

Fair, Green and Global Alliance

AN INTRODUCTION

THE FGG MEMBERS: A SHORT INTRODUCTION

- ➔ **ActionAid** Netherlands is part of ActionAid, a worldwide social justice federation working to end poverty and injustice.
- ➔ **Both ENDS** works with environmental justice groups from Low- and Lower-Middle Income Countries, towards a sustainable, fair and inclusive world, by sharing information about policy and investments that impact on people and their livelihood, joint advocacy, stimulating dialogue between stakeholders and promoting sustainable local alternatives.
- ➔ **Milieudefensie** (Friends of the Earth Netherlands) works on a sustainable and fair world, aiming at climate justice through system change. We focus on a fossil free energy system and a regionally-focused, ecological and fair food system.
- ➔ **Clean Clothes Campaign** (CCC) is a Global Network dedicated to improving working conditions and supporting the empowerment of workers in the global garment and sportswear industries, through campaigning and making people aware of the abuse of human rights.
- ➔ **SOMO** (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations) is a critical, independent, not-for-profit knowledge centre on multinationals.
- ➔ **TNI** (The Transnational Institute) is an international research and advocacy institute committed to building a just, democratic and sustainable planet. For more than 40 years, TNI has served as a unique nexus between social movements, engaged scholars and policy makers.

WHO?

THE FGG ALLIANCE AND ITS MEMBERS

The Fair, Green and Global (FGG) Alliance consists of six Dutch member organisations. Together with civil society organisations (CSOs) and networks from all over the world we aim for socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies. In January 2016, the FGG Alliance has entered its second five-year programme, this time in a Strategic Partnership called 'Dialogue and Dissent' with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

WHY & WHAT?

THE CHANGE THAT WE PURSUE

Our partner organisations worldwide, and the communities they work with, experience on a daily basis how certain policies and practices lead to violations of human rights and environmental destruction. We work together with them to address these issues and to ensure that policies are formulated that protect rights and livelihoods. FGG partner organisations and FGG members need civic space to fulfill this role. Through mutual capacity development, we aim to create or increase this space for civil society.

The FGG Alliance members and partner organisations link local realities to national and global policy processes, and challenge existing rules and regulations that maintain or exacerbate the power imbalances that characterise our current economic system. These power imbalances are often most visible and tangible in Low- and Lower-Middle Income Countries, where lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change, declining biodiversity, and scarcity of resources. Human rights are systematically violated and rights defenders are under severe threat.

To address these problems and provide alternative policies and practices, we focus on three interlinked areas of work (or 'Theories of Change'): Improved corporate conduct; Improved trade and investment; and Improved financial and tax systems.

IMPROVED CORPORATE CONDUCT

OBJECTIVE 1: Improved corporate conduct advances social justice, decent work and environmental sustainability.

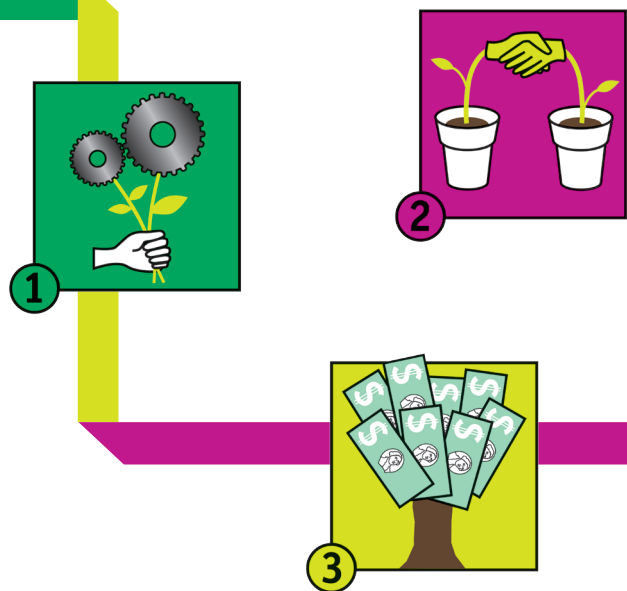
1 Corporations, including private banks, have a role in and responsibility for fighting poverty and injustice and promoting inclusive and sustainable development. This requires a fundamental change in corporate conduct. Not just on paper, but in practice.

Through globalisation, corporations have acquired greater power and legal rights, but without a parallel increase in accountability. This gap between increasing power and shortcomings in accountability /responsibility must be closed for social and gender justice, decent working conditions and environmental sustainability to prevail. This requires rules, regulations and enforcement on the one hand, and improvements in corporate governance, business models and business practices on the other hand. As FGG Alliance we therefore lobby and advocate for sustainability, freedom of association throughout supply chains, and fostering local, vibrant, small-scale and sustainable businesses. At the same time we aim to contribute to a (social, political, economic, legal, cultural, etc.) environment in which human rights are respected and civil society actors can engage in development processes safely and effectively.

