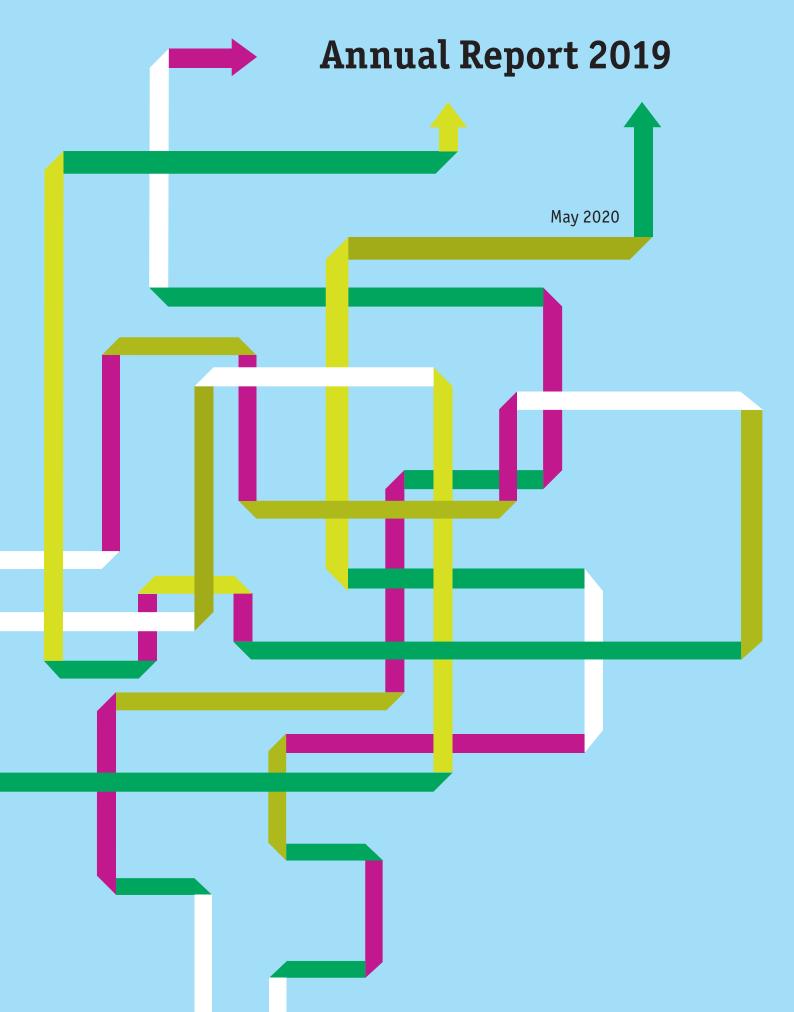
Fair, Green and Global Alliance





COLOPHON

Fair, Green and Global Annual Report 2019

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List of abbreviations

ADSB AGT	Atradius Dutch State Business Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textiles
BIT	Bilateral investment treaty
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CAO	Compliance Advisor Ombudsman
CCC	Clean Clothes Campaign
CS0	Civil society organisation
EBA	Enforceable brand agreement
ECA	Export Credit Agency
ECT	Energy Charter Treaty
ECCJ	European Coalition for Corporate Justice
EIB	European Investment Bank
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FGG Alliance	Fair, Green and Global Alliance
FMO	The Netherlands Development Finance Company
FoE	Friends of the Earth
FoEE	Friends of the Earth Europe
FoEI	Friends of the Earth International
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GCF	Green Climate Fund
ICM	Independent Complaints Mechanism
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IGWG	Intergovernmental Working Group
IFI	International Financial Institution
IGF	Intergovernmental Ferum
	Intergovernmental Forum

LLMIC	Low or lower-middle income country
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIC	Multilateral Investment Court
MVO	Maatschappelijk verantwoord ondernemen
NCP	National Contact Point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RSP0	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOMO	Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen
TNI	Transnational Institute
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission

1. INTRODUCTION

They demanded change -of leadership, of policies, of the global system that we have created, which in practice too often fosters inequality and injustice- the many people that stood up in civic mobilisations throughout 2019. From Chile and Colombia to Ethiopia, Algeria, Bangladesh and Hong Kong, people took to the streets to demand democracy; social, environmental and gender justice; and public policy that serves the public interest. While responses to these popular uprisings were often aggressive and civic space has only shrunk further, the movements couldn't be stopped. The 'global protest wave of 2019' was a hopeful indication that people are taking control over their futures and calling for a system that puts people and the planet first.

In the previous year, the climate movement has been particularly visible. A year full of natural disasters -such as the fires in Australia and floodings in Mozambique and surrounding countries as a results of Cyclone Idai, combined with an unprecedented uprising from young people demanding their futures be safeguarded, resulted in a global movement that highlighted the need for a radically different approach towards climate change and towards our economies in a broader sense. People involved in the climate movement came with concrete answers to the challenges, by emphasising community-led alternative practices such as agroecology or renewable energy cooperatives; suggesting to redirect the huge financial flows based in the Netherlands, which could actually turn the tide in the required just transition; and putting the spotlights on the potential of women in the climate transition, in climate adaptation, and in leading the transition. These mobilisations didn't fall from thin air: civil society organisations worldwide have been calling for change in line with the SDG agenda for years – and their protests often come with concrete suggestions for a way forward. Also in 2019, these CSOs' inspiring practices provided us with guidance for future policy and practice.

Through the strategic partnership between the FGG Alliance and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FGG members were able support partners in their important work throughout 2019. Together we built upon the momentum created by the many civic mobilisations, and were able to push forward our joint agenda, suggesting new routes towards corporate accountability, international trade and investment, the architecture of financial and tax systems, and the spending of public finance. The strategic partnership enabled FGG partners to speak up to defend their rights, challenge power relations and advance social and gender justice, and promote their inspiring, transformative practices. It increased leverage for our partners on Dutch value chain and trade actors who have an influence on their local realities. FGG partners share the objectives of the Dutch government to make trade and value chains sustainable and inclusive, and to ensure that they contribute to achieving the SDGs.

While we are drafting this annual report, a few months into 2020, the world has changed radically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis has amplified all the fault lines of the system and particularly the consequences of structural adjustment/ austerity policies imposed through debt repayment conditions whereby public services are cut. It will continue to have detrimental consequences, particularly on poor people -and especially women among them- in the Global South. Aside from the primary consequences for the health of entire populations, the social consequences of lock-downs are at least as serious for the many people without savings, who lost the (often daily earned) incomes that provided them and their families with their basic needs; and whose food security has or will become threatened due to the crisis. Women are hit hardest by the secondary consequences of the outbreak, as in many countries they constitute the vast majority of health workers; often bear the heaviest burden in informal care in these times of quarantine; and have to deal with the consequential limitations to their work and economic opportunities. 2 Meanwhile, the authoritarian responses to the crisis cancel out some hardfought progress made in terms of expanding civic space.³

COVID-19 underlines the importance of our collaboration with the Ministry. In the past 9 years, we have successfully collaborated for a systemic transformation in the direction of inclusiveness, gender justice, environmental justice, and corporate accountability. An example of such collaboration can be found in constructive dialogue we have been having on the IMVO, which has become all the more important given the devastating impact COVID-19 is having on human rights in supply chains. The current crisis emphasises the need to continue this important endeavour, aiming to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society and particularly in the Global South are protected, can access public services, and are able to hold companies accountable to their commitments to human and environmental rights throughout their value chains, also in times of crisis.

