



↳ Hanna S Tetteh, Ghanaian Foreign Minister unveiling the plaque of CUTS Accra together with Ernest Aryeetey & Pradeep S Mehta on August 26, 2013

## Background

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International) has been working out of its offices in India, since 1983. It started off as a consumer rights group working on local issues but has graduated over the years into an international civil society organisation (CSO) having implemented projects combining research, policy advocacy and capacity building in various parts of the developing world.

A decision to establish an office in Accra, Ghana was inspired by a regional project on competition policy that CUTS implemented in seven West African countries (7Up4 Project) in 2008. The establishment of CUTS Accra Centre, in 2013 is also expected to further consolidate and expand CUTS activities on international trade, competition policy and law, investment regulation, consumer protection, governance and accountability in the region. This Centre was conceived to build awareness and capacity on these issues in Ghana and in other countries of West Africa, among state and non-state actors.

## About the Centre

CUTS Accra was established to pursue CUTS Vision of 'Consumer Sovereignty' in the West African region. It has been envisaged to function as a resource centre for research, analysis, advocacy and capacity building activities in the region in partnership with local state and non-state actors.

CUTS has and will continue to work closely in member states of the ECOWAS. CUTS Accra aims at facilitating a close and beneficial relationship between CSOs and like-minded organisations here and elsewhere in the developing world to promote South-South cooperation, especially in areas of trade and development, competition issues, consumer protection and good governance.

## Objectives

- Act as a resource centre for information and to develop capacity of key stakeholders on trade and development, competition policy, consumer protection, investment policy and regulatory issues;
- Improve local, national and regional understanding on trade and sustainable development;
- Undertake research-based advocacy and capacity building at the national, regional (ECOWAS) and international levels; and
- Promote greater South-South civil society cooperation and learning on trade and sustainable development issues.

## Modus Operandi

CUTS mode of operating follows an integrated model called RAN (Research, Advocacy, Networking and Capacity Building) and forms the basis for every project and partnership. The organisation relies heavily on building local capacity on trade and sustainable development to achieve lasting impacts.

## Activities

- Research-based Advocacy
- Capacity Building of State and Non-state Actors
- Issue-based Networking
- Information Dissemination and Outreach

## Programme Areas

- Trade and Development
- Competition Policy and Law
- Economic Regulation
- Consumer Education and Awareness
- Good Governance



↳ Roundtable discussion on World Competition Day on December 04, 2013



↳ Launch of 7Up4 Project in Accra, Ghana, on June 19-20, 2008



↳ Participants at the NRG meeting of CREW Project in Accra, Ghana on August 06, 2013

### Projects

- Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW): *Staple Food and Passenger Transport*
- Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries (7Up4)
- Assistance to Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana in drafting a Competition Law and Framework Law for Consumer Protection

### Forthcoming

- Analysing Consumer and Producer Impacts of Barriers to Intra-regional Trade in ECOWAS Member States
- State of Ghanaian Consumers
- Social Accountability as a Tool to Assess Public Service Delivery

### Publication

#### Tradequity

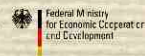
A quarterly newsletter which covers news on economic, trade, regional, environment and consumer issues relevant for Africa.

### Board Members

- Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana and Chairman, University of Ghana Council
- Tony Dogbe, Principal Consultant, Participatory Development Associate
- Douglas Fifi Korsah-Brown, Lawyer, Centre for Environmental Law and Development
- Anita Patience D'Almeida, Executive Director, Sustainable Partnership Initiatives
- Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS
- Rijit Sengupta, Regional Director (Africa), CUTS

### Partners in Development

- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Ministry of Trade & Industry, Government of Ghana



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# CUTS ACCRA

*A Resource Centre for knowledge and capacity building on trade, regulation and governance in the ECOWAS region*

