



**Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Fourth International Conference  
on Financing for Development (FfD4) Second Session, NY, 3-6 December,  
2024**

**Tetteh Hormeku-Ajei, from Third World Network-Africa on behalf of the CS  
FfD Mechanism Intervention delivered at the Interactive Discussion 5:  
International Trade as an Engine for Development**

5 December 2024

Excellencies,

My name is Tetteh Hormeku-Ajei, from Third World Network-Africa, speaking on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism of the FfD. Thanks for the opportunity for this input.

I begin by declaring our support for the positions of developing country member-states against certain specific measures taken by developed countries such as unilateral coercive measures (UCM) as well as disguised protectionist policies like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. These measures exacerbate the existing imbalances of the multilateral trade regime which work against developing countries and must thus be stopped.

If trade is to be an engine of development, we must re-think the current paradigm of universal and indiscriminate trade and financial liberalisation and deregulation which informs not only the World Trade Organisation and other international trade regime but is also reflected in much of the Addis Ababa Action Plan.

Especially for African and most other developing countries trade must become an instrument to transform their primary commodity export dependent economic structures, for enhanced productivity in small-holder agriculture and diversification of the rural economy; the development of domestic manufacture; promote in particular critical minerals in domestic and regional economic linkages and industrialisation; and a modern service economy -- in short promote agrarian change and industrialisation. In a word, trade policy must be driven by a strategy of industrialisation and part of industrial policy.

Such fundamental re-think can not take place in regimes such as the WTO with their baked-in DNA of liberalisation and deregulation.

Instead, this fundamental rethink about trade and development must be in the United Nations system with its history and capacity for focus on the needs of developing countries. Therefore, the Fourth Conference for Financing Development must take up this agenda, not with ineffective soft-language of aspirations, but as a process that leads to effective inter-state agreement on fundamental norms of trade and development. Thank you.