HIGH LEVEL INAUGURATION

The high level opening of the PACT EAC International Conference started with Mr. Clement Onyango, Director of CUTS International office, Nairobi, welcoming the participants and doing the introductions. Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International, then delivered his welcome address. He pointed to the interesting mosaic of participation and panelists. He emphasized that in the context of regional/international agreements’ development, stakeholders should focus on:

- Learning in a participative manner to best adapt to issues related to climate-food-trade issues across the globe;
- Mapping policies at regional, national and international level;
- Building human capacity of stakeholders to enable them to take better advantage of CCFST linkage discussions (at the WTO level for instance), of grassroots efforts with representatives in Geneva etc.
Mr. Echessah highlighted that the PACT EAC project was born to build capacities of EAC region’s stakeholders to better manage CCFST issues on two sides: at a national level and at EAC representatives’ level. Even if all the subjects’ issues have been extensively researched, there is a need to go deeper to enhance knowledge on linkages and consequences between CCFST.

He said that Sida decided to support the PACT EAC project because it was a multidisciplinary project (which includes environment, climate change, food security, trade and regional integration for sustainable development) and its resource allocation to the region was done towards local solutions towards sustainable use and protection of natural resources.

He stated the key issues were raised in the Project Inception Meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania, in February 2012, which the project has been addressing since. These issues include:

- Clarification of the project with policy linkages at national and regional level to achieve maximum impact
- Low prioritization of climate change mitigation in the agenda
- More focus on meteorological data for weather insurance and productivity purpose, in order to increase trade opportunity in the region
- Need for more linkages with other projects developed in the region — inclusion of the outcomes of this project in national and regional policy agendas.

Mr. Kaukab shared his feelings of deep gratitude and pride of what has been achieved within the PACT EAC project. At national level, the project has addressed some needs on CCFST knowledge and capacity building. There have nevertheless been some needs that appeared along the way and some others need to be sustained. At the regional level, the integration of CCFST issues in the EAC agenda is still challenging. At international level, new challenges are emerging, agendas are under discussion, things are evolving and EAC stakeholders need to take advantages out of it.
According to him, the conference is not only a mean to look back but also to look forward: what can be done now? What can be done better?

**SPEAKER**
**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**
**H.E. Mr Yonov Frederick Agah**, Deputy Director General, WTO

Different stakeholders gave their own point of view on the project through keynote addresses. Beginning with H.E. Mr Yonov Frederick Agah, who gave some preliminary remarks on the EAC region and presented the regional characteristics of climate-food-trade. He pointed out that at the national level, it is important to strengthen the linkages between different competent ministries along with strengthening connections between national and regional level. He encouraged expanding the project in different regions to develop linkages between national and regional entities.

The WTO Deputy Director highlighted the importance of policy coherence at the multilateral level, and at WTO levels in particular to ensure synergies of policies dealing with CCFST. Multilateral efforts to liberalize trade can be taken parallel to effective management of crises. This policy synergy and coherence requires strong commitment and better informed participation by developing countries.

He remarked that EAC countries have increased their participation at the WTO. The process should be encouraged and continued, even if resources are limited. That is why the PACT EAC project should go further: to meet EAC delegates’ timely demands, to provide them with research, to ensure regular information between Geneva and capital based negotiators, etc.

**SPEAKER**
**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**
**Hon. Flavia Munaaba**, Minister for Environment, Uganda

Commitment of governments though ministries, EAC secretariat and public representatives is the central focus of the PACT EAC project. Hon. Flavia Munaaba, Minister for Environment Uganda is an example of how the political will is essential and needed in every project of the region. She gave the official opening address of the conference. She advocated that ensuring food security is a great challenge in the region, even if joined actions exist at national and multilateral levels, international policies and national policies still have fragmented frameworks. Climate change and trade are adversely affecting food
security. To prevent food insecurity and climate change disasters, the EAC stakeholders must better take advantage of trade and mitigate effects of climate. To do so, appropriate and integrated policies are required and should address the needs and demands of common people. The recognition and the use of CCFST nexus has led to consolidate their efforts at the EAC and national level through the PACT EAC project. She called for the continuation of the project to consolidate and enlarge its impacts, ensuring that policy makers and other stakeholders concerned with CCFST are better involved in the future.
SESSION 1

