



EVENTS

COMPAD Project Sensitisation Workshop

As part of the project Advocating for 'Functional Competition Regime in Ghana (COMPAD)', CUTS Accra, Ghana held a sensitisation workshop geared towards Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Policy on March 03, 2016 at Coconut Grove Hotel, Accra (Ghana) as part of the advocacy activities for the COMPAD project. The event was attended by stakeholders from the various Ministries, private sector, business associations, the academia and the media.

CUTS-ZABS Meeting under CREW Project

On April 29, 2016 CUTS International, Lusaka, Zambia hosted a technical committee meeting in collaboration with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) on 'Passenger Vehicle Body Construction Draft Standard'. The meeting was organised under a CUTS project entitled 'Competition Reforms for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries' (CREW). One of the outcomes of the CREW project was the need to improve the quality control system for public buses to ensure that only buses of good quality are allowed on the roads.

CREW Project: VI NRG Meeting

As part of the Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW) project final in country activities, CUTS Accra, Ghana organised its National Reference Group VI (NRG-VI) meeting on March 15, 2016 in Accra, Ghana. The event was well attended by the officials of government agencies and Ministries; representatives of the market queens/sellers associations in Ghana, farmers' association representatives, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), academia and the media.

Public Discussion on Energy Crisis

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia hosted a public discussion on the energy crisis and its impact on economy at the Best Western Plus Grand Hotel on March 18, 2016. The purpose of the public discussion was to facilitate an inclusive discussion on the energy crisis and its impact on all stakeholders.

The participants of the public discussion included representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Water Development, Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Private Sector Development Association, Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zambia Development Agency, Zambia Council for Social Development, and Civil Society Poverty Observatory Group.

Capacity Building Workshop

On April 28, 2016 CUTS Accra, Ghana as part of the CREW Project activities of Ghana, held a capacity building workshop for the High Court and Appeal Court Judges of Accra. The training was held at the Judiciary Service Training Centre, Accra and was facilitated by Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS during his visit to the Centre.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BUSAC Fund: End of Project Forum

Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund will hold an End of Project Forum on May 19, 2016 for all its grantees at Holiday Inn in Accra, to interact with its grantees and share lessons learned during their project implementation phase. Accra, Ghana Centre will be participating in this event.

Borderless Alliance Conference

The Borderless Alliance is organising a conference under the theme 'Regional Integration through Trade and Transport Development' from May 18-20, 2016 at Azalai Hotel de la Plage in Cotonou, Benin. The Accra (Ghana) Centre has been invited to participate in the event.

Brainstorming Meeting with Stakeholders of MOT and Road Transport Agencies

Under the CREW Project, CUTS Accra, Ghana will be organising a brainstorming session with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Transport (MOT) and road transport agencies to gain more clarity on the reasons as to why the proposed Road Transport Authority (RTA) has not been operationalised yet. The meeting will also help in the development of a practical framework for the RTA.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social & Economic Welfare

CUTS Lusaka (Zambia) and CUTS Accra (Ghana) with the aid of Department for International Development (DFID) and BMZ (Germany) has implemented Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social & Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW) project implemented to better demonstrate the measurable benefits of an effective competition reforms process in developing countries and ensure long-term support for competition reforms.

Literature Review and Feasibility Study on Approaches to Assess Poverty Impacts

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya has undertaken Literature Review and Feasibility study on approaches to assess poverty impacts of the East Africa Community (EAC) economic integration supported by DFID through European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). The project aims at providing a summary of the existing evidence in the literature on the poverty impact of regional integration in different regions around the world.

Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime – COMPAD Project

CUTS Accra, Ghana with support from the Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund, is implementing a 15-month project entitled: 'Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime in Ghana' referred to as the COMPAD Project. The goal of the project is to facilitate the process towards evolution of a national competition regime in Ghana, through an informed process, incorporating views of key actors and with support from Ghanaian businesses and consumers.

Engaging with Economic Think through ZEAP

The objective of the Lusaka Centre's, Zambia Economic Advocacy Programme (ZEAP) initiative under DFID is to engage with selected civil society organisations that are economic think tanks in Zambia. The main interests of the initiative is to build the capacity of these economic think tanks in areas of advocacy, research and M&E through providing core funding to these organisations.

IVORI-III: Strengthening CSOs and NSAs

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya has implemented the project 'Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process – Eastern and Southern Africa (IVORI-III)' project supported by Oxfam Novib to strengthen the ability of civil society organisations (CSOs) and Non-State Actors (NSAs) to meaningfully participate and influence the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) implementation process for better results on the ground.

CUTS Consumer Survey

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with the support from the Zambia Economic Advocacy Programme has undertaken a consumer survey to assess how the current economic situation of the country is having an impact on consumer welfare in different sectors of the economy. A tool has been developed based on specific variables and this tool will be the basis of the subsequent similar surveys that will enable CUTS to publish quarterly and biannual surveys documenting consumer issues and concerns.

