

## **1.0 About SEATINI**

The Southern and Eastern African Trade and Information Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) is a registered research trust focusing on the impacts of trade and investments agreements on the livelihoods of workers and smallholder farmers. It was founded in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1996 and then registered in 2001 under registration number M.A.110/2001.

SEATINI is an African initiative to strengthen Africa's capacity to take a more effective part in the emerging global trading system and to better manage the process of globalization. The organisation deals specifically with issues and debates around the World Trade Organisation and Africa's relationships to it, trade, climate change and agriculture. SEATINI was established as an initiative to strengthen Africa in World Trade negotiations. The organisation started operations in Zimbabwe, but now has offices in South Africa and Uganda in order to enhance its operations in Southern and Eastern Africa. The institute was established under the auspices of the International South Group Network (ISGN), a South-South network aimed at facilitating research, analysis, advocacy and networking on World Trade issues.

### **1.1 SEATINI Philosophy: Perspective and Values**

#### **1.2 Our dream for a better world**

Our dream for a future world is one without war and violence. It is one where nobody needs go hungry or thirsty, or without clothing, shelter, clean water, ample sources of energy, good health and education, and the higher pursuits of knowledge. It is a dream of a borderless world, where people move freely between climes and cultures, and where social structures and inclusion and culture and dignity give more status than consumer goods. It is a world where the benefits of the phenomenal advancement of science and technology are available to all, where these are applied to satisfy all the reasonable and sensible material needs of the world's populations, where survival, access to basic needs and dignity are not dependent on paid labour. It is a world where men, women and children, irrespective of class, creed or colour, live in mutual respect and dignity, and where other forms of life, botanical and biological, are allowed to proliferate and regenerate without threatening, or be threatened by, human existence.

#### **1.3 Vision**

Strengthening Africa in World Trade with the view of having fair and sustainable trade

#### **1.4 Mission**

Strengthening the capacity of African trade negotiators and other stakeholders to take a more effective part in the global trading system, better manage the process of globalization and offer Eastern and Southern African countries viable alternative options to the neo-liberal development strategy (NLDS).

## 1.5 Values

SEATINI thrives as an independent, people-centred non-profit seeking organization driven by the values of openness, transparency, integrity and non-violence, working with diligence towards greater justice and equity. We abide by the following principles in letter and in spirit:

- Commitment to human justice, democracy and fairness
- Commitment to search for alternatives to the contemporary mainstream neo-liberal model of globalization
- Non-partisan professional, non-racist, non-sexist and independent position in relation to national issues
- Non-profit seeking and non-exploitative work ethics within SEATINI
- Commitment to regional and continental unity

## 2.0 What we are offering

The economies and societies of many developing countries were systematically ruined by the prescribed policies of trade liberalization, capital flow liberalization, cost recovery in social services and diminution of the role of the state among other issues. SEATINI offers an alternative, people-centred globalization, where justice and equity are the active principles in multilateral trade and global governance. By providing analysis and research from an alternative perspective, it seeks to better inform technocrats, parliamentarians, policy makers and the media regarding multilateral trade issues in the Southern and Eastern African region, through its workshops, publications and the website.

SEATINI also works closely with likeminded CSOs in the South and seeks to engage with CSOs in the North, to provide them with a Southern perspective on issues of common concern. We collaborate with likeminded organisations, through regional networks, in the SADC region to lobby and advocate for research informed and formation of policies that promote and protect people friendly policies, and not those that advance the dictates of capitalists pushing the people to the periphery. Broadly our work is oriented on ensuring fair and sustainable trade policies that promote good governance, domestic resource mobilization, the respect of human rights, human and income equality, food security, poverty alleviation, access to health and health services and improved socio-economic standards of living in southern Africa.

SEATINI's work is based on research and evidenced based advocacy work, engaging national and regional policy makers as working with communities and other like-minded organisations. SEATINI's work is centred around the capacity building of policy makers, civil society and the public on global issues and negotiations on trade, agriculture and climate change. It is also aimed at fostering accountability in the signing of these international protocols such as the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

The alternative agenda that SEATINI offers is based on domestic-demand-led development strategy that protects the basic needs, rights and interests of the people. This suggests that

Africa must place itself strategically in the globalizing world with the view to build on people-driven regional strategies. To this end, SEATINI is involved in:

- Analysis and research work on WTO, Cotonou/EPAs, AGOA, South-South, regional and bilateral trade agreements and investment treaties from an alternative perspective,
- Technical assistance and expert advice to trade negotiators, government officials, parliamentarians, academia, media, private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, farmers' organizations, among other things
- Dissemination of information to various audiences,
- Networking with various national, regional, continental and international partners and organizations to maximize on our work,
- Sectoral, regional and continental integration strategies e.g. AU's agenda 2063, SADC industrial strategy, agriculture strategy, rural development strategy, among other things

#### **4.0 Target beneficiary/constituency**

SEATINI provides information, analysis, training and research on trade related matters emanating from bilateral and multilateral agreements and negotiations to the following constituencies;

- National and regional negotiators/policy-makers
- Parliamentarians
- Small holder farmers and farmer organizations
- Civil society,
- Communities

#### **5.0 Key Strategic Focus Areas**

SEATINI has identified six strategic areas of focus between 2017 and 2021 and these are:

- i. Food security
- ii. Extractives (mining and agriculture)
- iii. WTO and mega regional deals
- iv. Women rights and initiatives
- v. Social Movement building
- vi. Health diplomacy

#### **5.1 Key Strategic Objectives**

The key strategic objectives include:

- To promote and improve agricultural production of smallholder farmers and their food security through advocating for favorable policies at local, national, regional and global levels, and influencing the practices of farmers,
- To ensure that countries in southern Africa enter into trade, investments and economic agreements that are people oriented, sustainable and development friendly,
- To promote regional and continental integration that improve the well-being of people in southern Africa,

- To strengthen social and collective organisation at local, national and regional levels and demand socio-economic justice on issues of trade, food security, rights to land, fair working conditions and compensation,
- To improve the welfare of women and peasant farmers through favorable trade and trade related policies and capacity building programmes,
- To advocate for the protection of health in trade and other economic agreements,