Synergizing International Agendas on Climate Change, Food & Trade

This session was chaired by Jamie Morrison, the Senior Economist at FAO Trade and Markets Division. Its aim was to look at CCFST dimensions in the work of the panelists and to discuss what can be done to ensure policy coherence between those three areas.
He presented insights that have been collected as a result of a two-track work in relation with CCFST at the FAO. On the linkages between climate change, food production and trade, it has been seen that climate change alters comparative advantages of the production system and also elevates food prices. Moreover, climate change will have a negative impact on trade and trade patterns, and hence impact farmers' incomes. Therefore, regional trade integration can be used as a mitigation effect to counter elevation of food prices. Even if trade has a stabilization role, it could have high environmental economic costs (gas emission, deforestation, etc.).

As climate change has global impacts, careful attention should be made on public, global goods. Concerning policies, the focus should be made on a national and ground level sectorial issues to have a coherent strategy. There needs to be complementary work done on different levels of action (e.g. linking researchers with policy makers, organizing workshops with partners and scientists etc.).

The FAO is promoting a forum that will focus on CCFST. The organization will operate as a facilitator, with the objectives to make the information and research to policy makers more accessible, to link information on regional strategies etc. In this regard, the FAO has done some work at the sector-level to transition sectors into becoming more competitive and sustainable through assessment and dialogue. His focus was more on production, access utilization, value chain approaches. He also highlighted that there is a real need to move from global into more local resolutions.

The focus was on linking environment and economy: increasing HDI everywhere while respecting limits of nature. Agriculture can play a major role in delivering a sustainable development. The different types of agriculture will need different types of solutions for the specific challenges they are facing. Business as usual is not an option in a world of growing inequalities and unemployment.
There is a need to work on: (i) food waste; (ii) disseminating technologies to enter the market or contact the consumers; (iii) to connect few mismatches, to influence the behaviors of large agricultural corporations and move them to human development; and (iv) to reform the financial sector.

**PRESENTATION**

**WTO: WHAT CAN BE THE KEY ISSUES FOR THE POST-BALI FOOD SECURITY AGENDA?**

Diwakar Dixit, an Economist at the WTO

Food security has already been defined at WTO level. Policies on FS try to grapple interests between producers and consumers. Discussions on food systems began after the 2007/2008 crises. They were, and now are, very complex given what they consist of and the different conceptions of the members on food security.

It was clear that governments needed to take care of the consumers, so exports limiting measures came into discussion. Discussions pursued on how export limitation can be strengthened, and on how the rules can be improved. Moreover after 2008, it has been accepted that the organization should be more active in terms of agriculture. They need to start conversation on its interaction with trade, debate and implementation of stockholding policies, etc. Certain conditions have been put in place to ensure stockholding policies would have no negative impacts on other members. Stockholding program may appear to be challenging and it is difficult to defend them at the same time to the consumers and the producers.

**PRESENTATION**

**CAN GREEN EXPORTS BE A POSITIVE LINK BETWEEN TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE?**

David Vivas Eugui, Legal Officer, and Robert Hamwey, Economic Officer, UNCTAD.

There is a need to develop at a national level a roadmap to stimulate the production and exports of green products that have already an export potential, using a bottom-up approach supported by trade data to assist the country in identifying the products of interest in the green economy. To do so, UNCTAD uses the methodology of the *Product Space Map*. It is a network representation of all the products a country exports, in which the ones the country has a strong advantage in production and export are easily remarkable. Each country has a unique set of products that are good at exporting. The priority is to identify some goods that can be considered green. If they are already good at exporting, they are considered as niche products (green) that can be diversified. There are also standard products with interesting potential, as they are becoming competitive.
Around this Product Space Map, UNCTAD has implemented a National Green Export Review (NGER) in Ecuador, and wants to extend the experience in other countries. The focus is on the producers and exporters that need to be aware of the value added by going bio, on the mutual recognition and capacity building to move from brown to green, and on the transcription of this process in a national plan, etc.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

The floor was then opened to discussion. The main points highlighted by both the panelists and the discussants were diverse.

In Africa, there is not only a lack of trade facilitation but also a lack of infrastructure.

Through the African Union, a big agenda is under development to harmonize trade and agricultural policies. This integration agenda is very important in the process of harmonization.

In analyzing the linkages between climate change, agriculture, FS and trade, it is important to also consider the aspect of management capacity.

