

Greenpeace & Globalisation:
Summary and Principles on Globalisation

April 2001

1. Since its early days, Greenpeace has campaigned globally to protect the global commons (e.g. oceans, climate/ozone, nuclear disarmament) on issues of global concern (ancient forests, toxics, GMOs, etc.).

2. Likewise, Greenpeace has worked on specific aspects of international trade since the 1970s, with a view to limiting its impact on the global environment (banning the international trade in endangered species, and the export of hazardous wastes and nuclear materials, etc). Greenpeace was in many cases instrumental in achieving international agreements banning or controlling polluting and destructive trade practices. However, since the 1990s, and in particular since the creation of the WTO, trade-related environmental measures have been under threat by the international trading regime, including the WTO's dispute settlement procedure, NAFTA, etc. As a result, Greenpeace has increasingly confronted international trade rules and practices that undermine global environmental standards, the precautionary principle, and human health and well being of people, particularly the poor.

3. Greenpeace opposes the current form of globalisation that is increasing corporate power. Trade liberalisation at all costs, leads to further environmental and social inequity and undermines democratic rights. It does not lead to poverty alleviation. Governments must listen seriously to the concerns expressed by citizens from all over the world, and best illustrated by the events that surrounded the Seattle Summit of the WTO in 1999. In promoting "global environmental standards" and opposing transnational corporations' (TNCs) "double standards", we advocate a new approach: forms of global governance, including trade and finance, that are open, transparent, fair, equitable and under democratic control. A trade regime that works for all, and preserves and restores the environment.

4. The practice of international trade and finance institutions must be consistent with the need to integrate development and environmental policies as acknowledged since the Rio Earth Summit of 1992.

5. Greenpeace's approach to and relationship with the international institutions that are associated with the growing globalisation trend (WTO, World Bank/IMF, etc) is in line with our approach to other intergovernmental organisations within and outside the UN system. As an independent NGO, we campaign to ensure that governments and international institutions act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Greenpeace employs all legitimate tools and tactics, which range from dialogue and coalition-building on specific projects and policies, through to non-violent confrontation and protests, when necessary. We were among the first to carry out direct actions against the World Bank and WTO/GATT; we shall continue whenever this is required.

www.greenpeace.org/politics/wto

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Contact:

remi.parmenier@diala.greenpeace.org