



## EVENTS

### IVORI-I FGD and Validation Workshop

CUTS Accra, Ghana held the 'IVORI-I' project Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Validation Workshop on theme, 'Integrating Consumer's Voices in the Regional Integration Process' on February 20, 2015 and March 05, 2015 respectively at Paloma Hotel, Accra, Ghana. The event was attended by the representatives of key Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). The event focussed on regional integration in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.

### PACT EAC Advocacy Forum

PACT EAC (Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the East African Community) Advocacy Forum for the farmers, policy-makers and experts, under the theme 'Facilitating Farmer's Engagement with Policy-makers and Experts to Enhance Climate Change Early Warning System' was held in Muranga County, Nairobi, Kenya on February 18, 2015. The objective of the Forum was to promote understanding and uptake of climate change early warning system through interactive discussions.

### CSO Meeting on the Cross Border Traders' Charter

CUTS, Lusaka, Zambia has been co-opted by the World Bank (WB) to represent all the CSOs in the implementation of the Cross Border Traders' Charter and to work hand in hand with the Cross Border Traders' Association to push forward the agenda of the dissemination and communication of the Charter. CUTS, Caritas Zambia and Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) Zambia have partnered to popularise the Charter's initiative. CUTS in collaboration with Caritas Zambia and the Centre for Trade policy and Development (CTPD) organised a CSO meeting to discuss the implementation of the Charter. The Charter aims at facilitating trade across borders, promoting behavioural changes among the traders and border officials and to encourage gradual formalisation of informal cross border trade.

### National Training and Advocacy Workshop

National Training and Advocacy workshops entitled 'Accelerating Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law (EACOMP)' were organised in Nairobi, Kenya on March 19-20, 2015 at Silver Springs Hotel. The objective of the workshop was to avail a platform for presenting the national research findings on the state of play of competition policy and law reforms and analysis of the alignment of national competition legislation to that of the EAC as well as cross-border competition concerns to all the stakeholders. The training workshop involved training on the fundamentals of competition and anti-competitive practices; benefits of a fair competition regime; strategies to address cross-border competition concerns in the EAC region and advocacy strategies and the role of stakeholders in competition.

### Dissemination Meeting and Public Symposium on the Impact of the Competition Reforms

Following the completion of the project entitled 'Assessing the Impact of Business Licensing Reform Programme on the Public Transport Sector in Zambia' and after finalising of the project based research report, a dissemination/public symposium was held on February 26, 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia.

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Events .....                 | 1 |
| Projects .....               | 2 |
| Forthcoming Events ....      | 2 |
| Representations .....        | 3 |
| Publications .....           | 3 |
| Reflections From Media ..... | 4 |

## PROJECTS

### Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime/Framework

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from The Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund is implementing a project entitled 'Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime/ Framework' referred to as COMPAD. The main objective of the project is to advocate for a well-enforced competition regime in Ghana. CUTS Accra believes that a national competition regime in the country would reduce uncertainty for businesses, as well as serve as an important element of a regulatory package for private sector development. The project would be implemented over a period on 15 months.

### Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration Process

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from West African Regional Integration Programme (SWARIP) is implementing a project entitled *Integrating Consumers' Voice in the Regional Integration process: A Pilot in Select West African Countries*. The main objective of the project is to assess the prevailing state of engagement of consumer groups/civil society in the issue of regional integration in select West African countries. The project would be implemented over a six-month period and was initiated in October 2014. The Department for International Development (DFID) is the funding agency of SWARIP.

### CREW Project: Staple Food and Passenger Transport

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the Department for International Development (DFID), UK and BMZ, Germany through GIZ (Germany) is implementing a project in Ghana called, 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW project): Staple Food and Passenger Transport'. The aim of the project is to identify and review all competition reforms passed during the period of the Forth Republic relevant to the staple food sector (maize) and in passenger transport. The project is being implemented over a three-year period

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### CREW Project: IV NRG

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia and CUTS Accra, Ghana will host the fourth National Reference Group Meeting (NRG) for the CREW project on April 22 and April 23, 2015 respectively. The meetings would present the work plans of the advocacy phase to the NRG members in Zambia and Ghana.

### National Policy Dialogue on Integrating the Consumers' Voice into the Trade Policy Process in Nigeria

CUTS International is promoting an inclusive trade policy making process in Nigeria, which ensures that consumers are commonly recognised as critical stakeholders in Nigerian trade policy-making; and that their voice is given appropriate room for being heard and considered in the trade policy process in Nigeria.

