

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



Summer 2017

Brexit - time to make trade fair

As Brexit moves ahead, we're in an unprecedented situation. The next few years will see our trade rules rewritten and new trade deals negotiated. It's likely to mean big changes for us. But for millions of farmers and workers from the world's poorest countries who rely on trading with us, it could be make or break.

The UK could start trading in a way that delivers a fair deal for everyone, making sure our trade rules and investment deals work towards international commitments on the environment, climate change, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

Some questions to ask your election candidates: If elected:

1. How will you ensure that the UK's future trade deals will help reduce poverty in developing countries?
2. Will you make sure that Parliament scrutinises planned trade deals to be sure they will help, not harm, developing countries?
3. How will you ensure that UK businesses pay fair prices, uphold human rights and ensure environmental responsibility when buying from developing countries?
4. How will you use the UK's aid budget to help the poorest farmers in developing countries trade their way out of poverty?

Read more: www.fairtrade.org.uk

ANTENNA MEETING

Wednesday 14th June

10.30—3.00

St Gabriel's RC Church Hall
15 The Villas, Archway, N19 3EE

Guest Speaker: Gino Brunswick
AEFJN Secretariat, Brussels.

How AEFJN promotes justice in EU trade deals with Africa, supports local farmers in resisting corporate Land Grabs, campaigns against illicit trade in "conflict minerals" and human rights violations.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Come and bring your friends!

Building resilience in Burkina Faso

Cassava leaves and dried fish stew, pearl millet couscous with peanuts and baobab leaves dressing, crispy salad with Moringa and sesame seeds...you are not reading the menu of a fancy restaurant, but sitting under the shade of a tree in Burkina Faso

About 50 women are gathered and closely watch the cooking demonstration that is taking place in front of them. The demonstration is designed to improve food knowledge and address chronic malnutrition in this remote corner of West Africa.

'BRACED,' an acronym for a programme that is seeking to *Build Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters*, works in parts of Burkina Faso where farmers are vulnerable to climate variations such as droughts and heavy flooding. Chronic malnutrition affects more than 30% of the local population.

The consortium is addressing this issue by encouraging the use of local food products that are both affordable and nutritious.



Cooking demonstrations, as well as the promotion of market gardening and poultry farming, form part of the awareness campaign.

For more information, visit the **BRACED** website
www.braced.org

AFRICA AT TIPPING POINT

Africa is growing with remarkable speed. Will its growth be sustainable?

The last large source of arable land, minerals and fossil fuels, Africa is least-equipped to manage and protect its resources sustainably.

The continent's population and economies are growing, but often at the cost of its "natural capital" — that is, the forests, fresh water, soil and wildlife that its people rely on.

Of the world's 20 countries most vulnerable to agricultural production loss due to climate change, 16 are in Africa.

80% of the African population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The current population of nearly one billion people in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to double in the next 40 years.

www.conservation.org

SUCCESS STORY: SELF HELP AFRICA

Kenyan avocado farmers are celebrating the success of **Self Help Africa's** innovative initiative, *TruTrade*, as they've seen their incomes growing four-fold in just one year.

Avocados are normally sold on local markets in Kenya for between two and three US cents per fruit, a price which leaves the smallholder farmers who grow the fruit unable to break out of a cycle of poverty. But using *TruTrade's* unique market identification and purchasing system, these farmers are now earning up to 11 cents per fruit.

"We've just shipped three containers of organic avocado to a buyer in the Netherlands," said James Weru, a franchised trader with *TruTrade*. "Because of the trading finance provided by *TruTrade*, we're able to buy in quantities never before experienced in this region and, as a result, tap into the European market for the first time. Three containers of avocado en route to Amsterdam are valued at just over \$100,000 and, once the first container is received and approved more will follow. Each container contains about 23,000kgs of fruit and, by buying from 1,300 farmers, we hope to ship up to 10 containers in total to the Netherlands before the season ends in August."

The typical avocado farmer owns an acre of land and farms an average of 15 avocado trees. The cash income from the fruit harvest pays for food, clothing and school fees throughout the year.

In addition to the benefits to the smallholder farmers, the operation is providing employment to 15 people in a packing facility just outside the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, where the avocados are cleaned, graded and packed for shipping .

www.selfhelpafrica.org/

"BANKROLLING A BRUTAL REGIME"

ERITREA'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

Fleeing the legacy of war. The number of Eritreans fleeing repression and seeking refuge in Europe has increased five-fold since 2008. More than 45,000 Eritreans applied for asylum in Europe in 2015.

War on Want's partner, *Eritrea Focus*, an association of refugee groups, human rights organisations, and non-governmental organisations, is working to draw attention to human rights abuses in Eritrea and to press the international community to work for democratic accountability in Eritrea.

Britain is closely connected to Eritrean mining, not just by the **mining companies** involved in exploration in the country, but also by the **financial institutions** that have invested in UK and other mining companies operating in Eritrea, thereby being complicit in the practices of this repressive regime .

Read the briefing - **Eritreans Exploited: UK corporate complicity in human rights abuses** www.waronwant.org/media/eritrea-british-firms-bankrolling-brutal-regime

GHANA AT 60

Independent and in debt

A new debt crisis has begun to emerge across several of the world's poorer economies, and Ghana is one country that has been particularly impacted.

The crisis is global and comes from a boom in lending and borrowing after the last financial crisis, and the following fall in the price of commodities which low income countries, particularly in Africa, rely on for the basis of their economies.

Back in the early 2000's a huge international civil society campaign forced international lenders to cancel a significant amount of debt.

Ghana was among several countries that won debt relief in 2005. But this victory did not stop international governments, multinational financial institutions, and private lenders lending to those same countries, speculating on future growth and expecting to profit from the loans regardless of whether the countries could afford to pay

If **Ghana's** debt is not dealt with effectively, it will become more and more likely that the country will tip back into debt crisis. It could lead to increasing poverty as the government spends less on services that the public really need.

Where has the debt come from?

Why was it taken on?

What options does Ghana have now to deal with debt a decade on?

Read on to find out more.

www.jubileedebt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017



The Africa Action Sheet is produced by the

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