Diagnostic Study for Awareness among Consumer Groups

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya with the aid of HIVOS has implemented the project entitled 'Diagnostic Study to Build the Capacity/Awareness among Consumer Groups to 'Demand for Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) in Kenya (DREEK)' to increase long-term capacity/awareness of consumer groups to demand for RE and EE initiatives, and also to understand, document and communicate their specific needs to relevant policy makers.

NEW INITIATIVES

Post-WTO MC10 and COP21 Stakeholders Meeting

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in partnership with Institute of Economic Affairs, Trade Law Centre (Tralac), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), held a meeting in March 30, 2016 at the Sarova Panafric Hotel. The objective of the workshop was to interrogate the outcomes of the Paris Agreement and the Tenth Ministerial Conference (WTO MC10) and develop a Policy Brief from the stakeholders recommendations on the way forward.

Resolving the Unresolved NTBs in the EAC

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya resolving the unresolved Non-tariff Barriers (NTB) in the EAC with the support of East Africa Research Fund (EARF) of DfID is conducting a study on resolving the unresolved NTBs in the East Africa Community.

PUBLICATIONS

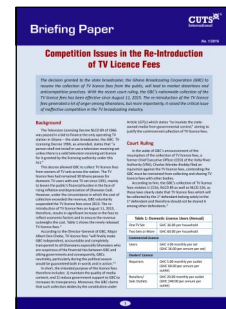
Briefing Paper

Competition Issues in the Re-introduction of TV Licence Fees

The decision granted to the state broadcaster, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) to resume the collection of TV licence fees from the public, will lead to market distortions and anticompetitive practices. With the recent court ruling, the GBC is nationwide collection of the TV licence fees has been effective since August 11, 2015. The re-introduction of the TV licence fees generated a lot of anger among Ghanaians, but more importantly, it raised the critical issue of ineffective competition in the TV broadcasting industry.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/pdf/Competition_Issues_in_the_Re-introduction_of_TV_Licence_Fees.pdf

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/pdf/Tradeequity_No1-2016.pdf



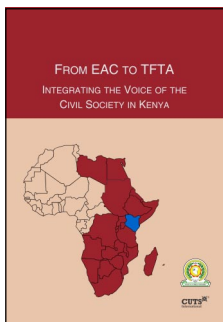
IVORI Reports

From EAC to TFTA Integrating the Voice of the Civil Society in Kenya

This research publication presents the state of involvement of Kenyan Non-State Actors, particularly CSOs, in the East African Community (EAC) and the ongoing TFTA initiative. This documentation can serve as a baseline for upcoming interventions and studies. The main finding of the Kenyan study is that the EAC has a working engagement framework in place with certain gaps both in design and implementation, which can be improved upon for non-state actors' engagement under the TFTA.

<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Accra/IVORI/pdf/>

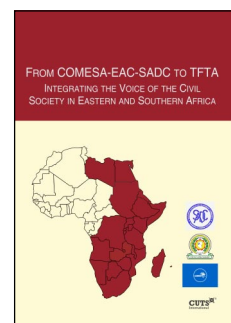
[From_EAC_to_TFTA_Integrating_the_Voice_of_the_Civil_Society_in_Kenya.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Accra/IVORI/pdf/From_EAC_to_TFTA_Integrating_the_Voice_of_the_Civil_Society_in_Kenya.pdf)



From COMESA to TFTA Integrating the Voice of the Civil Society in Ethiopia

This research publication presents the state of involvement of Ethiopian NSAs, particularly CSOs, in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the ongoing TFTA initiative. The findings of 'From COMESA to TFTA: Integrating the Voice of the Civil Society in Ethiopia' will generate further dialogue within national trade and regional integration forums; prompt government for an institutionalised and well financed engagement of the civil society in matters of trade; as well as guide the donor community on resource and skills gaps.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Accra/IVORI/pdf/From_COMESA_to_TFTA-Integrating_the_Voice_of_Civil_Society_in_Ethiopia.pdf



REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator and **Edayatu Lamptey** of CUTS Accra, Ghana had a meeting with the Country Director of Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung (FES) on February 11, 2016 to discuss the way forward on the submitted concept note on the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** met with the BUSAC Fund team on March 10, 2016 to update them on the media advocacy activities of the COMPAD project.

Muntanga Musiwa CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a meeting organised by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) on April 19, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare and review position papers for the 7th National Development Plan: Civil Society Perspective.

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International; **Kshitiz Sharma**, Associate Director, CUTS Africa Resource Centre and **Appiah Kusi Adomako** had a meeting with the Minister of Trade and Industry Ekow Spio-Garbrah on April 27, 2016 to discuss the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two and also plan to organise a capacity building workshop for the parliamentary select committee on trade.

Muntanga Musiwa of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a meeting at WaterAid, NGO in Zambia, which was that was organised by Centre for Trade and Policy Development (CTPD) on April 14, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the CSO/Media Engagement in the 2016 National Elections' Concept Note and review the proposed budget.