The FAO is conscious that trade can play a facilitating role in alleviating and minimizing the reduced production potential as a result of climate change. The main question is how to harness the potential without scarifying environment, and even food security. FAO is actually formulating new programs in a sample of developing countries to move from a work focus more into planning and emergency. They are high level initiatives and programs that address the question of long-term development of production and stakeholders’ capacities. As what has been implemented within the PACT project, FAO has its own counterparts within the countries, and unless there is good coordination with them, they will not be able to maximize the projects’ impacts in the country.

Another important aspect is the institutional reform of the FAO where CSOs can now play a bigger role, within the FS committee for instance where the role of NGOs has been strengthened. Nevertheless, more efforts to bring in the private sector should still be done.

UNCTAD is preparing a paper on regional trade. This paper will highlight the need to reduce the agricultural waste, to develop better facilities for storage, but also to implement better rules and agreements for trade between regionally close countries. It is urgent to facilitate trade between African countries, and put an end to a lot of requirements that impede farmers to make their foods into market.
Food waste is at the center of these diverse organizations’ priorities and plans. FAO is developing a program around it, as this area is much linked to trade and climate change; the focus will be put on the economics of food waste. Moreover, UNEP is working on the invaluable resources of food waste. NGOs have been good to raise awareness and mobilize on the subject. There is an opportunity to extend the work with social businesses dealing with food waste. Food waste is also producing GHG emissions, a subject less discussed than carbon emissions but still very negative for climate and overall environment. To address food waste there is no one solution because soils are different and the need for productivity is different in different parts of the region. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that organic farming captures carbon in the soil whether or not traditional farming produces carbon emissions.

It is also important to look at agribusinesses, what they are doing and their impacts on climate change at all the chain levels not just at production level. It is important to look at all the market while developing and implementing projects.

While discussing climate change, land use policy must be added in the conversations. Agriculture should be considered as a long-term issue, and the answers should be adapted to it. Smallholder farmers feed 80% of food insecure populations, hence the issue of income and value addition should be central also. There is a need to increase the labor productivity to ensure market access and better prices, but this should be done by looking at sustainable opportunities such as converting from traditional to green farming.

To preserve and develop small-scale farming, there are a few solutions proposed. One is engaging the bigger proportion of the labor force in agriculture. EAC agricultural sector is poorly developed, so the second solution could be reducing the proportion of people engaged in agriculture by mainly constructing strong agro-processing industries and simultaneously building capacities.

Under the green economy framework, innovation is important (investment is not addressing this category of farms for the moment). Green economy represents a real business opportunity; there is an increasing demand for green products. However, small holder farmers do not have efficient technologies nor a lot of resources that can be saved and make it more profitable and productive. Bringing the livestock into this type of farms can also be a solution.

Sustainable development is not an end, it is a process/a mean. Sustainable development is into the WTO treaties and guiding parameters, particularly in certain areas where environment interact with the organization rules.

There is a call for policies and strategies informed by research from global, regional and national levels. Programs that are made have the tendency to leave over the realities of communities in charge of the actual production. It is necessary to adopt a bottom up approach and that project/policy makers ask themselves “What improvements can be made starting from what the communities know? What is the benefit from the CCFST nexus for the communities, women and children?”
Linkages between researchers-policy-makers-farmers can be a way to make sure strategies and policies are informed by realities. Policy makers and researchers are one group and need to communicate more.

All the value added is being done outside of the country. The producers and traders have not the knowledge to get into the international market. Knowing that tourism comes right after the sector of agriculture in a lot of developing countries, some artisanal industries should focus on making products that can be sold to the tourists, using this opportunity to get into the market.

Issue of access and affordability is important in dealing with food security. It is not a production issue only. Net food exporter countries have food security problems. African soils are very fertile, but the investors are looking at wider set of characteristics before going into a country, such as trade infrastructures and investment infrastructures (both sectors that EAC needs to improve).
SESSION II