A National Policy Dialogue would be held in Abuja, Nigeria on May 19- 20, 2015. This landmark event, supported by the EU and the German Government, under the Strengthening Nigeria's Trade Support Institutions (SNTSI) programme, would bring together Nigerian consumer groups, other CSO, relevant Ministries, agencies and departments, the private sector and the academia to jointly examine the issues surrounding the trade policy-making process in Nigeria.

### PACT EAC NRG7

PACT EAC NRG7 will be organised in Nairobi, Kenya on April 2015. On this occasion, stakeholders from the Kenyan Government, civil society, private sector, media, academia, and parliament would take stock of the project's recent success in shaping the policy and institutional synergies between the three policy areas: food security, climate change and trade.

### National Training and Advocacy Workshops

National Training and Advocacy Workshops under the theme 'Accelerating Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law (EACOMP)' will be held in Rwanda; Burundi, Kenya; Tanzania and Uganda in April 2015.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Clement Onyango, Martha Getachew, Daniel Asher and Sussane Rabisch** attended DIAKONIA's (faith-based Swedish Development Organisation) strategic planning meeting on March 26, 2015 to provide direction for DIAKONIA's support during 2016-2020.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako and Edayatu Lamptey** of CUTS Accra, Ghana met Nicholas Gebara and Zakaria Umar Sumaila of the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge Fund (BUSAC) for discussions regarding their interest in funding the Centre in developing the 'National Competition Policy for Ghana.

**Daniel Asher** of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya participated as a panellist of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) consumer forum on Digital Television Migration' in Nairobi County at Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) on March 13, 2015. The event was organised by Consumer Department of Communications Authority of Kenya as part of the Consumer Awareness Campaign across the 47 Counties of Kenya.

**Simon N'gona and Charles Katongola** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia attended the Thematic Trade Meeting on the November 28, 2014. The meeting was organised by the Centre for Training and Project Development (CTPD) to engage all players in the trade arena for information sharing and general engagement.

**Annie M Siame** of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia attended and represented CUTS International Lusaka at the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) Merger Guidelines Validation Workshop on November 21, 2014. The objective of the workshop was to enable stakeholders to make final input into the drafting process following earlier comments received on the May 17, 2014 for adoption by Board of Commissioners.

**Daniel Asher** of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya participated on the consumer protection stakeholders' meetings in Nairobi on February 20, 2015 to take a stalk of the work so far work done by Consumer International members and to discuss on the forthcoming 'World Consumer Rights Day'.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Diagnostic Country Reports

The Diagnostic Country Reports (DCRs) are the output of Phase I, i.e. Diagnostic Phase, of the project entitled 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW Project). The reports underscore the implications of competition reforms in the project sectors (staple food and bus transport) on consumer and producer welfare.

The preparation of the DCRs involved primary and secondary research in the project countries (India, the Philippines, Ghana and Zambia) the key findings from which has been documented in the DCRs.

To view reports, please visit: [http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/Diagnostic\\_Country\\_Reports.htm](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/Diagnostic_Country_Reports.htm)

### Accelerating Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law

CUTS Nairobi with support from Trade Mark East Africa implemented a project entitled 'Accelerating Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law'. The project assessed the challenges in the implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law in each of the five EAC countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda); documented evidences on anticompetitive practices and their negative impacts in the economies of the region; and used, such evidences to promote an enabling environment to support the effective implementation of various competition legislations at national and regional-level through multi-stakeholder engagement.

Five evidence-based country research studies were published, which laid the baseline information about competition policy issues and challenges therein. These studies highlighted necessary issues for awareness-generation and advocacy conducted in each of the project countries in partnership with ministries and responsible stakeholders responsible for EAC integration process.

To view reports, please visit: [http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/EACCOMP/research\\_reports.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/EACCOMP/research_reports.htm)

### The Impact of the Competition Reforms on Businesses in Zambia: An Evaluation of the Zambian Governance Reform Programme

CUTS International Lusaka has undertaken a project aiming at evaluating the impact of the Business Licensing Reform Programme (BLRP) with focus on the impact of the Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (CCPA), also a product of the BLRP, in promoting business growth in Zambia. The Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (CCPA) repealed the earlier Act of 1994, the Competition and Fair Trading Act (CFTA) due to its inadequacies. With the new law, there were seen the inclusion of new provisions in the CCPA and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) being conferred with more powers to address competition related issues that tend to affect business development.