This Annual Report shows a selection of results from 2019, achieved under the umbrella of the FGG programme, which we hope will be sustained during these times of crisis. As 2020 is the last year of our strategic partnership with the Ministry, we aim to consolidate the results obtained in the previous four years and build further on these results in the coming years, to achieve our joint goal of socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies, with binding regulations for corporations to uphold human rights throughout value chains and fair trade and investment agreements.

TABLE 1. MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT INDICATORS RELATED TO FGG INDICATORS AND TOTAL FGG RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019

MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT CORE INDICATOR More information on the relation between MFA Dialogue & Dissent core indicators and FGG indicators is to be found in Annex 1	RESULTS ENTIRE FGG PROGRAMME IN 2019
DD1: FGG indicator F	53 laws, policies and norms, were implemented for sustainable and inclusive development.
DD2: FGG indicator E	86 laws, policies and norms/attitudes, were blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development.
DD3: FGG indicators A & D	527 times CSOs succeeded in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage
DD4: FGG indicators C & D	553 advocacy initiatives were carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency.
DD5: FGG indicator B	639 CSOs with increased L&A capacities.
DD6: Total # FGG partners	1129 CSOs included in FGG programme in 2019. 1335 CSOs included in FGG programme on 31/12/2019.

2. TOC 1: IMPROVED CORPORATE CONDUCT

There lies a great opportunity for transformation in changing global supply chains, specifically by improving the conditions of labour employed in these supply chains, and by reducing these supply chains' environmental impacts. Over the past years, FGG partners have flagged environmental and human rights abuses caused by corporate misconduct, and through the FGG Alliance—so in close collaboration with the Ministry—we have been able to take important steps in the direction of enforceable corporate accountability. A UN Binding Treaty, as well as other forms of mandatory human rights due diligence, are extremely important opportunities in this regard.

As regulation of private sector actors is often not binding (yet), the FGG Alliance and the Ministry have simultaneously continued to improve and encourage the implementation of voluntary guidelines, such as the OECD guidelines, and to improve people's access to remedy and grievance mechanisms to seek redress.

2.1 RESULTS COMPARED TO TARGETS

When comparing 2019's results under ToC 1 to the targets set, we see that we are on track for our outcome areas on mechanisms that guarantee civil society access to decision-making processes (1.A.a), capacity strengthening (1.B), policy change (1.E), and practice change by governments (1.F.a). Our outcomes on grievance mechanisms (1.A.b), alternatives developed (1.C), and practice changes by companies (1.F.b) are slightly behind the targets set. For the latter, an example is the remedy provided by garment factories or suppliers to workers that were denied their rights. Whilst CCC's work in this regard is ongoing, the speed with which factories and suppliers resolve such cases is highly unpredictable, and will continue beyond 2019. Notably, in terms of agenda-setting (1.D), we have far exceeded the target set.

2.2 UN BINDING TREATY ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BRINGING IN THE VOICES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

In October 2019, FGG members ActionAid, FoEI, SOMO and TNI closely collaborated with their partners and allies to make sure that women's rights are included in the UN Binding Treaty on business and human rights and that the voices of Southern CSOs were included in the 5th IGWG negotiations for a UN Binding Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights.

The Feminists for a Binding Treaty coalition, which includes FGG member ActionAid, actively lobbied to create space for women human rights defenders from the Global South to engage directly with policymakers. The ultimate aim of these engagements was to ensure that women's rights become an integral part of the Binding Treaty itself. In close collaboration with the Feminists for a Binding Treaty Coalition, FGG members and local partners, such as women human rights defenders from Zambia and Guatemala, contributed to the inclusion of specific gendered demands –e.g. the need to include gender-sensitive justice mechanisms- in the oral statements of government delegates.

Together with a multitude of CSOs from the Global South, including Bangladesh, East Timor, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Uganda, FGG members worked to include the voices of the Global South in the negotiation process. Southern CSOs jointly analysed and prepared a response to the zero draft text of the Binding Treaty. Delegates from the various LLMICs took part in the UN binding treaty mobilisation week, giving voice to the experiences of communities affected by corporate misconduct and lobbying their governments to support the Binding Treaty. During the IGWG itself, TNI and FoEI supported CSO delegations from six LLMICs (Indonesia, Philippines, Mozambique, Uganda, Togo, El Salvador) to travel to Geneva to lobby their respective governments. Side meetings were organised and oral statements were presented at the UN plenary by CSO representatives from Uganda, Mozambique, Philippines and Brazil amongst others. As a result, several proposals and demands for revisions of the Binding Treaty text were reflected in the arguments of members in the IGWG negotiations and were covered by the media.

BOX 1: FFGG SAFEGUARDING CIVIC SPACE FOR CSOS AT THE UN BINDING TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

In the run up to the negotiations, FGG members received rumours through their international networks that several states were seeking to limit civil society participation in the negotiation process. FGG members ActionAid, Both ENDS, Milieudefensie and SOMO then collaborated in the context of the NL4Treaty coalition to draft an advocacy letter requesting the Dutch government to protect civic space in the treaty process, which it did. In the closing session of the Treaty negotiations, Brazil, China and others indeed tried to limit civil society participation in the forthcoming sessions. The Dutch representative in the European delegation responded immediately and started countering this move, with the result that civil society participation in the next session is guaranteed.

2.3 THE NETHERLANDS AS A FRONTRUNNER ON MANDATORY HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE

FGG members and their partners also worked on the promotion of other mandatory due diligence legislation. Such binding legislation for businesses is intended to avoid human rights abuses, particularly at the production-end of the businesses' value chains, i.e. in many different LLMICs. Various FGG partners have expressed their need for governments, including in the Netherlands and at EU level, to improve mandatory due diligence legislation, and their desire to advocate for such legislation through the FGG Alliance.

In 2019, several European governments either introduced or took steps to introduce mandatory human rights due diligence. At the European level, CCC coordinated with the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), whose steering group includes FoEI, the development and endorsement of a joint statement calling for the European Commission to develop corporate accountability legislation requiring companies to respect human rights and the environment in their global value chains operations. Notably, CCC worked with CSOs and trade unions in the Global South to ensure they supported the statement, including organisations working on the garment sector. FGG members ActionAid and Both ENDS also endorsed this statement, which has now over 100 signatories.