EAC and the Climate, Food, Trade Nexus

Increase in the intensity of the extreme climatic conditions and its inevitable impact on trade and food security can be observed in East African Community, which occupies an important position in the policy mandates of the regional bloc. This session highlights the EAC perspective in this regard, taking into account the needs, scope of negotiations and specific actions to further the agenda. This session was chaired by Ms. Joyce Maounjo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of EAC Affairs, Tanzania.
He emphasized broad reforms anchored by the EAC Treaty implemented under the Customs Union and Common Market Protocols. He stated that the lack of market information and imbalances of political influence among various lobby groups – farmers, marketers and consumers are some of the main obstacles in realizing collective efforts to enhance regional trade. To assist in the process, according to him, there should be greater emphasis on higher infrastructure spending by governments along with political will to substantiate the process. In terms of recommendations for further developments, he suggested that at the regional level, strong institutions and effective regulations are needed along with private-public partnership to meet infrastructure challenges within the community. And at the national level, there needs to be strong adherence to agreed principles and rules including transparency of public sector actions in the staples market to minimize uncertainties. This can be achieved through effective coordination of the activities of the private sector, non-state actors, regional and international agencies.

Mr. Kasterine brought into the discussion dimensions of Aid for Trade project with the focus on key exporters. He propounded the need to assist the exporters to meet the carbon standards of the products and the certification requirements through mitigating missions to enhance access to the international market. He highlighted the importance of identifying synergies between mitigation and adaptation and providing training in accordance to the same. According to him, through a ‘soft and constructive approach’ local and conventional technologies could be harnessed together to adapt and integrate newer measures that will fit the value chain, which in turn, would establish good agricultural practices.

Ms Mungai presented some of the major country specific opportunities and challenges. She brought into light both positive and negative effects of climate change on trade through a case study in Cabassa. She pointed out that the rapid increase in human population has
affected food security. She also supported the potential for young people’s involvement in the agricultural sector due to increasing scope of agri-business. She mentioned that at the moment, CAADP raises productivity and improves emergency related issues. EACCCP has also been developed to ensure that the members work together in a manner that adheres to development of national climate change adaptation. Thus her emphasis on national level priority analysis is important in the scrutiny of the EAC Food Security plan and trade policies to identify and address the issues and gaps. She also stressed the need for a paradigm shift in agricultural production and intra-regional trade in agriculture to be ‘people centered’, which is affordable and friendly. She argued for an examination of cross-sectorial effects of climate change and not just an isolationist approach centered on agriculture. Thus, the task is to identify gaps between planning and implementation, marketing and farmer linkages to the markets and between CAADP compliance in politics and strategies, all of which can play a role in strengthening regional network.

PRESENTATION
EAC REGIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT AND THE IMPACT ON BUSINESS AND FOOD SECURITY
Gerald Massila, Director of EAGC

The interests of the private sector play an important role in formulating and shaping trade policies since they are one of the major investment agencies in a country. Gerald Massila, Director of EAGC, addressed the different dimensions of EAC regional trading environment and its impact on business. Currently, their efforts are designed to gain value chain by bringing together the producers, traders, handlers and investors. He stated the need to look at private capital enterprises in terms of their risk profiles. He also pointed out that multiple international and regional mandates confuse the private stakeholders and that there is a need for more coherence between them to function effectively. In addition, given that the informal trade plays a major role at the grassroots level in these regions, the formal barriers and harmonized standards should be formulated to ease the formal trade in the economy.

He also encouraged the member states to initiate their own mechanisms to enforce agreements in compliance with their ideological stand and preferences to address increases in prices of agricultural inputs and expansion plan in terms of capacity. He also emphasized promoting warehouse systems to link farmers through structured training systems to the stakeholder, markers, the post-harvest management, and assistance to bankers. To achieve this, there is a huge demand to incentivize business investments at production level in post-harvest level, distribution and marketing by addressing issues around taxation, investment uncertainties and sustainable investments. This cannot go without regulatory and legislative measures, both at the regional and national level to enhance market information to increase market access.
PLenary DisCUsSion

A gendered perspective focused on the inequitable impact of free flow of food on women because of control of the key crops by men of the household. This invokes the need to establish ‘household food security’, by act of balance between access to market and availability of food, especially between men and women.

Another major concern was around development of specialized financial institutions to promote capacity building initiatives and consultations at the rural level, linking rural and urban market. All these measures should be centered on small farm holders but the beneficiaries would depend on the regions and nature of initiatives. At the basic level, there is a need a shift from commercial crops to staple crops in trading, for a region to become more food secure. In doing the same, coordinated investments between the governmental and non-governmental and private sector should be assisted with an active role of the government by setting regulations and creating legislations, which should be rule based and hence predictable.

