

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2015

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (hereafter referred to as CUTS GRC) was established as a research-based advocacy NGO in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2007. It is part of the CUTS family of organizations. Potential beneficiaries of the work of CUTS GRC include all the key stakeholders in and from developing countries: governments and inter-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

VISION

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

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.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of CUTS-GRC is to contribute to the achievement of development and poverty alleviation through trade in its economic, environmental, social and political dimensions. Its objectives include:

- contributing to a better understanding of development concerns in trade and related policies;
- enabling participation of developing country stakeholders in trade and related policy making and its implementation;
- stimulating interest of key actors working on trade, development and poverty alleviation; and
- bridging the information gap for and among the trade and related policy communities.

STRATEGY

1. Working on issues of direct relevance to domestic policy makers and other stakeholders in developing countries.
2. Involving officials from developing countries and inter-governmental organisations in Geneva and Brussels in determining issues and areas for its work.

3. Leveraging CUTS partners at the national, regional and international levels in developed and developing countries.
4. Developing an implementation plan to undertake identified activities related to policy research; advocacy and awareness raising; and networking.
5. Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders from the South and the North and providing information and support services to its Southern constituency, including research support.
6. Seeking support/resources to execute its activities.
7. Ensuring long term impact by focusing on outcomes and not just outputs.
8. Regular monitoring and evaluation of performance against stated goal and objectives.
9. Periodically reviewing the strategy based on experience gathered through its work.

ROADMAP 2009-2010

1. CUTS GRC will continue to focus on the implementation of the on-going FEATS (Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System) and BIEAC (Building an Inclusive East African Community) projects by undertaking research, advocacy and awareness raising, and networking activities in Geneva as well as project countries of Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
2. CUTS GRC will expand its communications and networking efforts beyond the seven FEATS and BIEAC project countries to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa as appropriate.
3. CUTS GRC will actively participate in the relevant activities of selected international organizations in Geneva (e.g. WTO, UNCTAD, ITC) including through organization of events, for example during the UNCTAD Public Symposium in May 2009 and the WTO Public Forum in September 2009.
4. CUTS GRC will team up with other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to organize joint events in Geneva and elsewhere on issues of common interest.
5. CUTS GRC will participate in the relevant activities of other NGOs and think tanks in Geneva.
6. CUTS GRC staff will also participate in the selected events outside Geneva that are relevant to its work and will contribute to the achievements of its goal and objectives.
7. CUTS GRC will deepen its engagement with South Asian delegations in Geneva through organization of bi-monthly meetings.
8. CUTS GRC will strive to provide support to Geneva Missions of LDC, African and ACP countries.
9. CUTS GRC will develop project proposals in the areas of its mandate and seek funding to undertake the work.
10. CUTS GRC will continue to assist CUTS International and in particular the Africa Resource Centres through its substantive and other work.

Introduction

CUTS GRC will start the third year of its operations on 1 April 2010. The dedicated work and initiatives by CUTS GRC and the enthusiasm with which these were received by the trade and development community in Geneva and beyond have laid a solid foundation to consolidate and expand its sphere of activities based on its Vision and Mission. The guidance of the General Assembly and the Stakeholder Forum, and the support of CUTS International have been and will remain the pillars for this consolidation and expansion in 2010-2011.

Consolidation

Continuing priorities in 2010-2011 related to consolidation include:

1. Focus on the implementation of the on-going FEATS (Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System) and BIEAC (Building an Inclusive East African Community) projects by undertaking research, advocacy and awareness raising, and networking activities in Geneva as well as project countries of Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia so that the objectives of these projects are fully achieved.
2. Continued regular functioning of quarterly informal forum for South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and redoubling efforts to continue engaging with such informal fora for Eastern and Southern Africa countries, starting with a more regular functioning of the forum for EAC countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda).
3. Organization of events during relevant WTO and UNCTAD meetings, i.e., WTO Geneva Week for Non-Resident Missions and WTO Public Forum, and UNCTAD Public Symposium, and participation in relevant WTO/UNCTAD meetings.
4. Joint organization of events in Geneva and elsewhere on issues of common interest, subject to availability of funding.
5. Participation in the events and meetings organized by other IGOs, NGOs and think tanks in Geneva (e.g. ITC, AITIC, UNEP, ICTSD, Ideas Centre, QUNO, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) as well as in selected meetings outside Geneva (e.g. the Commonwealth Secretariat, the EAC Secretariat, Evian Group, TRAPCA) that are relevant to its work and will contribute to the achievements of its goal and objectives.
6. Assistance to CUTS International and in particular the Africa Resource Centres through its substantive and other work.
7. Strengthening links with grassroots by improving exchanges between Geneva community and the work being carried out at the local levels in developing countries.
8. Focused dissemination of outputs and key messages through electronic and other means.
9. Contribution of research and analytical papers and studies by CUTS GRC staff.

Expansion

Building on the expertise and successes as well as learning from the experience in the first two years of its operation, following will be priorities for CUTS GRC expansion during 2010-2011:

1. Preparation of follow up projects for BIEAC and FEATS – both of which will be completed during 2010-2011 - including projects with further methodological and substantive refinement and expansion to other developing countries, and seeking funding for their implementation.
2. Seeking funding support for other projects, particularly related to: trade-climate change-food security linkages, mainstreaming trade into development including through Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), organization of Pre LDC IV African Civil Society Forum, and preparation and publication of a Negotiators' Handbook on the WTO.
3. Contribution to UN LDC IV through substantive inputs and other activities with a view to laying the foundation of a more sustained engagement on LDC issues beyond UN LDC IV.
4. Launch of an informal quarterly forum for a group of COMESA or SADC country missions in Geneva on the pattern of on-going informal quarterly forums on South Asia and EAC.
5. Expansion of communications, dissemination and networking activities including through forming new partnerships in Geneva and elsewhere.