To avoid the harmful human rights and environmental consequences of mining, several FGG partners have urged their Netherlands-based counterparts to advocate for better regulation. After collaboration with FGG members (which in turn collaborated closely with their partners), the Dutch government took significant steps to implement the law of the EU conflict minerals regulation and the OECD guidelines. In the first case, the Dutch government took a significant step to implement the EU conflict minerals regulation by introducing the possibility to sanction companies that fail to respect the regulation, and thus fail to do their human rights due diligence. Steps towards mandatory due diligence were not limited to the mining sector: after collaborating with ActionAid the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs also introduced stricter guidelines for corporations receiving financial support and going on trade missions and introduced stricter corporate accountability guidelines for Embassies.

FGG member ActionAid has developed several proposals to include 'a gender lens' in all due diligence legislation. These were picked up by policymakers and the media. ActionAid worked on a policy for the mining sector that included a gender responsive due diligence action statement. The OECD endorsed that statement during the Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains. ActionAid also brought the statement to the attention of government officials during The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) in Geneva. As a result of ActionAid's participation in the creation of two sector agreements for mineral supply chains (metal and natural stones) in 2017–2018, strong language on women's rights and land rights was included in the final agreements that were adopted in 2019.

Also in 2019, the global network OECD Watch (for which SOMO hosts the secretariat) helped influence the draft agenda of the OECD's agriculture sector due diligence project to ensure that it includes a research focus on gender and impacts on women in the agriculture sector. When the agenda is passed, it will help ensure that the OECD secretariat -and nearly 40 of the world's leading agriculture companies and industry initiatives- prioritise research into gender risks in agriculture supply chains.

BOX 2: CHILD LABOUR DUE DILIGENCE LEGISLATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

In May 2019, the Dutch Senate adopted the Child Labour Due Diligence Law, requiring all companies selling products on the Dutch market to show that they are addressing the issue of child labour in their global supply chains. Several aspects of interpretation and especially implementation of the law are still to be determined, but the law could provide for substantial enforcement measures including fines, up to imprisonment of company CEOs if a company's products or services were produced with child labour. This law is an important step towards the adoption of mandatory due diligence legislation in the Netherlands and Europe.

As members of the MVO platform, FGG members SOMO and Schone Kleren Campagne actively contributed to the realisation of the Dutch Child Labour Due Diligence law by providing input to Members of the Senate of the Dutch Parliament, including the years leading up to this law in moving the debate from voluntary measures to binding regulation. Through the MVO Platform, SOMO and Schone Kleren Campagne contributed to strong campaigns and intense lobby-work advocating for the adoption of this law. SOMO's research reports that shed light on the problem of child labour were mentioned in the original legislative proposal to showcase that child labour is still a widespread problem in the world and affects Dutch consumer goods. The law's initiator indicated to have been inspired by SOMO's 2014 Flawed Fabrics report.

2.4 ACCESSIBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR THE OECD GUIDELINES

Victims of corporate abuses –including those in LLMICs, which are FGG's primary focus- should be able to turn to National Contact Points (NCPs) for the OECD Guidelines for remedy. FGG member SOMO, through OECD Watch, has put a lot of effort into advocating for increased accessibility of these NCPs. In 2019, two NCPs have enhanced their rules of procedure and ten NCPs have changed their websites, thereby improving outreach to CSOs. As a result of OECD Watch's first-ever complaint against an NCP to the OECD Investment Committee, based on a case that was brought forward by communities in Papua New Guinea, the Australian Treasury

Department selected its first Independent Examiner in July 2019. This means that there is now a new organisational structure for the NCP to improve the independence, accountability, and legitimacy of the grievance mechanism. This is a concrete improvement that makes the Australian NCP more independent from government and business interest; thereby more legitimate and accountable to complaints; and more accessible for FGG's partners, for them to hold Australian corporations accountable. They consider this extremely important, as the Australian NCP frequently deals with cases of Australian companies operating —and violating human rights—in LLMICs, primarily in the mining sector.

2.5 PROGRESS IN TERMS OF ACCESSING REMEDY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS

For many CSOs and communities, **grievance mechanisms** remain an important means to claim their rights. For this reason FGG members continually work with partners to raise awareness about, and improve (access to) grievance mechanisms. They also use their in-depth knowledge and experience to advise governments and other institutions on strengthening grievance mechanisms, as CCC for instance did on request of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which asked CCC for input on nonstate based grievance mechanisms.

After being trained on free and prior informed consent (FPIC), on women's and community's rights, and on the grievance mechanism at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) by FGG member Both ENDS, CSO representatives from Latin America and Asia engaged with the RSPO to raise community grievances or have initiated bilateral discussions with corporate and government actors to address allegations of corporate misconduct. At the same time, the Dispute Settlement Facility of the RSPO was improved with a roadmap (including clear indicators) and a committed new advisory group (in which Both ENDS participates).

A partner of ActionAid Zimbabwe trained 'environmental monitors: people who can file complaints against mining companies. As a result the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) has conducted independent investigations and shared the outcomes of its investigations with the communities, to support them in their efforts to seek proper redress. In Kenya, ActionAid supported communities to successfully lobby to keep the grievance and compensation committee as part of the Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Act at the county level instead of the regional level, as it is easier for communities to access compensation at the county level. ActionAid Uganda and its partners reached a breakthrough in a longstanding land grabbing case. They have been supporting the more than 400 families whose lands were grabbed in 2001 by Neumann Kaffee Groupe, a German company, under its subsidiary Kaweri Coffee Ltd. The community has continued to speak up and seek justice for the loss of their land through different avenues such as court, media, advocacy and petitions. As a result, on 13 December 2019 the Attorney General agreed -through a mediation process- to compensate them fully for the land and properties

lost in 2001 during the eviction. ActionAid Uganda will continue to follow this matter to ensure that everyone receives their compensation as promised by the government.

In Nicaragua, sugar cane workers who suffer from kidney diseases as a result of working in polluted water, managed to reach an agreement with the sugar cane company that employs them. Mediation rounds were organised between the workers and the sugar company and in October 2019, a final agreement was signed in which the sugar cane company agreed to provide additional healthcare to the workers, to monitor the water quality and to provide benefits to the women who are left widowed when their husbands die of kidney failures as a result of working in the polluted water. FGG member SOMO supported the workers.

2.6 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TEXTILES/GARMENT SECTOR

Human and labour rights abuses in the garment value chains mainly take place at production sites, often geographically located in LLMICs. The current COVID-19 crisis has made the risks for garment workers even clearer, especially in cases where garment factories and companies do not live up to international human rights standards. Therefore, CSOs from these LLMICs continue to advocate for social and economic justice in garment supply chains and highlighted the need for a social safety net prescribed by binding and enforceable mechanisms. FGG members CCC and SOMO support them in their efforts. At the moment, we see a rising public awareness of the environmental impacts of the garment industry. This is a positive development but could also create a growing risk of industry-dominated voluntary initiatives replacing sector regulation. To ensure that governments and businesses pay attention to both the environmental and the human rights abuses in garments supply chains, the FGG Alliance continues to advocate for social and environmental justice, which should go hand-inhand with binding regulation, being more effective than voluntary initiatives.