[http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/The\\_Impact\\_of\\_the\\_Competition\\_Reforms\\_on\\_Business\\_in\\_Zambia.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/The_Impact_of_the_Competition_Reforms_on_Business_in_Zambia.pdf)

### Tradequity

A quarterly newsletter, which covers news and analysis on trade and sustainable development issues relevant to the African countries. The January-March issue encompasses a cover story entitled 'African Countries Short-changed in WTO Negotiations'. The newsletter carries news on Economics and Development, Trade, Consumer and Environment etc.

[http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity15-African\\_Countries\\_Short-changed\\_in\\_WTO\\_Negotiations.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity15-African_Countries_Short-changed_in_WTO_Negotiations.pdf)



## REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

### Cabinet Approves Consumer Protection Policy

*Ghana Web, March 15, 2015*

The Cabinet of Ghana has approved the Consumer Protection Policy, presented to it. This was revealed by a Consultant on Consumer Protection, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Irene Aborchie-Nyahe. She mentioned that the main aim of the policy was to ensure the effective implementation of guidelines, which would ensure adequate consumer protection. Aborchie-Nyahe also mentioned this in Accra during a programme organised by the CUTS, Accra Ghana to mark the *World Consumer Rights' Day*, which was to educate the Ghanaians on the need to protect the interests of the consumers.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=350483>

### Inflation in Worst 4-year Start

*The Post, Zambia, January 30, 2015*

Zambia's inflation is having its worst start in four years despite a marginal decrease from the previous month, the Central Statistics Office said. The annual rate of inflation rose to 7.7 percent in January as compared to 7.3 percent at the start of 2014.

The Energy Regulation Board has recently reduced the pump price of fuel in line with the sharp fall in the international crude oil prices but consumer rights groups stated that the essential commodity prices have not dropped. Petrol and Diesel prices have fallen from around K10 a litre in previous year to K7.60 and K6.59 per litre respectively. CUTS Lusaka (Zambia) believes that the slide was big enough to have had a significant corresponding reduction on prices of essential goods. "High prices of essential commodities erode the household incomes of the country's poor", stated Simon Ng'ona, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Lusaka, Zambia.

<http://www.postzambia.com/>

### WTO Ministerial Meeting 2015: Does Africa Stand a Chance to Turn the Tables in World Trade

*The Star, February 09, 2015*

**Eugene Jernigan**

The year 2015 serves as an important milestone in the history of trade in Africa. For the first time, the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Ministerial Conference would be held in Africa and, specifically in Kenya in December, 2015. After the end of the World War II, three powerful institutions were formed, namely the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (World Bank Group) and the International Trade Organisation.

The WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo said, "Over the years, the WTO has helped to boost trade growth, resolve numerous trade disputes and support developing countries to integrate into the trading system....".

[http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/article-WTO\\_ministerial\\_meeting\\_2015-Does\\_Africa\\_stand\\_a\\_chance\\_to\\_turn\\_the\\_tables\\_in\\_world\\_trade.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/article-WTO_ministerial_meeting_2015-Does_Africa_stand_a_chance_to_turn_the_tables_in_world_trade.htm)

[Does\\_Africa\\_stand\\_a\\_chance\\_to\\_turn\\_the\\_tables\\_in\\_world\\_trade.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/article-WTO_ministerial_meeting_2015-Does_Africa_stand_a_chance_to_turn_the_tables_in_world_trade.htm)

### CUTS: Most Communication Towers in Rural Areas not meeting Standards

*Lusaka Times, January 01, 2015*

A new report by CUTS, Lusaka, Zambia has revealed that all communication towers put up in rural areas do not meet both technical and legal requirements. This is a part of the findings of CUTS Lusaka's Consumer Manifesto, which comprises key consumer demands ahead of the January 20, 2015 Presidential elections. CUTS also stated that the report findings raise questions of the capacity of the service provider and how these installations are being monitored by the regulator, *Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority*, (ZICTA). CUTS has also recommended that the incoming Government should revoke Statutory Instrument 111 that prohibits the entry of another mobile operator in the sector.

<http://www.lusakatimes.com/>