A very important gap that was identified in stimulating right kind of policy initiatives was the lack of accurate information access, which sets out the requirement of transparent systems and agricultural surveys. Standards have two key components: quality and safety specifications, which do not decrease the scope of potential trade but enhance the capability of the stakeholders to meet the standards to avoid risk of the public health hazards.

In following the measures mentioned above, there is scope to address the contradiction between status of countries as regional net food exporters and net food importers s at the international level.
SESSION III

Evidence of Changing Policies and Practice

Hon. Flavia Nabugere Munaaba, Minister for Environment of Uganda, chaired this session and opened the floor for this session with a focus on the changing policies concerning climate change, food and trade. In this session, on-going PACT EAC country advocacy campaigns were highlighted in a broader thematic context of analyzing achievements and constraints of the same.
He stated that his presentation is based on the interviews and surveys responded by the stakeholders. The objective of the speaker was to share the insights discovered from the findings and literatures from CUTS’s initiative in 2012-2013. He highlighted Tanzania’s rich natural resources, especially forest resources. However the country does not benefit from it due to lack of proper management and poor policymaking (e.g. it only receives 4% of timber revenue, however it experiences 86% of illegal harvesting of timber). Due to deforestation as well as illegal and unsustainable use of natural resources, the country has experienced a loss of total revenue, unrealized revenues and unemployment. The one positive aspect of climate change is the growth of new, lucrative crops.

The speaker also indicated that trade and environment have become health and Human Rights issues. It is one’s right to live in a healthy, good environment. An example that relates to this is charcoal, which is the main source of energy for the underprivileged. Its use affects 1.9 million people’s health negatively in Tanzania. Efforts are being made to switch to gas. The free trade policy is also using up resources faster than can be regenerated. Due to these facts, environment is becoming a priority. In Tanzania 908 people have died protecting or advocating for the protection of the environment from 2002-2013. The solutions highlighted by the speaker were that there should be an opening in trade to global markets to enable and achieve better national development goals.

New initiatives need to be found for trade and environment sustainability, such as: Tree planting campaigns; Formalizing charcoal value chains; Registering transporters of Charcoal to avoid illegal transportation; Energy saving, also slowly changing the use of charcoal to gas or biomass; Attracting investors, including private sector; Domestic and international export; Organizing local participation seminars ; and expert opinion on the infrastructure and policy building.
that change needs to occur. Over the years the extreme weather changes have led to floods and the droughts. This resulted in a decrease of net revenue in agriculture by 90% in 2000, which is extremely detrimental considering that this is their main source of income. The future obstacles perpetuated by climate change that he outlined were the adaptation of soil fertility and livestock, the manifestation of vector borne diseases, accessibility to health resources and the dissemination of climate information.

He provided a number of feasible suggestions that could address the climate change in Burundi. One of them was climate change information dissemination. If information is provided on time, farmers can plan ahead and cultivate crops accordingly. The different forms of climate information he presented were: the Seasonal Forecast Bulletin, the Dekadal AgroMet Bulletin, the Agriculture Calendar, and the Early Warning Mechanism. This information would be accessible and available to farmers and meteorologists. The dissemination could occur through media outlets, such as television, radio, newspaper, or through personal methods such as SMS. However, currently the dissemination will pose a challenge as there is no regular service provider and the average farmer may not understand the information they receive. This project will also need experts who can help the farmers interpret the weather information. This project will need funding from the government, but it is also an opportunity to attract investments from the private sector. These initiatives may even lead to faster policymaking.

PRESENTATION
CLIMATE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY
Paul Kere, Director, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Kenya

He highlighted Kenya’s situation and stated that it is similar to that of Burundi’s. Like Burundi, most of its revenue is derived from natural resources (12% of its GDP). However, only 8% of its land can be cultivated, the rest is arid or semi-arid lands (ASALs). From their population of a 40 million people, 14 million and 70% of the livestock live in ASALs. Due to the small amount of land that can be cultivated, the variations of rainfall and oscillations of weather cause great alterations in food production, putting food security at risk. Climate change also causes floods, forest degradation, soil erosion and drought, and leads to human and animal conflict.
PRESENTATION

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO TRADE POLICY AND NEGOTIATIONS

Munu Martin Luther, Assistant Program Officer, CUTS ARC, Kenya

He presented CUTS’ advocacy campaign in Kenya. It was a project that highlighted the issues of information sharing and communication, the public–private partnership, and the establishment of climate change secretariat. It promoted climate smart agriculture. He emphasized the need for specialized agencies that include public and private sectors/institutions.