SOMO and CCC critically engaged with the multi-stakeholder initiative Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile (AGT), which has taken steps to persuade its members to develop and implement rigorous country-specific human rights due diligence procedures. Their work in this regard was focused on:

• Wages: the CCC network, which includes partners from Asia, Europe and North America, prepared a large campaign for a Living Wage enforceable brand agreement (EBA). Research done by CCC⁵ revealed that none of the top 20 clothing companies can show that workers making their clothing in Asia, Africa, Central America or Eastern Europe are paid enough to escape the poverty trap. Together with Bangladeshi partners, CCC supported the minimum wage struggles in the country. After an unprecedented crack down, our continuous pressure on brands has resulted in the dropping of a number of criminal cases against workers who protested poverty wages.

- Pakistani unions and NGOs organised a consultation to discuss and reach consensus on a Pakistan Accord to set up a preventive safety system, covering garment and textile factories and a range of safety issues. This was supported by CCC. The result was a jointly signed declaration calling to sign and implement an Accord in Pakistan and a first draft.
- CCC's work on **Urgent Appeals** continued to focus on gendered impacts of human rights violations, the dire situation of migrant workers, cases of factory closures, freedom of association, and wages. CCC's #PayUpUniqlo campaign saw a complaint to the Fair Labor Association (FLA) accepted, which will result in an investigation into Uniqlo and S.Oliver for violating FLA's code of conduct by not compensating Indonesian workers after the closure of the Jaba Garmindo factory. In addition, after CCC advocacy, the case of PT Kahoindah Citragarment in Bekasi, Indonesia, has been resolved with the agreement on the payment of full severance to the workers.
- Supply chain transparency remained central to FGG's work in 2019. CCC and SOMO pressured the Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textiles (AGT) to adapt its transparency policy. CCC's campaigning work as a prominent member of the Transparency Pledge Coalition resulted in eight Dutch brands (members of AGT) to sign the pledge. Coalition work at OECD forums has contributed greatly to a wider acceptance of transparency in the form of individual factory list disclosure as an indispensable part of due diligence.

2.7 LAND RIGHTS

FGG members and their partners continued to develop transformative practices on inclusive land governance and sustainable land use, implementing and advocating for it at different policy levels to ensure these practices become the norm. In Indonesia and Zambia, Both ENDS' partners worked with communities to develop and lobby for formal support of land use plans and traditional land holding certificates based upon aspirations of the communities themselves, especially for women. More concretely, in Indonesia the advocacy efforts of local partners led to the district authorities officially recognising the participatory maps and ethno-social data on ancestral land rights of the Iban Sebaruk community in Sanggau District, West Kalimantan. This political commitment also entailed the community's right to free prior and informed consent. Furthermore, a heads of agreement was reached in another community for a settlement of a 10-year land conflict after an alleged land grab by a major Indonesian corporation and the parent palm oil company, and a dialogue with an agribusiness giant on monitoring and transparency of their supply chain.

Furthermore, a decision was adopted by UNCCD member states on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) in national policies related to land degradation and desertification (including gathering data disaggregated to gender and age), after extensive joint advocacy of CSOs organised by the CSO panel (in which Both ENDS was the representative for Western European and Others Group regions).

At Dutch policy level, the Ministry launched the LAND-at-Scale fund of 32 million euro over 6 years, to financially support local interventions that strengthen land governance in line with the VGGTs. Based on inputs of local partners, Both ENDS and ActionAid were able to provide input to the set-up of the fund. Furthermore, women's land rights proposals were discussed with policymakers of the Ministry's departments (including trade), resulting in input and a presentation on women's land rights for participants of the trade mission, prepared together with Nigerian partners.

3. TOC 2: IMPROVED TRADE AND INVESTMENT

All over the world people have been developing and replicating practices that have the potential to transform our food and energy systems. Improving the conditions under which international trade is organised, and the regulation of foreign investments, is hugely important, for these alternative food and energy systems to be upscaled and flourish, and for governments to be able to act in solidarity with each other and with care for their people.

Also in 2019, FGG members have therefore continued to support their pioneering partners and the advocacy that these partners engaged in for trade and investment regimes that serve the public good. The FGG Alliance continued its dialogue with the Ministry to jointly explore how to replace the often-harmful investment protection clauses in trade agreements with safeguards for human rights and the environment.

3.1 RESULTS COMPARED TO TARGETS

When comparing the results achieved under ToC 2 in 2019 to the targets set, we see that we are ahead or on track on all indicators, with the exception of our indicator on practices changed (2.F). The results achieved under the outcome areas on mechanisms put in place or improved that guarantee civil society access to decision-making (2.A.a), capacities strengthened (2.B), and agendas set (2.D) are on track. The number of alternatives developed (2.D) and policies changed (2.E) are well ahead of the targets set, e.g. due to unexpected successes in the EU-Mercosur FTA (which now include a reference to the Paris Agreement), and in the Dutch model BIT (for which the Dutch Parliament adopted four resolutions advocacy and contributions of FGG members Both ENDS, Milieudefensie, SOMO and TNI).

3.2 CSOS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH SUCCESSFULLY LOBBY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THEIR INVESTMENTS

FGG partner organisations have conducted several successful lobby campaigns towards their own governments with the aim of redirecting investments from harmful to inclusive and sustainable projects. ActionAid Mozambique lobbied their government to increase the share of the public budget for the agriculture sector to 10% to assure food security, in line with the Maputo and Malabo Declarations. The re-elected President committed to the budget increase in his inauguration speech and ActionAid Mozambique will continue to monitor this process to ensure the increased budget benefits small-scale women farmers.

The Palestinian member of FoEI worked on strengthening women CSOs' active role in decision-making processes regarding clean energy. Thirteen women's CSOs strengthened their advocacy capacity and learned how to actively engage in decision-making and strategic discussions. They then worked with the Palestinian government to develop a guideline on mainstreaming gender in energy policies and programmes. This resulted in the Ministry of Energy launching a new project called 'GROW', meant to support initiatives by women in the area of renewable energy.

ActionAid Kenya and its partners actively lobbied their government and major corporations, aimed at mitigating the negative (human rights) impacts of large-scale investments in land and natural resources. Using the Africa Mining Vision as a framework, they pressured the government to develop fair policies on extractives, both at a regional and a national level, emphasizing the need to address in these policies, the concerns of the affected communities, with a strong focus on women. While this has not yet led to national level policy change, it did contribute to the County Assembly of Kitui's move to formally adopt a position opposing coal mining in the area of Kitui.

3.3 INVESTMENT PROTECTION

Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanisms grant foreign investors protection and rights to claim for compensation at a private tribunal if new government policies impact on their profits. Since an ISDS claim can cost a state millions of dollars, which could otherwise be used to fund public services such as health care and education, an ISDS lawsuit can have detrimental consequences for LLMICs in particular. FGG partners from LLMICs have advocated against ISDS in order to defend policy space in the public interest and defend public budgets.

