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10 PRINCIPLES FOR TRADE

Globalization affects all of us. The current global trade and investment regime imposes high social and environmental costs on people and planet. It often hinders countries to implement vital regulation or forces them to disregard social and environmental standards.

In order to have a transparent, just and fair system, globalization must be governed by rules. These rules must be in line with United Nations agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals. Like trade rules, such environmental treaties, human rights agreements and international labour standards must be strong and enforceable, with principles of equality and intergenerational responsibility at their heart.

Trade - not just of goods but also of ideas - can help make the world a more open and connected place. To become

a force for good, Greenpeace calls for a rebalancing and restructuring of trade and investment rules: trade must no longer be an end in itself, but a means to achieve social and environmental objectives which keep us within our planetary boundaries. Corporate accountability as well as enforceable duties and responsibilities for investors and corporations therefore need to be at the core of any trade agreement. Any such agreement must be compatible with the development of new and fair economic models, with binding global rules for corporations and human rights, the need for tax reform and the fight against tax fraud and tax evasion.

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To ensure that trade works for people and the planet, and not the other way around, trade and investment policy should adhere to the following principles:

1. Trade and investment agreements are transparently and democratically mandated, negotiated, agreed upon, and reviewed.
2. Trade and investment agreements respect the Earth's planetary boundaries. They ensure the equitable, sustainable and responsible use of natural resources. By upholding the 'polluter pays' principle, they ensure that society does not have to pay the environmental costs of trade and investment.
3. Trade and investment agreements contribute to sustainable development, climate change mitigation and environmental protection. They fully uphold international agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals, rather than undermine or ignore them.
4. Trade and investment agreements include the precautionary principle¹ to protect public health and the environment.
5. Trade and investment agreements enforce and guarantee the current best-practice protection standards for the environment, impacted communities, consumers and workers, health, and public services. They enable and guarantee the continuous improvement of these standards.
6. Trade and investment agreements provide for distinctions between goods based on how they were produced or harvested and caught. Based on this, they provide mechanisms to prevent the adverse impact of production systems on human and social rights and the environment. Such agreements also allow for the labeling and traceability of products, services and investments.
7. Trade and investment agreements reinforce fair and equal access to justice and legal protection in a transparent way. Investors and corporations have to respect the rights of communities, workers and the environment. They do not have greater rights than others and must settle investment disputes in domestic courts. Public interest laws and policies are excluded from investment protection disputes.
8. Trade and investment agreements explicitly view social and environmental regulations as necessary protection measures, not as barriers to trade. If harmonization of existing and future standards takes place, it *raises* these standards in a democratic and transparent way.
9. Trade and investment agreements take the specific needs of the South into account. They cannot be imposed on countries and communities against their will. They allow for market protection measures to strengthen domestic economies and measures to protect food sovereignty, biological and cultural biodiversity. Rules and regulations reflect countries' different development paths and offer policy flexibility, especially for the least developed countries and in the defense of Indigenous Peoples and community rights.
10. Draft negotiation texts and trade and investment agreements are subject to independent impact assessments, evaluating the impact on human rights, the environment, and social protections. Civil society participates in a meaningful manner. The outcomes of the impact assessments are taken into timely consideration for a revised negotiating mandate, for ongoing negotiations, and for the review of existing agreements.

These principles have a strong focus on environmental protection. They are by no means exhaustive and are not intended to compete with those developed by other civil society actors.

Rather, we aim to complement the work done by others, working towards common demands so we change the current trade and investment paradigm.

¹ The precautionary principle means that when (on the basis of available evidence) an activity may harm human health or the environment, a cautious approach should be taken in advance – even if the full extent of harm has not yet been fully established scientifically. It recognises that such proof of harm may never be possible, at least until it is too late to avoid or reverse the damage done. And it shifts the burden of proof to the proponent of an activity, who, rather than the public, has to demonstrate that this activity causes no threat.