In 2010, there was climate change secretariat that was formed. Its main goal was to coordinate and mainstream issues concerning climate change. One of their endeavours was to promote climate smart agriculture by employing extension workers and meteorological workers. He suggested that CUTs advocacy should focus on mainstreaming climate change in the national development agenda, finding financial support from the private sector to address and mitigate climate change consequences and building local capacity for dissemination of information on climate change.

This is essential as agriculture is affected by weather, market forces, price information and movement of commodities and livestock. Since food security and agriculture are directly correlated, the negative impacts of climate change on agriculture will put food security at a risk. New strategies to address climate change need to start being outlined. Such foreseeable strategies include: GMOs, soil fertility, carbon seed capacity, wood energy and renewable energies. Including the private sector in the national climate change agenda and finding new investors can help accomplish these plans.

PRESENTATION

MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO TRADE POLICY AND NEGOTIATIONS

Jane Nalunga, Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI)

She focused her presentation on the relationship between climate change and trade, which, according to her, should have a mutually supportive relationship, on regional and multilateral levels, through mainstreaming climate change into national plans and programs. The key highlights of the presentation are that we need to be more active in terms of Trade and Environmental Development as these two sectors are intertwined.

Climate change has become a trade issue. An example is the Kyoto protocol, which lead to a change in economic patterns. Therefore, mainstreaming climate change is essential; a
start to mainstreaming is through an emission reduction commitment initiative that is financed for adaptation.

To minimize loss and damage that will be caused by climate change, there needs to be changes in national climate policies. The ministry of environment and the ministry of trade need to work together to develop a coherent national negotiating position. With the Advocacy Action Plan, awareness needs to be raised to continue this conversation.

**PRESENTATION**

**MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES INTO TRADE POLICY AND NEGOTIATION**

Prudence Sebahizi, Coordinator, RCSP, Rwanda

Mr. Sebahizi focused on the dynamics between the Private Sector and the Civil Sector in relation to Climate Change policy. In Rwandan policies, such as Vision 2020, environment and climate change is listed as something that must be addressed nationally.

According to him, first Rwanda needs to be economically stable before venturing into the climate change policies. Private investments need to be increased by 15% of GDP, there needs to be an increase in export by 28% and poverty needs to be reduced to 30%. To accomplish this, the private sector in Rwanda needs to develop. However in terms of environment and climate change, the private sector and the civil sector may have conflicting ideals. The private sector focuses on profit, while the civil sector is motivated by the welfare of the people.

In Rwanda there is a National Trade policy forum that contains representatives from the trade sector as well as the private sector but does not have that many from climate change sector. Nevertheless, the national trade policy is being renewed and both the ministries of environment and trade welcome this news. An example of the endeavors pursued by the national trade policy is the banning of plastic bags in 2008. This caused both positive and negative effects. Though Rwanda has become one of the cleanest countries in east Africa, the packaging and private sector is losing money. Greening the country has cost implications.
At the end of the presentations the audience highlighted many questions and points. The most efficient method on how to disseminate information to the farmers was questioned. An audience member also asked how to accomplish a functional inter-ministerial coordination. An interesting question to focus on would be how can one combine indigenous practices with modern ones so that the farmers are more receptive to help they are being offered. Farmers get suspicious when the information is purely scientific and without practical knowledge. The last question involved the charcoal production usage. How will the transition to different forms of energy affect the charcoal value and the poor? Another interesting question asked concerned the plastic bag ban in Rwanda. They were trying to find a correlation between the policy implemented and poverty. They were looking for the impacts of policy changes on the environment and trade.
This 4th session was chaired by Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, Director of the Development Division of the WTO. Mr. Priyadarshi pointed out the important role of the entire EAC region, which is not limited to the WTO. This region needs technical and capacity building support, which could benefit its economic development and the living of the populations. This demonstrated the importance of the supportive work provided to the EAC and to the African Group, especially by PACT EAC, which is an excellent project that includes discussing substantive issues emerging in the WTO. He advocated for the continuation and strengthening of CUTS’ support to EAC Geneva delegates and also supported the idea of the EAC negotiating as a bloc in international discussions, which would be more effective to promote their common interests. He handed over the chair to H.E. Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero of Tanzania after the first half as he had to go to an important meeting at the WTO.
Mr. Mero highlighted that climate change has serious impacts not only on Tanzania, but on the whole African continent, the small islands in the Pacific Ocean and the whole world. It also influences different kinds of products, the required energy, the supply chains and thus international trade. From the other direction, detrimental industrial activities that pollute and emit CO2 are affecting the ecosystem negatively. The natural resources provided by the ecosystem cannot support the increasing demand of the human society. One example is that in Sub-Saharan Africa, half of the green land is dying out. Trading activities certainly contribute to global warming, which the 2008 financial crisis make even more complicated. The fact that people cannot afford not making profits leads to the lack of commitment in international negotiations on environmental protection. Climate change discussions are even more difficult than WTO negotiation, where achievements and agreements are often achieved.