African CSOs and a global trade union federation co-organised with FoEI, TNI and other CSOs several workshops on ISDS as these organisations were concerned about their countries' engagement in international trade and investment policy development and the consequences of that for their countries. As a result of the workshops, participants sent letters to Trade and Foreign Ministries' delegates to the UNCITRAL meeting in which they

expressed their concerns about the proposal presented by the European Union (EU) to establish a Multilateral Investment Court (MIC) and to encourage them to support further reforms of ISDS. In Latin America, a regional CSO platform 'Latin America better off without FTAs' has been actively advocating to national governments on the impacts of FTAs and ISDS. This network was supported by TNI. In Asia, strong advocacy efforts by CSO partners of FGG, including in several LLMICs, resulted in ISDS being dropped from the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2019. In particular in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Malaysia, FGG partners actively campaigned against the inclusion of ISDS in RCEP. For this advocacy, also at the 26th RCEP negotiation round, FGG partners and members published several dedicated reports, organised meetings with various country delegations, co-organised a civil society conference on RCEP and a protest at the conference, and supported media work.

The Europe-wide campaign 'rights for people, rules for corporations', hosted by FGG member TNI, collected 850,000 signatures of people that reject ISDS and plead for binding regulations for corporations concerning the human rights impact of their operations. In the Netherlands five FGG members plus the HandelAnders platform, in which FNV and farmers' organisations are also active, supported the European campaign.

At the multilateral level, SOMO participated as an observer in two deliberations of Working Group III in the UNCITRAL process on ISDS reform. Input from partners enabled SOMO to advocate towards participating governments, particularly from LLMICs, to expand the narrow agenda of reform to include issues such as regulatory chill, investor obligations and counterclaims, the role of domestic courts, participation of third parties, and better alignment with the overarching frameworks of the SDGs and the Paris climate agreement. These issues were successfully included as cross-cutting issues to be taken into account by the working group during upcoming sessions. SOMO, together with FoEE and two other CSOs, organised a side event about the virtues and pitfalls of the EU proposal for a MIC, with participation of the European Commission, academic experts and NGO representatives.

BOX 3: ENERGY CHARTER TREATY

As part of the ambition to achieve the Paris agreement FGG partners and members work towards a Just Energy Transition. The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is one of the investment protection agreements undermining this transition given the fact that most ISDS cases worldwide are currently based on the ECT. An exemplary case is the threat of a claim against the Netherlands by German company UNIPER in response to the Dutch government's decision to ban coal power plants, under the ECT. Meanwhile the ECT secretariat is actively lobbying for expansion of the treaty into Asia and Africa, including many LLMICs. Expansion of the ECT will further risk a just transition.

FGG partners worked to strengthen their knowledge on the ECT, e.g. through a three-day workshop in Casablanca (organised by TNI with FoEE and others), on the impacts of ISDS in the ECT, in which more than 20 African trade unions and CSOs took part, including from Togo, Uganda, Ghana, Benin, Kenya, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal and Tanzania. Mutual capacity development under the FGG programme enabled partners, including from Uganda, Pakistan and Morocco, to advocate to their own governments against joining the Treaty. For the advocacy of the Ugandan partner, their expertise, combined with expertise of Both ENDS, FoEI and TNI, translated into a joint strategy. They helped to draft a letter rejecting the ECT and demanding to delay any expansion of the Treaty (i.e. adding new members) until completion of a modernisation process. ECT members have since agreed to indeed put all expansion on hold until the modernisation process has been completed. This meant that the accession of Uganda to the ECT was halted.

3.4 PROGRESS ON SEVERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT TREATIES

FGG advocacy on trade and investment treaties proved effective too. **EU-Mercosur** now includes an article requiring to effectively implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement established thereunder. This was one of the demands included in an advocacy letter⁷ prepared by local partners from Brazil in collaboration with (amongst others) FoEE, TNI, SOMO and Both ENDS, and signed by a multitude of CSOs from the Global South. Another improvement is an article with a weaker text on the protection on Intellectual Property Rights on seeds that allows a bit more flexibility for governments to respect farmer's rights than originally foreseen. FGG members advocated for these improvements in a global network together with CSOs from various LLMICs, including Paraguay and Brazil. Local partners were able to lobby themselves at negotiation tables, as was the case in the process regarding the EU-Indonesia FTA.

Promising developments also took place at the national level, especially in Eastern Africa. CSOs took action for more fair and inclusive bilateral investment treaties (BITs). A CSO network in Tanzania and CSOs and trade unions in Burundi analysed current BITs with Both ENDS, developed improvements on human rights, gender and environmental issues and raised media awareness. Local CSOs engaged with government officials in Tanzania who decided to start a revision of currently existing investment contracts and share information after the lobby and advocacy of the CSO network.

FGG members are very pleased to note that their cooperation with the Dutch government has contributed to several significant improvements to the **Dutch model BIT**. The Dutch government added important articles to the model BIT, such as articles on the protection of human rights in case of business activities and commitment to the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises. This is important for FGG's partners in the Global South because it means that any new BIT with an LLMIC will include these improvements. FGG members SOMO, Both ENDS and Milieudefensie contributed to this by participating in the Breed Handelsberaad, and several parliamentary hearings, and by formulating recommendations together with TNI and Southern partners. These efforts took place over the past few years and contributed to the parliament adopting four resolutions in 2019 concerning mandatory transparency in mediation proceedings, support for small and medium-sized enterprises in arbitration proceedings, the expectation that non-compliance with OECD Guidelines and UNGPs is to be taken into account by arbitral tribunals, and explicit promotion of women's rights in BIT negotiations.

Another important development was the result of a FoEI coordinated campaign for the inclusion of plastic waste under the scope of the Basel Convention, which would stop the free trade of plastic waste. Six FoE member groups lobbied their national governments on plastic trade issues and the Basel convention, and linked plastic trade issues to national plastic campaigns. This has contributed to the final agreement by 180 countries to the amendments of the convention. It also led to the government of Malaysia speaking out against the free trade of plastic, increasing enforcement of laws on plastic waste imports and actively sending waste back to the origin countries.

3.5 GENDER AND TRADE

FGG members share the Minister's concerns about and the need to look more closely at the impact of (international) trade agreements on women in LLMICs. Based on meetings with policymakers and experiences shared by partners in LLMICs, Both ENDS and ActionAid, together with WO=MEN and WIDE+, launched a publication⁸ on women and international trade. In this publication they elaborate on how global trade impacts women in LLMICs and ways to design trade agreements in such a way that these do not impact women negatively (and rather even strengthen women). This publication was accompanied by advice for governments and private sector.

FGG members also engaged with the Dutch government and the EU Commission on the question how to include gender aspects more in trade agreements and include a gender analysis when assessing impacts of BITs. At the same time they strengthen the advocacy skills of HRDs to advocate more successfully for improved gendersensitive trade policies that do not undermine human rights and women's rights.

