



Media Release, February 29, 2024

Civil Society Quotes on the Current Negotiations Images: Banners that were Banned from MC13

Below please find quotes from various members of Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) global network on the negotiations.

Also please see images which can be used, of the banners from civil society that were banned at MC13, along with others on fisheries and agriculture.

Agriculture — “The time has not passed for developing countries and LDCs to get a permanent solution on public stockholding, without which they should not go home. Such a solution should be better than the Bali Peace Clause.”

– Ranja Sengupta, Third World Network, India – [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

“We, as an NGO that defends the rights of small-scale producers of the Global South, are appalled that agri-exporters are blocking the negotiations on agriculture. On a food security perspective, this is dramatic. Once again, the WTO proves to be inefficient to defend the voices of the Global South and to allow more policy space for member countries for granting protesting farmers’ demands.”

– Jonas Jaccard, policy officer for Humundi, Belgium – [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

Fish — “India should not agree to a fisheries agreement on OCOF disciplines unless it can get a 25-year extension period and full exemptions on small scale fishers. The agreement will permanently seal my fate and the fate of my fellow fishers – all 100 million of them. There is no rush to sign an agreement.”

– Olencio Simoes, General Secretary, National Fishworkers Forum, India – [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

E-commerce — “I am glad that India, South Africa, Indonesia, and others are standing firm in opposing the unnecessary and onerous e-commerce moratorium. There is no need for such a moratorium when countries are still working out their optimal tax mix for the digital economy, and when so much digital economic value

flows across borders. I hope other countries join, and even the EU must rethink its support for the moratorium given its quest for AI sovereignty. No country can stand to indefinitely lose one way of taxing the digital economy. Various studies have shown that the VAT is a poor substitute for customs duties when several policy objectives need to be met." - Jai Vipra, Researcher, IT for Change, India - [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

"Getting rid of the tax holiday for Big Tech - ie the moratorium on customs duties on e-transmissions - is one of the most important achievements for working people around the world that MC13 could achieve. This would allow countries to strategically use trade policy to deploy digital industrialization policies for job creation and structural transformation."

- Deborah James, Center for Economic and Policy Research, United States - [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

Development — "Here at MC13, WTO member states should finally decide to begin the reform process of subsidy rules. There must be more policy space for industrialisation and development as well as for subsidies for green industries."

- Merle Groneweg, PowerShift, Germany - [contact information redacted from this online version](#)

Investment Facilitation — "It is to the credit of India and South Africa that they have expressed reservations on the investment facilitation agreement, thereby upholding the sanctity of WTO rules. I hope other countries appreciate their arguments and strong systemic interests which their opposition seeks to promote."

- Professor Abhijit Das, ex-Centre for WTO Studies, India - [contact information redacted from this online version](#)



POLICY SPACE, **NOT** LIBERALISATION,
IS THE ANSWER TO FOOD SECURITY!



WE WANT PSH, SSM, COTTON,
NOT MARKET-BASED LIBERALISATION!

FREE TRADE **WON'T** SOLVE
CLIMATE CRISIS!



GREEN TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER **NOW!**

DELIVER FOR DEVELOPMENT!



10 S&D PROPOSALS



POLICY SPACE FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION



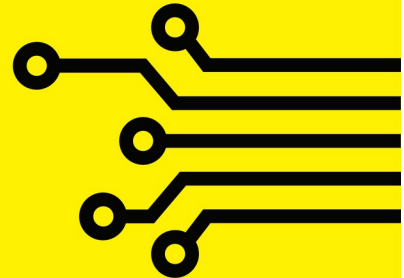
FLEXIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RESPOND TO CRISES



NO TAX BREAKS FOR BIG TECH:



NO E-COMMERCE MORATORIUM.



Our World is not for Sale network (www.ourworldisnotforsale.net) is a network organizations and social movements worldwide fighting the current model of corporate globalization embodied in global trading system. OWINFS is committed to a sustainable, socially just, democratic, and accountable multilateral trading system.