

5th International Fair Trade Towns Conference, Malmö Nov 2011 Contribution to Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The 5th International Fair Trade Towns Conference in Malmö 2011 brought together representatives from some of the more than 1000 Fair Trade Towns¹ globally. The 5th International Fair Trade Towns Conference wishes to highlight the importance of addressing sustainable consumption and production issues within the framework of Rio+20, in the theme *Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*.

We acknowledge with satisfaction that a number of European Union (EU) policy documents support and recognise Fair Trade as an important tool which contributes to sustainable development and makes an important contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.²

We acknowledge the importance of our towns and cities as arenas for shared action between NGOs, the public sector, the business community, interest and faith communities, and others working together for local and global development.

We acknowledge the importance of global trade for development within an international enabling policy environment which fosters partnerships and responsibility between all actors.

We acknowledge the committed contribution of Fair Trade Organizations, from small producers to marketing organizations, and of Fair Trade retailers to the social and economic empowerment of producer communities in the South.

Fair Trade offers consumers a powerful tool to reduce poverty as well as address the imbalance of power in trading relationships, unstable markets and the injustices of conventional trade. At the same time Fair Trade enables producers to improve their livelihoods, encourages them to introduce more environmentally friendly methods where possible, and to adapt to climate change.

Therefore, we wish to stress the importance of promoting Fair Trade and fair procurement as an alternative model to the conventional business model.

We call on the European Union to

- Address the necessity to reduce or eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers for environmentally friendly and Fair Trade products at a European and global level

¹ Fair Trade Towns bring local governments, businesses, community organisations and individuals together under the shared vision of a fairer, more sustainable trade.

² Opinion of the Committee of the Regions RELEX-IV-026, 10-11.2. 2010 Contributing to sustainable development: The role of Fair Trade and Non-Governmental trade-related sustainability assurance schemes.

We call on all levels of government to

- Acknowledge that sustainable consumption needs to consider the minimization of the negative global environmental impact of purchasing decisions as well as the maximization of the positive global social and economic impact of our purchases.
- Implement sustainable procurement policies that include sourcing Fair Trade products. Fair Trade procurement guidelines need to be included in the traditional government procurement policies, and complement green procurement at the national and sub-national scale.

We call on the private sector to

- Follow ILO standards as a minimum throughout their entire supply chains and enter into partnerships to broaden the range of Fair Trade products and practices
- Actively work with their product development and suppliers to ensure that their operations increasingly decrease negative global environmental impact and maximise social and economic benefits in producers' communities

Malmö, 20th November 2011