H.E. Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero highlighted the danger of the rising temperature on humanity and ecosystems. Climate change is real, and the world should take the responsibility together to fight it, and discussions should continue on how to solve this challenge. More specifically to LDCs, they don’t pollute as much as other more developed countries, but they face more extreme conditions such as droughts and floods. Yet, LDCs don’t have the same leverage compared to other more developed countries in terms of the capacity to combat climate change. Thus they need more technical and capacity support to fight the negative impacts of climate change. LDCs should also think of taking advantage of many of the unprotected but useful technologies.

The speaker expressed his appreciation of CUTS’ effort to get together in Geneva the negotiators in the Missions and the stakeholders in the EAC. Negotiation in his view is to analyze and to prepare the position in line with the national interests. He highlighted that negotiations can also be undertaken by groups, where with one coordinator, the interests
The entire group are advanced. In this process, outcomes for all the actors should be valued to achieve a win-win situation. It well illustrates the possibility because Africa negotiates as a group in the WTO: negotiating as a group doesn’t mean you want the same result or provisions, but you can defend your rights and interests together. With regards to the EAC region, Mr. Bizumuremyi mentioned both the challenges and the opportunities the region faces. For example, the share of the EAC in the international trade is still very small, and intra-EAC trade still has untapped potential to be further developed. The economic growth of the region has not been accompanied by employment, because it is driven by the increase of commodity price, rather than production increase. Compared to LDCs in Asia, the EAC is still a lagging region in terms of economic performance. Manufacturing value added in GDP is insignificant, and industrialization rate is very low in the region. International organization should thus take into account all these concerns and needs of the EAC. However, with its advanced regional integration, EAC is the most dynamic region in Africa with Kenya leading in merchandise exports, Tanzania catching up and opportunities for other countries to exploit.

The speaker made a presentation on the relevance of CUTS’ work to the negotiation work of the EAC. The EAC Geneva Forum organized by CUTS take place in Geneva, but interacts at the same time with stakeholders in EAC countries. The Forum provides the EAC Geneva Missions a way to discuss WTO and other related issues that matter to the EAC countries. The forum is demand-driven, focusing on the needs of the EAC delegations in Geneva. Since quite often, the EAC delegations are understaffed, and a few delegates should cover all the topics emerging in international conferences, which is very difficult. CUTS helps to fill the gap to get together Geneva-based staff with home-based stakeholders such as CSOs, private sector associations, academia and others to contribute to ongoing negotiations at the WTO through better information exchange. Mr. Mukiibi also pointed out the areas for improvement of the EAC Geneva Forum, based on the feedback of the participants. For example, closer coordination of EAC Geneva Delegates with Capital and Regional based colleagues, and increasing the resources to undertake more in-depth studies on WTO issues, etc.
Mr. Wamai expressed his appreciation to CUTS to facilitate capacity building activities for the EAC. He said that CUTS could provide with what LDCs really need. Because issues discussed in Geneva international community are often very technical, delegates from different backgrounds may know or not know well about these issues. In addition, taking into account the time constrain, limited number of staff cannot handle all the issues being discussed in the international organizations. So it’s better for the LDCs to ask CUTS to clarify on the issues. And then delegates could speak directly at the international conferences. He thought it’s important to use the numerical force of LDCs as a group, since they have common background, and 36 out of 46 LDCs are WTO members. LDCs should take advantage of this fact and figure out ways of implementation of some of the preferential provisions offered by the WTO. While the challenge is that the cost of implementation is high and poor countries often don’t have the means to bear the cost. Poverty is still prevalent in the EAC, where the exportation of minerals and fuels take almost 60% of the trade flow. The share of manufacturing in the GDP is very low for the region. He pointed out that only 2 of top 10 recipients of aid for trade are LDCs, because when a donor gives aid for trade to a middle developing country, more value and profits could be created. Furthermore, disconnection in coordination between Geneva and EAC capitals is a constraint too. Better harmonization between the two with the help of CUTS could certainly assist the EAC countries to better advance their interests.

