

Call for international mobilizations in Geneva

# **STOP the WTO corporate agenda before Hong Kong !**

Wednesday 21 September 2005, by [Movements \(international\)](#) (Date first published: September 2005).

With December's Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in view, WTO members are speeding up negotiations to ensure a successful outcome. The collapse of the trade talks in Cancun still in mind, the WTO changed their negotiating strategy. Negotiators will seek to resolve major conflicting issues in Geneva during General Council meetings - thus avoiding the public scrutiny and popular pressures that contributed to previous deadlocks. Decisions would thus be taken in an even more opaque and undemocratic fashion. Civil society must mobilize to counter this strategy!

The July Framework that was agreed upon last year exposes this change in strategy. During the this year's July General Council, which ended without any substantial deal, the true character of trade talks became once more evident - the current round of talks will be just another round for large corporations, whereas the interests of family farmers around the world, women, workers, the poor and the environment are not taken into account. Given what is at stake in agriculture, services and industrial goods — and the existing power imbalances in the WTO — these developments are of grave concern. Therefore it is imperative that we ensure popular pressure and international attention, on the upcoming General Council meetings in Geneva,. Social movements and civil society must be present to hold WTO members accountable and ensure that developing countries, the interest of peoples around the world and the environment are not furthered trampled in the stampede of trade liberalization.

In the run up to Hong Kong, all attention is now being put into October's General Council during which important decisions are expected in all areas. The Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, therefore, may become little more than a stocktaking session, rather than a decision taking meeting.

**We are therefore calling on social movements and civil society organizations to mobilize for a week of action against the WTO corporate agenda, including:**

An international demonstration in Geneva on 15 October (start 14.00 in front of WTO, Av. de la Paix);

An observatory of negotiations, lobbying and symbolic actions from 17 to 21 October in Geneva.

Before Hong Kong...

STOP the WTO corporate agenda

..in Geneva !

NGO, unions and social movements signatories of the Geneva Call:

Action Aid International, UK

Action Populaire Contre la Mondialisation (APCM)

Les Amis du Monde Diplomatique, Suisse

ARCI - Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana  
ATALC - Friends of the Earth Latinamerica & Caribbean  
Atos-Gn3 - Alliances pour la Triarticulation de l'Organisme Social  
attac Allemagne / AG Welthandel&WTO  
attac Austria  
attac France  
attac Greece  
attac Hungary  
attac Italia  
attac Poland  
attac Quebec  
attac Romania  
attac Spain  
attac Sweden  
attac Switzerland  
attac Vlaanderen  
Attractive Visions, Serbia & Montenegro  
BanglaPraxis, Dhak, Bangladesh  
Berne Declaration, Switzerland  
Both Ends, Netherlands  
CADTM Belgique  
CADTM Suisse  
Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale, Italy  
Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement (CECIDE)  
CGIL Funzione Pubblica, Italy  
CIDSE, Belgium  
Collectif d'action contre l'AGCS  
Coordination Paysanne Européenne  
Development Fund, Norway  
Dutch GATS-platform  
Ecological Society of Bangladesh  
Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)  
Initiative Colibri, Germany  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)  
International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN)  
LOKOJ Institute, Bangladesh  
Focus on the Global South  
Forum National sur la Dette et la Pauvrete de Côte d'Ivoire (FNDP)  
Forum Social Lémanique  
Friends of the Earth Europe  
Friends of the Earth International  
Gerechtigkeit jetzt! - Die Welthandelskampagne, Germany  
KMPMP (Congress of Worker's Unitiy), Philippines  
Mouvement d'Action Paysanne (MAP), Belgique  
Observatori del Deute en la Globalització, Barcelona  
Oxfam  
nternational  
Public Services International (PSI)  
REDES - Friends of the Earth Uruguay  
ROBA dell'Altro Mondo fair trade, Italy  
Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations

Syndicat Interprofessionnel des Travailleurs/euses (SIT), Geneva  
Tradewatch Italy  
Transnational Institute, Netherlands  
Uniterre  
Unité de recherche, de formation et d'information sur la globalisation (URFIG), France  
Via Campesina  
Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV, Italy  
War on Want  
Wemos Foundation, Netherlands  
Women in Development Europe (WIDE)  
World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), Germany  
World Development Movement, UK  
XminusY Solidarity Fund, Netherlands