AND CONVERGENCE AT THE WTO PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/WTOTrust



We enabled [more stakeholders to participate in negotiations](#) processes and policy-making, including in the context of regional agreements. Since our BIEAC project and the resulting institutionalization of Public-Private Dialogue on East African trade integration, CSOs continue to sit in various governmental bodies.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (BIEAC) PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/BIEAC



"We are excited to see that the process has come to its fruition. Indeed, the substance of the findings and analysis of the study will go a long way in terms of helping [sharpen stakeholders' engagement in trade policy](#) and the EIF process in Zambia."

Kelvin Kamayoyo, NIU Zambia

EIF SPOKES PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/EIF_sPokes



FUNCTIONING MARKETS



MARKETS CAN SUPPORT INCLUSIVE STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHEN STRATEGICALLY REGULATED WITH SYNERGIES ACROSS POLICY AREAS. TACKLING ISSUES CUTTING ACROSS ECONOMIC REGULATION, WE STRIVE FOR WELL-FUNCTIONING MARKETS THAT SUPPORT INCLUSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION.



THEMES

REGULATION AND SERVICES

Regulatory issues are increasingly important to deal with to ensure sustained and sustainable growth and development. Balanced, transparent and well-crafted regulations in all economic spheres can provide an enabling environment for overall growth and development. They can also accommodate social and environmental concerns and other public policy objectives. However, crafting the regulations is not enough: there should also be institutional, technical and human capacity for their effective implementation.

TOPICS

COMPETITION POLICY
INVESTMENT
CONSUMER PROTECTION
SERVICES

INDUSTRIAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable industrial growth can boost development and help lift vulnerable communities out of poverty through value addition, job creation and new livelihood opportunities. In developing countries, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) are the cornerstone of this structural transformation through their ability to harness domestic and international value chains. However, they require a fair, predictable and enabling environment to unleash their full potential.

TOPICS

MSMEs AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
INDUSTRIES, VALUE CHAINS AND ADDITION
JOBS, GENDER

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Technology is reshaping lives, economies and production systems around the world. After witnessing unprecedented digitisation of goods, services and tasks, the world is entering a 4th Industrial Revolution driven by the fusion of multiple technologies such as AI, robotics and biotechnology. But while opportunities abound for who is in the game, those left behind may suffer increased marginalisation.

TOPICS

TECHNOLOGY
E-COMMERCE AND DIGITAL ECONOMY
INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

TRACK RECORD

We help developing countries enact and implement effective competition regimes that improve the level-playing field for their firms and welfare for their consumers.

CUTS promotes sound investment regimes that foster increased and sustainable FDI inflows, supportive of structural transformation for people and MSMEs in developing countries.

We empower consumers for them to uphold their rights to fair, safe and informed access to basic necessities, and advise governments accordingly.

We support the effective design and implementation of balanced, transparent regulations to foster better access to key services for businesses and consumers towards sustainable development, job creation and structural transformation.

Our work supports MSMEs in developing countries to benefit from a fair and enabling environment for their existence, growth, and meaningful participation in trade, value chains and sustainable industrial development.

It helps MSMEs and vulnerable communities to better participate in value chains and addition, taking advantage of domestic and international production networks, boost sustainable industrial development in developing countries.

We advocate for an industrial and private sector development that is spurred by trade, to create more, better and decent jobs for people and vulnerable communities in developing countries.

We work towards sound digital policy, fair rules and e-commerce readiness, which can enable developing countries to harness the potential of e-commerce for their sustainable development, firms and vulnerable communities.

CUTS supports developing countries in effectively harnessing innovation and intellectual property systems to spur industrialisation in the digital era, while responding to climate change, food security and other sustainable development challenges.

IMPACTS

“CUTS and UNCTAD have a long history of collaboration on creating a **competition** culture in the developing worlds. It is, thus, a pleasure for me to commend the long-term efforts undertaken in this field by CUTS”

Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD (2005-2013)



CUTS and its partners developed **toolkits and manuals** on inter alia “Practical Guidance for Statistics Collection”, using available data for decision-oriented analysis, improving institutional effectiveness as well as how to better identify binding constraints on services exports. These were piloted in a number of small developing countries and thereafter availed to a larger constituency.

TAF SERVICES PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/Project-TAF087Services



In East Africa, we championed improvements in over a dozen policies through multi-stakeholder advocacy. Most were in **industrialisation policies**, towards making agro-processing development climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE AND TRADE LINKAGES IN THE EAC – PHASE 2 (PACT EAC2) PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/pactec2



“The digital commerce course is an excellent opportunity for Geneva-based diplomats to learn about **e-commerce** from scratch.”