Ms. Umulisa gave a presentation of the EAC Secretariat on its role for developing common EAC negotiating positions. She highlighted the role that CUTS played in providing capacity-building support to the EAC, and in coordinating the work between region-based stakeholders with the Geneva-based delegates. H.E. Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero, Ambassador of Tanzania pointed out the importance of the information and analysis that CUTS provides to the EAC countries. He said that this support is very needed by the EAC counties. In addition, he pointed out that EAC should discover to the fullest extent their market opportunities, think big and just implement it. Although LDCs are weak in
international trade, it’s better to show the comparative advantages. The purpose is not to target everything, but to focus the attention on the doable and pick the best.

PLENARY DISCUSSION

In the discussion round, participants actively gave their insights on the issues in discussion. For example, some participants pointed out that at the national level, mobilization of resource for international negotiations, and for the development of manufacturing industry is a problem. The reason being that the, focus of the government is more on social services such as health, education, etc. Participants also said that in some EAC countries, trade is not yet viewed as a tool for development, nor industrialization. However if trade is mainstreamed into national plans, it could for sure contribute to the economic growth, to the increase of employment and to the enhancement of the living standards of the populations. For this process, it is pointed out that EIF helps a lot. At the same time, global circumstances should always be taken into consideration, including the relationship with the World Bank, IMF, etc., when national trade plans are designed and implemented. In sum, the EAC/LDC countries should multiply the things that could be done to lift themselves from LDC status.
SESSION V

Lessons and Recommendations: What Next?

This final session was chaired by Mr Peter Kiuluku, Executive Director, Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (trapca), at ESAMI, Arusha, Tanzania.
Mr. Wandara presented the highlights of an external evaluation of the PACT EAC project that his firm has recently carried out. He pointed out that it is important to identify key points of learning, best practices and propose practical recommendations to inform future programming of similar projects for both CUTS and SIDA. He encouraged the project by stating that the project has contributed significantly to improved knowledge and capacity of stakeholders and that the overall effectiveness is satisfactory. The project outputs and outcomes have largely contributed to achievement of the project objectives. He added that the project has produced outputs that have contributed to identification of immediate effects and benefits of the project. In this regard, capacity building is the most important tool for practical solutions to climate change issues at national, regional and multilateral levels. In addition, advocacy campaigns constitute an effective means of bringing stakeholders enhanced collaboration. He also advocated that involvement of the media (both print and electronic media) is an effective way of reaching a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including indirect beneficiaries of project benefits/outputs.

In his evaluations, he mentioned that the Geneva EAC Forum is now in a position to play an effective role in the post-Bali WTO work program by providing more research studies and analysis to the EAC WTO delegates on issues such as public food stockholding and trade facilitation etc.

He also stated that to avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication of effort, there is need to build synergies between the project and other on-going initiatives in the region.

In the end, he recommended that Sida consider an extension or follow up project to broaden and deepen the impact that PACT EAC has created. PACT EAC has created a momentum and expectations that should be capitalised through extension of the project for another 3-4 years. In fact, the original duration of 3 years of PACT EAC was too short for the aimed for policy and practice changes.

In the context of the evaluation and future of the project, Mr. Onyango Clement, Director, CUTS International, Nairobi, argued that, ‘now there is a need to identify the gains of the project to the member countries and move ahead from there. To this, Mr. Rashid Kaukab, Director, CUTS International, Geneva, rightfully added that this is a “journey which will
continue”, striving to incorporate the voices and needs of the grassroots and integrating them to the national and international platform with effective dialogue and consultation to promote policy and practice changes to deal with the complex nexus of trade, climate change and food security.

He also thanked all the participants and speakers for their valuable contributions, and the CUTS staff for their hard work that had made the Conference a great success.