IMPROVED TRADE AND INVESTMENT

OBJECTIVE 2: Improved trade and investment advance socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development.

2 Trade and investment have the potential to contribute significantly to economic opportunities and equality. However, the current global trade and investment regime has expanded the rights of corporations, while diminishing the policy options available to governments. There is an urgent need to redress this imbalance between the rights and obligations of corporations and the regulatory space available to governments to fulfil environmental and social objectives, including increased gender equality and respect for human rights.



IMPROVED FINANCIAL AND TAX SYSTEMS

OBJECTIVE 3: Improved financial systems, tax regimes and public financing practices advance socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development.

3 Financial and tax regimes can secure revenues and domestic resources for governments, promote equality and stability, and generate public financing that serves development goals. However, the current financial system has increased inequality and injustice, especially in Low- and Lower-Middle Income Countries. There is a systematic tendency for financial resources (capital) to accumulate in the hands of a limited number of individuals, corporations and government institutions. In addition, international financial institutions, whilst pursuing development objectives, tend to marginalise human rights and environmental sustainability. They invest in projects which at times are detrimental to communities, particularly those living in poverty and women, and the ecosystems upon which they rely.

The FGG Alliance seeks to contribute to policy coherence for development by helping ensure that financial regulations, tax systems, and the functioning of (public) international financial institutions are geared towards sustainable and inclusive development and equity within and across borders. National and international tax regimes also need to be reconfigured so that they contribute to economic and environmental justice, including by creating incentives for a systemic shift to a low carbon economy.

HOW?

OUR WAYS OF WORKING

MUTUAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Mutually (FGG members and partner organisations) developing capacity to lobby and advocate for improved corporate conduct, improved trade and investment and improved financial and tax systems is at the heart of the FGG Alliance. The FGG Alliance defines mutual capacity development as a process of strengthening skills, knowledge and network contacts, involving partner organisations, FGG Alliance members, and key networks and their members as equal partners. FGG partners and members combine their complementary roles and expertise to achieve their joint goals.

Capacities are strengthened through (amongst others):

- Direct capacity development: trainings, workshops, et cetera, contributing to knowledge and organisational capacity;
- Indirect capacity development: mutual learning, skill development and strengthened network contacts that occur throughout joint research, lobby and advocacy processes and collaboration;
- Capacity development as a result of lobby and advocacy: A civil society organisation needs skills, knowledge and network contacts to be able to lobby and advocate effectively, but without an environment in which they can put these skills, knowledge and network contacts into practice, these 'assets' are useless. Access to decision making and opportunities to influence international policy or own governments et cetera are thus important elements of capacity development. The FGG Alliance therefore lobbies and advocates for policy shifts, also in the Netherlands and at international level, because policy shifts or changed attitudes of governments vis-à-vis civil society might open up new opportunities for Southern partners to engage in lobby and advocacy, and contribute to their legitimacy and leverage.

LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

Our joint lobbying and advocacy objectives are based on the priorities and agendas of our partners. To ensure 'fair' and 'green' development, the Alliance works with non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, communities, and individuals, that face challenges relating to labour and human rights, the use of and control over natural resources, and the global financial system.

We work on six (not necessarily sequential) intermediate steps that contribute to improvements in corporate conduct, trade and investment, and financial and tax policies:

- A** An enabling environment – both the rights and the legal and political spaces needed to claim and defend those rights are protected for people, communities and civil society actors, enabling them to address problems and promote alternatives.
- B** Capacities strengthened – increased capacity of civil society actors to research, network and advocate.
- C** Alternatives developed – the FGG Alliance and other civil society actors develop, pilot and promote alternative policies and practices for its areas of work. These alternatives are people-driven, gender inclusive, sustainable, and contribute to policy coherence.
- D** Agendas set – private and public sector decision makers have prioritised improvement measures due to support from influential civil society actors, critical media attention, increased public awareness and effective scrutiny of corporate conduct, trade and investment policies and financial and tax policies.
- E** Policies changed – government and corporate policies related to corporate conduct, trade and investment, tax and public spending, as well as financial regulations and policies are improved.
- F** Practice changed – improved policies, processes and regulations are successfully and sustainably implemented and enforced.

Through several strategies FGG Alliance members and partner organisations achieve successes: **we develop our capacity in a mutual way**; we **develop knowledge** to build evidence for our lobby and advocacy; we contribute to **networking between and among local, national and global** civil society actors and other stakeholders; we **mobilise the public and campaign** to inform the public and create public support for our advocacy goals; we ensure **media outreach** for public support and pressure; we **advocate, lobby and negotiate** to further change; we monitor and enforce policies, processes and regulations that contribute to socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies; and we see a role for the Ministry to contribute to the jointly defined objectives in **soft diplomacy** at national and international level to ensure an enabling environment.



Both ENDS
Connecting people for change



Clean
Clothes
Campaign



milieudefensie
Friends of the Earth Netherlands



SOMO



tni
transnational institute

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