Aray Kassabekova, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan in Geneva



DIGITAL COMMERCE ONLINE COURSE. DELIVERED JOINTLY WITH DIPLOFOUNDATION, UNCTAD, ITC, AND THE GENEVA INTERNET PLATFORM (GIP).
cuts-geneva.org/Digital_Commerce_Training



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



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.

THEMES

ENVIRONMENT

The economies of developing countries typically rely on sectors that are highly dependent on environmental resources, such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Long before the Paris Agreement, developing countries have embraced environment-related issues in their policy agendas, although their implementation capacity often remains limited. For more effective solutions and greater impact, CUTS helps them leverage cross-issue synergies and partnerships for environmental sustainability, both on land and below water.

TOPICS

ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORKS
FISHERIES / LIFE BELOW WATER
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS
GENDER

TRACK RECORD

We sensitise governments about key linkages of environment with other areas, e.g. agriculture, the rise of global value chains and the upcoming digital revolution.

We promote the sustainable management of life on land and life below water, highlighting the potential roles of trade therein.

CUTS supports developing countries in adopting coherent and sustainable policy frameworks, reflecting the needs faced by their counterparts on the ground, and addressing the linkages between environment and trade issues.

We strive towards the review of relevant policies and strategies at all levels to support the implementation of a more circular economy.

IMPACTS

"You may note the section on **Trade and Environment** in our new Trade Policy. This part was not in the previous drafts and was considered by the drafting team for inclusion after our 1st NRG Meeting of the PACT EAC2"

Robert Okoth, Principal Trade Development Officer, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Kenya.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE AND TRADE LINKAGES IN THE EAC – PHASE 2 (PACT EAC2) PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/pactecac2

A research study on "**Synergising Trade and Climate Talks**: How Can the WTO and UNFCCC Learn From Each Other?" outlined ways to link the trade and environment agendas.

KEEPING PACE WITH TRADE DEVELOPMENTS PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/Keeping_Pace



CLIMATE ACTION

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been the main place where all countries negotiate on tackling climate change. Since the historic Paris Agreement, countries are striving to limit global warming under 2°C, and adapt their economic, agricultural and social systems to what might be the greatest challenges of our time. Through our support, we help developing countries to participate in climate talks on a level-playing field.

TOPICS

CLIMATE TALKS
CLIMATE ADAPTATION
CLIMATE MITIGATION
NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS
KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE
GENDER

Our work helps developing country groups to identify, defend and advance their interests in UNFCCC negotiations, backed by evidence and private sector feedback.

Through research and advice, we help developing countries to devise adaptation strategies for more resilient economies. These concern, among others, agriculture, tourism and energy sectors.

We support developing country negotiators and policy makers in crafting mitigation solutions in areas of their interest, e.g. agriculture.

We strive towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement that is gender-sensitive, inclusive and sustainable (i.e. supportive of economic and social development).

"Congratulations for this excellent workshop towards a common regional position in UNFCCC's Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. It was **crucial to EAC climate negotiators**, and ended on a very high note"

Jean Baptiste Havugimana, Director Productive Sectors, EAC Secretariat.

"As UNFCCC Focal Point, I wish to thank CUTS Geneva, ADIR and the whole expert team from Burundi for their **role in this submission**"

Renilde Ndayishimiye, Directeur Général et Point Focal National Climat, Institut Géographique du Burundi (IGEBU).

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE AND TRADE LINKAGES IN THE EAC – PHASE 2 (PACT EAC2) PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/pactecac2



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



DESPITE ITS HUGE POTENTIAL IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR OFTEN FALLS SHORT OF ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND FACES MULTI-PRONGED CHALLENGES. TACKLING THESE FROM DOMESTIC REALITIES TO GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE RULES, WE PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS THAT SECURE FOOD FOR ALL.



THEMES

AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

The value of food trade has tripled over the last 20 years, and will continue to grow as climate change casts increasing uncertainty in the sector. But most developing countries remain net food importers, while their exports are faced with a complex global agricultural trade regime, including rules governing subsidisation and the growing use of SPS measures for food safety.

TOPICS

- AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAINS
- DOMESTIC SUPPORT
- EXPORT COMPETITION
- SPS MEASURES AND STANDARDS
- GENDER

TRACK RECORD

Our work helps MSMEs and vulnerable communities to better participate in value chains and addition, taking advantage of domestic and international production networks, and boosts sustainable industrial development in developing countries.