3.6 BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

FGG partners in the South, Myanmar amongst others, have been actively raising awareness about the potential impacts of mega-infrastructural projects under the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), in particular the channelisation of the Irrawaddy River and the interconnection of the Chinese and Myanmar electricity grids. The channelisation will likely have disastrous environmental, economic and social impacts for the 20 million people who rely on the river, while the electricity interconnection could exacerbate conflict in Myanmar and result in dependency on Chinese companies for electricity. Based on research inputs by Myanmar CSOs, TNI published a briefing, which was discussed with 65 CSOs, political parties, international diplomats and journalists and reported on by several media outlets in Myanmar.

The COP 25 provided a platform for several of FoEI's Asian partners to voice their demands in relation to the destructive environmental impact of Chinese investments in their national and regional contexts, for example, coal investments. Asian FoEI members therefore made use of the opportunity to demand an immediate stop to Chinese-funded coal expansion under the BRI.

BOX 4: AGROECOLOGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO

CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURE

While trade and investment agreements could contribute to people's right to food and food security, in reality they often put forward conventional agriculture as a solution to the agrarian crisis, while leaving governments unable to implement public policies that benefit small-scale food producers. Therefore CSO partners supported by Both ENDS, FoEI and TNI continued to work on agroecology as an alternative to conventional agriculture that has many negative environmental (deforestation, land degradation, climate change) and social (marginalisation of small-scale farmers) impacts. This work took place at several policy levels. FoE Togo, as part of the Food Sovereignty movement, had a major victory when the government announced a definitive ban on the chemical herbicide glyphosate at the end of this year. In El Salvador an ongoing process involving communities, small-scale food producers and civil society organisations resulted in a proposal for an agroecology law. This proposal was constructed by civil society organisations in El Salvador and was presented to the Agricultural commission of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador to be discussed. Furthermore, in their resistance to encroachment by industrial land-users onto communal lands, local partners in Indonesia developed community protocols and sustainable fishing regulations as well as community-owned forest fruit value-adding enterprises and agro-forestry initiatives.

At the international level, advocacy efforts put agroecology on the agenda of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). FoEI and TNI lobbied at different FAO levels to firmly link agroecology with food sovereignty and the role of small-scale food producers. FGG's advocacy efforts to place agroecology firmly on the agenda of the FAO have been successful, as evidenced by the fact that the FAO launched a Global Knowledge Product on Agroecology.

Both ENDS developed a publication with partners on public finance for agroecology, which was discussed at several Dutch and international events. This has contributed to increased knowledge amongst stakeholders such as CSO representatives, civil servants, scientists and farmers on how to create an enabling environment for agroecology. In the Netherlands FGG's partnership with the Ministry opened up the space for a conversation on agroecology. A lunch lecture was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture (LNV) and FGG, in which different stakeholders discussed the role of agroecology in Dutch policies and how to best support it.

4. TOC 3: TAX AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

If they are able to raise taxes through fair taxation systems, governments have access to a huge amount of public money to spend on the public good. FGG partners have been signalling that governments are not always able to use these public finances such that they actually contribute to social and environmental justice. This is often related to austerity measures that are part of loan conditions.

Through the FGG Alliance, partners have been able to advocate for de-privatisation of public services (such as water), as well as democratic participation and control by citizens of these services. Also in 2019 they worked together with the Ministry to gain access to international platforms that decide about public finance (such as the Green Climate Fund). And they were able to jointly discuss –with the Ministry- opportunities for redirecting public finance that is being channelled through International Financial Institutions (IFIs) or development banks, or spent on Export Credit Agencies (ECAs), towards projects that not only respect human and environmental rights, but truly serve the public good. This has only become more important in the current context of the COVID-19 outbreak and related public health crisis.

4.1 RESULTS COMPARED TO TARGETS

For the results under ToC 3 we see no large deviations from the targets set for 2019, with the exception of our outcome area on agenda setting (3.D), where the target is overachieved 3 times over. This is due to for instance the opportunity that ActionAid took to actively promote tax justice. Several of ActionAid's arguments were subsequently taken up by e.g. Dutch media, the Dutch Parliament, and the European Parliament.

4.2 RECLAIMING WATER

CSOs from Bangladesh, Kenya and the Philippines worked on the promotion of **inclusive water governance** with support from Both ENDS. Key to this inspiring approach is that the needs, aspirations and concerns of local water users are put front and centre to develop their own proposal for the inclusive, gender-transformative, and climate-proof management of water. In southwest coastal Bangladesh, two youth water committees have been established, which have laid the groundwork for documenting the gendered impacts of waterlogging in the region, to ensure that Tidal River Management becomes gender-transformative and inclusive. A similar exercise was done in the Philippines: partners started the development of a People's Plan for Manila Bay, aiming to provide insights from communities on the threats they perceive in their direct environment, and through what type of

developments and interventions they would want to address them. To create more room and support for inclusive water governance approaches, CSOs in Manila and Jakarta engaged with local, national and Dutch policymakers, water consultants and academia to halt land reclamations in their respective Bay areas and promote community-based alternatives. FGG member Both ENDS supported these efforts. In the Netherlands this has led to the Ministry recognizing the importance of promoting inclusivity within the Dutch water sector and Dutch support to water programmes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RVO and Both ENDS are currently developing a programme for inclusive and sustainable water initiatives.

CSOs in Nigeria and Indonesia actively advocated against the privatisation of water in Lagos and Jakarta, with the support of TNI. TNI coordinated CSO and community inputs to a report on private sector participation in the water sector in relation to human rights, published by the UN Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation and Human Rights. The Special Rapporteur stated that the Nigerian Government has failed to carry out its obligation on water for the Nigerian people. A Nigerian TNI partner, also a member of the FoE federation, played a key role in bringing this issue to the Special Rapporteur's attention. A local partner from Jakarta has lobbied to stop the privatisation of Jakarta's water for many years. The Indonesian CSO's advocacy efforts contributed to a firm political commitment by Governor Anies Baswedan to terminate the private water contracts in Jakarta.

BOX 5: MUTUAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING ON TAX JUSTICE IN MONGOLIA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE

In several countries where FGG works, mining is seen as the roadmap to development. Governments accommodate mining companies, by offering tax advantages, at the expense of the rights of local communities and especially women. ActionAid and SOMO work with local partners and communities to strengthen their capacities on tax for lobby and advocacy towards their governments and to mining companies.

In Mongolia, a global trade union federation, SOMO and a local partner conducted a tax workshop for Mongolian CSOs. As a result of this workshop and of an joint research report on tax avoidance by Rio Tinto, the CSOs advocated against tax avoidance with the Mongolian Government and Parliament. Later that year, the Mongolian Parliament approved a resolution to review the agreements, including on tax, with Rio Tinto on the Oyu Tolgoi mine, the biggest mine in Mongolia.

