

AFRICA ACTION SHEET



International Monsanto Tribunal in the Hague—October 14th-16th

The **Monsanto Tribunal** is an international civil society initiative to hold **Monsanto** accountable for human rights violations, for crimes against humanity, and for ecocide. Eminent judges will hear testimonies from victims, and deliver an advisory opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice. A parallel **People's Assembly** provides the opportunity for social movements to rally and plan for the future they want. Both the **Tribunal** and **People's Assembly** will take place between 14th-16th October in the Hague, Netherlands.

For an increasing number of people from around the world, **Monsanto** today is the **symbol of industrial agriculture**. It promotes an agro-industrial model that contributes at least one third of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; it is largely responsible for the depletion of soil and water resources, species extinction and declining biodiversity, and the displacement of millions of small farmers worldwide. This is a model that threatens peoples' food sovereignty by patenting seeds and privatizing life forms.

Monsanto has a hundred year long history of threatening life, human and otherwise, on the planet. Its most infamous products are its line of **GMO crops called "Roundup ready", sold alongside the pesticide Round-up**.

These products have devastating effects: as well as the real danger to biodiversity through overuse of the pesticides, the seeds are patented, forcing farmers to buy them afresh every year. This has caused numerous social problems, driving small farmers out of business and decimating traditional farming methods, especially in Africa where farmers are the principal food producers.

Why a tribunal? Monsanto's critics maintain that **Monsanto** is able to ignore the human and environmental damage caused by its products through a strategy of concealment: by lobbying regulatory agencies and governments, by lying and corruption, by manipulating press and media and by financing fraudulent scientific studies

The judges will not be able to **convict Monsanto** but the **ruling** could have a massive effect in setting a precedent to bringing justice to other victims of multinationals and possibly paving the way for an **international law against ecocide**. Follow this unique case of justice through:

www.globaljustice.org.uk/Monsantotrial and
www.monsanto-tribunal.org

Autumn 2016

GMOs Threaten Nigeria's Food Sovereignty

A national conference, **The Nigerian Biosafety Acts, and GMOs – Implications for Nigerians and Africa** organised by AEFJN in Abuja was a follow up of the Land Grab conference held at Nairobi in November 2015.

This initiative of *Friends of the Earth Nigeria/ Environmental Right Action* aimed at developing national advocacy strategies to repeal the recently passed Nigerian biosafety law and to resist the release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into the country.

It is estimated that these policies could cause massive damage to the Nigerian ecosystem and her food sovereignty, and that the ripple effect on the rest of Africa could be disastrous.

This meeting of *The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, ATAN Justice, Development and Peace Centre, Nigeria* brought the Church and Civil Society together for joint advocacy actions.

Read more: www.aefjn.org/index/php.food-sovereignty on the agreed **Plan of Action**



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African Women's rights to control over land and natural resources

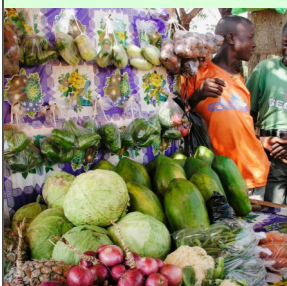
The **Kilimanjaro Initiative** is an idea that was conceived by rural women supported by civil society organisations in 2012 to **claim African women's rights to access and control over land and natural resources**. The common adhesive for the Kilimanjaro Initiative is to end the widespread and continued violation of women's rights to land.

The failure to implement these rights by key international, continental and country level policies and frameworks that would protect and guarantee women's land tenure rights has meant that, in some countries, land policies have been designed, promulgated and even launched without any genuine concern for the human resources and other logistical requirements necessary to carry out the wide-ranging reforms that are proposed.

These seemingly progressive gestures are yet to result in equal rights for women and men even though women produce 60-80% of food in African countries.

With 2016 declared by the African Union as the "**African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women**", coupled with the transition into *Sustainable Development Goals*, **this focus on rural women's right to land and natural resources** couldn't have been timelier in working towards a food-secure continent. The Kilimanjaro initiative offers a unique window of opportunity to unify and amplify the struggles of rural women.

The Initiative seeks to mobilise rural women from across Africa towards an iconic moment at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro in October 2016, to demand concrete action in securing their land rights. Four regional caravans are expected to depart simultaneously from the North, South, East, and West, culminating in a mass African rural women's assembly at the foot of the mountain.



www.actionaid.org/2016/09/kilimanjaro-initiative-mobilising-rural-women

What Brexit means for Africa

The UK is an important **trading partner** with Africa and deals with the EU govern much of this. Now all these arrangements will have to be renegotiated through the World Trade Organisation with slow, painstaking and complicated diplomacy

The UK has been a substantial contributor to the **EU aid programme** including the European Development Fund and the UK has had an important influence on progressive aid agenda particularly in Africa. These will all be lost.

We will all be poorer because of Brexit, including Africa.

www.punchng.com/what-brexit-means-for-africa



DON'T LET CORPORATIONS MAKE THE RULES Leaked documents reveal the EU's desperation on Canada trade deal

In an attempt to keep the EU-Canada trade deal **CETA**, (**Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement**) on track, the European Commission has drawn up a declaration aimed at reassuring those worried by the implications of the deal. It has been scrutinised by lawyers and trade experts.

"These leaked documents prove just how much trouble this toxic trade deal is in. They show a panicky commission in Brussels issuing a series of defensive declarations, organising extraordinary meetings of ministers, and staying in a permanent state of crisis to try and legitimise a trade deal that is deeply unpopular and undemocratic.

"Now that **TTIP** is widely acknowledged to be effectively dead, Brussels is doing all it can to salvage **CETA**. The declaration has no legal basis, is devoid of substance and only goes to show how desperate the commission is to obtain support for a corporate coup that has been condemned across Europe." *Read the Global Justice Now briefing on CETA.*

www.globaljusticenow.org.uk/resources

Corporate power to be challenged

New UN Treaty to protect Human Rights

Of the 100 wealthiest entities in the world today 69 are corporations and only 31 are countries.

The problem of unrestrained corporate power is massive, and requires a massive solution.

A new UN Treaty calling for legally binding international laws to regulate activities forcing companies to comply with human rights law, international labour law and environmental standards would oblige governments to hold them to account for the power they wield.

But the UK government has so far refused to take part in this UN treaty.

Take action: www.globaljusticenow.org.uk

Controlling Corporations