We promote properly functioning agricultural trade rules and food commodity markets, which should allow developing countries to leverage trade to improve their food production, value addition and security

CUTS supports MSMEs in developing countries to operate in a fair and enabling environment for their existence, growth, and meaningful participation in trade, including exports to regional and international markets.

Through research and advocacy, it sheds lights on WTO members' commitment to abolish trade distorting subsidies in agricultural markets.

IMPACTS

A research study on "The Importance and Implications of **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**: Case Study of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia" was appreciated by the delegates and relevant policy makers.



KEEPING PACE WITH TRADE DEVELOPMENTS PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/Keeping_Pace



We connected South East Asian delegates with their national Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) so that their participation in the relevant WTO meetings is more fully aligned with on-the-ground conditions faced by their micro, small and medium business communities, and hence allow their issues to be appropriately brought to the relevant WTO Bodies.



BUSINESS AND TRADE CONNECTION PROJECT
[cuts-geneva.org/WTOForum\(SSEA\)](https://cuts-geneva.org/WTOForum(SSEA))



FOOD SECURITY

Today, 815 million people are hungry. By 2050, they will be two more billion. Unleashing the food and agriculture sector can help reverse this trend, if sound solutions are implemented to tackle current challenges related to trade, climate change, technology and finance among others.

TOPICS

- RURAL LIVELIHOODS
- CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
- FOOD PROCESSING
- PUBLIC FOOD
- STOCKHOLDING
- GENDER

By raising awareness about this nexus, we strive to ensure that more people, particularly in marginalised communities, have stable access to affordable, safe and nutritious food in developing countries.

Our work helps developing country groups to secure food for all, by advising them on the adoption of climate-resilient policy solutions, as well as holistic policies for agro-processing.

To ensure food security, governments may buy local food stocks and sell them cheaper to poor families. As revised WTO rules governing such programmes are being sought, our forums for trade negotiators advise them in this endeavour.

Pascal Lamy, DG WTO "warmly congratulated CUTS for the FEATS initiative and for a publication that responded to a question that has long been on his mind, i.e. **why had Africa become a net food importer**". He highlighted several aspects of the publication, which he described as "being a wealth of information and statistics, from documenting incredible infrastructural bottlenecks to setting out an important menu of recommendations" Address to the CUTS International Conference in Geneva to conclude the FEATS project and launch the FEAD project.



FOSTERING EQUITABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (FEAD) PROJECT
cuts-geneva.org/FEAD





HOW WE WORK

WE ADOPT A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH THAT HELPS “BREAK SILOS” BY ENGAGING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

WHAT WE DO

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

We undertake policy-oriented research studies and analysis, including on-demand, which fill gaps in current knowledge and provide policy recommendations. Shorter briefing papers and notes for negotiators help raise awareness about the key lessons and policy recommendations, which will later inform targeted trainings and advocacy, including negotiations’ briefings.

ADVOCACY

Pursuing concrete policy improvements, our advocacy campaigns take a collaborative approach with policy makers. Building on research findings, trainings, networking events and stakeholder involvement, we have championed policy changes at the local, national, regional and international levels. We also sensitise stakeholders through the media and short Action Alerts.

NETWORKING

Building and expanding on the networks of the CUTS centres in Asia and Africa, we maintain multi-stakeholder networks from the international to the local level. Through regular events and online discussions, we bring together stakeholders from beneficiary countries, intergovernmental organisations, civil society, experts and the Geneva trade and development community to share information, knowledge and expertise.

TRAINING

Training and capacity building of relevant stakeholders in Geneva and beneficiary countries helps them build their expertise in selected areas. Mainly demand-driven, our training activities include workshops, seminars and online courses, based on training needs assessments and building on our research and partnerships for quality delivery.

DELIVERY SYNERGIES

The main elements of our methodology, namely, Research, Advocacy, Networking and Training (RAN-T), build on one another in a synergetic and mutually reinforcing manner. This holistic approach has been a key ingredient to our recipe for success.

OUR APPROACH

ENGAGING MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

We adopt an inclusive approach to bring the diversity of stakeholders to the same table and find creative policy solutions. These include governments, civil society, businesses, academia, media, farmer organisations, gender groups and IGOs. It is our close involvement with stakeholders in the Global South that makes us a credible Southern NGO voice in Geneva.