In Zambia and Zimbabwe, ActionAid and local partners strengthened the capacities of communities, especially women and youth, to advocate for fair taxation and better service delivery. In Zambia, ActionAid and partners trained communities affected by mining in mineral revenue tracking. As a result, the communities discovered that mining revenues flow directly to the central government instead of local authorities, which are responsible for public services provision. They developed policy resolutions for the local government with solutions. In Zimbabwe, women from the Mutoko community demanded participation in the local council budget consultations after they attended a workshop organised by a partner of ActionAid Zimbabwe. Lastly, ActionAid Zimbabwe, together with two partners, organised a Youth-Led Tax Justice Symposium in Mutoko where they exchanged ideas with local government officials on how to better involve youth in tax justice issues.

4.3 ECAS BEING HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Partners in Indonesia, Mozambique and Brazil, worked with Both ENDS on strengthening communities' awareness of the involvement of Dutch Export Credit Agencies in international projects taking place in their regions. Combined with amplifying joint advocacy and strengthening negotiation capacities, and conducting (gendered) impact assessments, concerns and asks of communities are addressed with companies, local or Dutch policymakers and/or Atradius Dutch State Business (ADSB).

In Indonesia this resulted in a complaint filed to the complaint mechanism of ADSB by a FoE member, on behalf of local fisher-folks representatives. The complaint concerned the impacts, with particular attention for the impacts on women, linked to a dredging

project for which ADSB provided insurance in Makassar in 2017. This was done with support from Both ENDS. In Mozambique, a local CSO partner raised awareness amongst communities and a local CSO platform regarding the shortcomings of the Mozambique LNG project developments and the investors involved. This enabled them to address their concerns towards local governments, ADSB, companies, the Dutch embassy and policymakers, together with Both ENDS. Consequently, room was created for Mozambican CSOs to provide input on the set-up of the local multi-stakeholder platform. Furthermore, due to the advocacy of the Mozambican partner and the community members' awareness of their rights, resettlement activities were put on hold in one of the affected communities until the community's grievances were resolved through the company's grievance mechanism. In Brazil, Both ENDS supported two local CSOs and two local grassroots organisations of the fishing communities affected by the work of a Dutch dredging company, which are engaged in a mediation process with that dredging company. This led to the negotiation of a terms of reference for water and soil sampling efforts to assess water quality for fishing ground restoration in collaboration with local civil society.

4.4 GREEN CLIMATE FUND: IMPROVED INCLUSION OF CSOS AND GENDER

Local CSO partners and Both ENDS closely collaborated on the **Green Climate Fund.** With support from Both ENDS, partners participated as observers during board meetings and provided feedback on project proposals. They also discussed inspiring transformative practices such as Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration with board members to redirect GCF-funding to community-led sustainable initiatives. In Zambia and Burkina Faso, Both ENDS' partners organised round tables with the National Designated Authority, policymakers and CSOs and CSO input on projects was taken up. In Zambia, CSOs trained communities to monitor and influence GCF funded projects. At GCF policy level, Both ENDS is part of the GCF Gender Monitoring initiative and works on improving the Fund's gender policy. The CSO group, in which Both ENDS was alternate active observer for Northern CSOs, has advocated for improvement of the text during and in-between board meetings, to include strong language on human and women's rights. Both ENDS also supported four women's organisations from Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Argentina and Thailand to become gender and climate finance experts in their regions, by introducing them to the Green Climate Fund board meetings, building their capacity and knowledge on climate finance and supporting them building a network of women's organisations on climate finance in their regions.

4.5 Improved accountability of International Financial Institutions

In collaboration with many local partners FGG members continued to work towards increased accountability of international financial institutions, because this will increase local CSOs' chances of accessing remedy in cases where IFIs have made investments

that have harmed local populations in LLMICs in particular. It will also increase scrutiny when it comes to decisions about future investments that could negatively impact communities. FGG's advocacy efforts contributed to changes in IFIs' policies (such as the European Investment Bank's new energy lending policy, aiming to end funding to most new fossil fuel projects from the end of 2021¹⁰) as well as practice – the latter is described in Box 6.

BOX 6: PRACTICES CHANGED BY DEVELOPMENT BANKS

Advocacy by Both ENDS, Milieudefensie and SOMO for development banks to ensure that they change their practices has led to concrete results. FMO has taken two concrete steps to implement its 'system for the protection of human rights defenders' and 'human rights risk assessments'. It consults CSOs more often on possible threats to human rights defenders related to prospective investments. FMO now considers these risks in an earlier stage of their investment decision and can theoretically avoid more harmful projects.

In Panama, an indigenous movement took action when FMO and the Independent Complaints Mechanism (ICM) wanted to close the Barro Blanco complaint with the publication of the last monitoring report of the ICM. The complainants, led by the indigenous movement and supported by Both ENDS and SOMO, contested this decision. With ample comments to the draft monitoring report they achieved a re-opening of the monitoring role of the ICM and an agreement to visit the communities around the project. This did not happen since the initial investigation in 2014.

Following a complaint jointly filed by a Colombian community-based organization, with support from a regional FGG partner and international allies, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved an international investigation of the Bank's private lending arm, IDB Invest, for its investment in the Ituango hydroelectric project in Colombia. The Board had previously refused to approve the investigation of its public sector financing of the project. FGG member SOMO provided financial support and advice to the FGG partner.

Lastly, another important step towards increased access to remedy was made when the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) of the International Finance Corporation facilitated a dialogue process between an FGG partner and Corporación Montelimar, resulting in a final agreement that provides various forms of remedy to a community affected by chronic kidney disease. SOMO participated in the dialogue and provided significant financial and technical support to the FGG partner.

5. REFLECTION ON COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. COLLABORATION WITH PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

To reflect on mutual capacity development (MCD) and learn from joint work and collaboration with their many partner organisations worldwide, FGG members organise annual 'partner talks'. These talks provide FGG with a space to constructively speak about room for improvement, whilst acknowledging the proven effectiveness of the mutual capacity development approach. In 2019, mutual capacity development in the FGG programme has contributed to the access of CSOs to policymakers, media and companies; to strengthened **constituencies** in the form of better connections and mutual understanding between FGG Alliance members and FGG partners and local communities and women's and youth groups, resulting in coordinated strategies and, for example, a movement for the de-privatisation of water in Lagos; to knowledge, for example, of tax laws and policies and laws; to advocacy skills, such as the adoption of the language of policymakers; to more leverage because the relationships partners have with FGG members help partners to be taken seriously by local policymakers; and to an enabling environment, for example, when the Dutch MFA safeguarded civic space for CSOs in the negotiations for the UN Binding Treaty. The 'partner talks' showed that the MCD is positively experienced by both local partners and FGG members, with both emphasising their appreciation for the complementarity that their collaborations offer.