BREAKING SILOS

The above serves to “break silos” across policy areas, and devise synergies that bring about better policy coherence and efficiency. Our research, events, advocacy and trainings have bridged issues across trade, climate, industrialisation, agriculture, economic regulation, investment, technology etc. This has allowed us to champion a number of policy synergies and improvements in the developing world, particularly in East Africa.

LINKING GENEVA AND CAPITALS

We link people and issues not only at home but across geographical levels. We bring national, regional and international policy debates and negotiations closer together. As a case in point, our regular forums in Geneva for small groups of trade negotiators from the same region serve to update them with ground realities as reported by stakeholders back home. This makes them not only better connected to their capitals, but also better coordinated as a region in multilateral talks.

BUILDING BRIDGES AND TRUST

We build bridges across developing, least-developed and developed countries by providing neutral and informal settings for open and constructive exchange of views and perspective, thus leading to better understanding and trust among them.

ENSURING IMPACT

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Trained on Results-based management, CUTS Geneva staff applies a robust M&E system across programmes and interventions. Through the routine collection, analysis and structured recording of information, we efficiently track progress, inform decisions, and adapt strategies. This coupled with robust financial management has allowed us to successfully handle multi-million US\$ projects with track record of impact.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management forms part of CUTS’ governance framework, and is integrated across the strategic planning process and monitored on a regular basis. Our risk management approach is inspired by the principles, framework and processes provided by the ISO 31000 Standard.

SUSTAINABILITY

Revised to align with the SDGs, our latest strategy and programmes put sustainability at the centre. Besides encompassing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, we adopt a sustainability-by-design approach to our impacts and interventions. This is inspired by standards such as the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standard.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Before it goes public, our research undergoes a quality assurance process through mechanisms such as peer reviews, Project Advisory Committees, validation in multi-stakeholder meetings etc.



OUR GOVERNANCE

THE MAIN ORGANS OF CUTS INTERNATIONAL GENEVA ARE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND THE SECRETARIAT.

ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly comprises eight members, including its President, Secretary and Treasurer. The General Assembly meets at least once a year. Under circumstances requiring urgent action, decisions by circular letter, telephone or email conference are admissible. The General Assembly takes its decisions by consensus.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of CUTS International, Geneva is composed of four persons and is headed by the President of the General Assembly. The Director is ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets twice a year. For decisions to be valid, at least half of the Executive Committee members must be present. Decisions of the Executive Committee are taken by consensus.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is managed by the Executive Director of CUTS International Geneva. The duties of the Executive Director include the preparation of annual programme of work for approval by the Executive Committee, the management of CUTS International Geneva in accordance with the administrative and financial rules, the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, resource mobilisation, and providing strategic leadership.

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The Stakeholder Forum monitors the activities of CUTS International Geneva and offers advice to the Executive Committee and General Assembly. Current membership of this forum includes 15 representatives of inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, developing and developed country missions in Geneva, relevant government agencies in capitals, academics, and the media.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of transparency and accountability to both our beneficiaries and donors. This is why we have adopted policies and rules on procurement, finance and accounting, fraud prevention, gender, occupational health & safety management system, as well as donor-recipient relationship and service rules.

Our financial management systems are robust and have handled multi-million US Dollar projects. Our accounts are audited annually by an independent auditor affiliated to the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and special project audits are also undertaken when required.

CUTS International, Geneva receives funding from a range of donors, including government agencies, multilateral institutions and foundations. Funding may be unrestricted or directed to specific projects or programmes.

KEY DOCUMENTS

LEGAL STATUS

Articles of Association
<http://bit.ly/2Tiwmr4>

REPORTING

Annual Report (latest)
<http://bit.ly/33nMdJC>

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Audited Accounts (latest)
<http://bit.ly/2YwZz7>

PARTNERSHIPS

As a vibrant advocate of South-South Cooperation, CUTS has been forming and maintaining strategic alliances with like-minded organisations and experts at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, we have tried and tested partners (NGOs, think tanks, private sector, etc) in over 50 countries particularly in the developing world. We also have MoUs and working relationships with a number of regional organisations (e.g. the EAC Secretariat, the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa, etc.).

At the international level, we have observer status to the WTO, UNCTAD and UNFCCC, and excellent working relationships with ITC, FAO, UNEP, ITU etc. Finally, we closely collaborate with a number of international NGOs (e.g. IISD, Diplo Foundation, IDEAS Centre) and academic institutions. CUTS is also a member of UNCTAD eTrade for All initiative, FAO Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use, and Gender Champions-ITC supported Trade Impact Group (TIG).

FUNDING

THEY HAVE BEEN TRUSTING US