Mutual capacity development is organised between members and partners, as well as among partners, because sharing experiences and expertise, and engaging in joint lobby, advocacy and campaigning, can lead to invaluable results. Examples of such South-South collaborations are:

- ActionAid Zambia and its partners visited Bangladesh to learn about the impressive mobilisation of communities, especially women, that ActionAid has supported in Matarbari. ActionAid Zambia used this experience in their own mobilisation of women around the Women's Mining Charter in Zambia. And as part of the activities of the African Extractives Working Group, a partner of ActionAid Zimbabwe and community members visited three communities that were affected by mining in the Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces in South Africa. In these areas, women are at the forefront of leading their communities to stand up for their rights. The ActionAid Zimbabwe partner participated in conducting social audits in the communities, and will start to use this technique in its own work as well.
- A FoEI partner from Togo coordinated and facilitated a
 regional workshop for 16 CSOs from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia,
 Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo and Uganda. The participants
 included representatives of feminist and peasant movements.
 The workshop's aim was to strengthen capacities to advocate and
 lobby for community-based forest management and agroecology,
 to build understanding on gender justice issues in relation to
 agroecology, and on policy processes at the Committee on World
 Food Security. As a result of the workshop, the CSOs developed a
 joint strategy to mainstream gender justice in food sovereignty

- and system change forestry programmes into regional activities.
- 25 Asian CSOs participated in the CCC network meeting in September 2019 to discuss and develop strategies on living wage and safety programmes, and developed a plan to pressure their governments and employers to improve working conditions.
- 30 representatives of 22 CSOs from India, Nepal, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Indonesia participated in a regional workshop co-organised and funded by Both ENDS during which they exchanged ideas about each other's lobby and advocacy strategies on communal land rights, inclusive land governance and community-based paralegal initiatives. The knowledge they gained has been integrated in the work of each CSO.
- Lastly, several strategy meetings were organised by regional networks in Asia (with support of TNI) to discuss the impact of projects under the BRI. These networks jointly conceived and wrote a framework paper to guide a joint approach to the BRI.¹¹

5.2. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FGG members highly value their close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The alliance is appreciative of the Ministry's openness to enter into dialogue at various policy levels. The CSO consultations held by the Dutch Embassies are invaluable to our local partners, particularly when it comes to civic space and human rights in general. An example of this is the collaboration between the Royal Dutch Embassy in Mozambique and Both ENDS— in the form of regular updates on recent developments in the North of the country - that contributed to increased inclusion of Mozambican CSOs in a multi-stakeholder platform on the gas developments in Northern Mozambique. Another example is the meeting between ActionAid Cambodia and the Dutch Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, where ActionAid Cambodia shared about the challenges they face in terms of shrinking political space. The support of the Dutch Embassy in Myanmar has also been of value to our partners, for example when a human rights defender from a trade union was being accused of defamation for organising a workers' strike when union members were dismissed at a Japanese-owned factory. There was a serious threat of her bail being withdrawn, resulting in immediate imprisonment. Upon request from CCC, the Dutch Embassy committed to observing the trial and the factory refrained from submitting a request for bail cancellation.

The regular meetings between FGG members and the different departments of the Ministry on topics ranging from IFIs to Dutch Foreign trade policy, such as the 'Breed Handelsberaad', are crucial to the Alliance's understanding of and participation in the development of Dutch policies and therefore to our work towards policy coherence. The Alliance is also thankful that the Ministry is often open to receiving members' input, for example on the set-up of the LAND-at-Scale fund to financially support local interventions that strengthen land governance in line with the VGGTs, where Both ENDS and ActionAid were able to actively provide input. Another example can be found in the discussions on women's land rights proposals that took place with policymakers of several Ministry departments (including trade).

Furthermore, the Alliance's cooperation is not limited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2019, Ugandan CSOs - as part of the Tax Justice Alliance - held a meeting with officials from the Dutch Ministry of Finance who are part of the tax treaty negotiating team from the Netherlands. This meeting provided the CSOs the chance to share their concerns on clauses within the Uganda-Netherlands Double Taxation Agreement.

The FGG Alliance greatly appreciates the efforts the Dutch Government makes regarding the protection of human rights and particularly women's rights in UN forums. The same goes for the frontrunner role in due diligence legislation and the Dutch model BIT. We see enormous potential for FGG's work to support the Ministry's ambitions regarding the implementation of the SDGs, e.g. through our joint work towards climate justice, human rights and gender equality. Therefore, the FGG Alliance will continue to seek alignment, complementarity, and dialogue with the Ministry to understand and strengthen each other's efforts and to seek common ground. We share the Ministry's believe in the importance of producing and trading goods and services in a sustainable way that respects human rights, in a society where people are not discriminated against on any grounds - be it gender, religion, ethnicity, caste, age, or wealth. We hope to continue our collaboration with the Ministry so that we can jointly work towards a fair and green society.

5.3. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE FGG ALLIANCE

After nine years of collaboration under the FGG umbrella, FGG members can blindly find each other. Their joint vision and complementary roles and expertise have proved effective, also in 2019, for example in their joint effort to put the Energy Charter Treaty on the European political agenda (see box 3).

Several internal processes have been set up to foster learning and exchange, in 2019 specifically on:

- Gender justice and women's rights, through a gender working group, which sparked an FGG dialogue on feminism and the extent to which FGG's work is aimed at being gender transformative;
- ➡ Digital security, which is an ever bigger risk for many partner organisations, and on which FGG members have a direct influence through their own modes of communication. With support of FGG's IT specialists, advice was formulated to improve members' own digital security;
- ➡ Strategic litigation, for which FGG members organised a workshop in which 13 CSOs from 11 countries (7 of which are LLMICs) participated, to explore the possibilities for legal action as a tool to enhance corporate accountability, with a focus on opportunities to pursue accountability for human rights impacts under tort law in European jurisdictions. Participants left the workshop with practical tools for how to identify, select and build a legal case;

Civic space and human rights defenders, to share intelligence on specific cases and to provide inputs into an FGG publication on defending, preserving and expanding civic space.¹²

In addition, FGG members and their partners have jointly discussed their post-2020 agenda, based on the needs, priorities and opportunities of partners around the world. Member-level strategy meetings fed into the alliance-level post-2020 discussion which was kick-started in November 2019.

6. CONCLUSION

The world is on fire -literally and figuratively - and in the midst of the many human rights and environmental disasters taking place, people actually dare to stand up for their rights. FGG Alliance members witnessed, and, through their strategic partnership with the Ministry, were able to support the immensely important work of partner organisations worldwide. These partners amplify the voices of people that call for the common good and pave the way for governments and companies through their inspiring practices. Sometimes, these efforts are met with repression. This puts pressure on civic space, yet a strong civil society is key to achieving socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies - be it to demand companies to take responsibility for their supply chains – all the way up to the (women) workers that produce their products; to call upon governments to organise their trade and investment regimes such that they serve the public rather than the private interest; to show the great potential of agroecological practices; or to advocate that governments spend public funding on public services. FGG partners and members have been active for decades to push for positive change, and in the past nine years, together with the Ministry, we have been able to make steady progress in the right direction, as shown in this report. The current COVID-19 crisis exposes many of the problems in global value chains on which the FGG Alliance and the Ministry have been working together for years. It shows the need for more local and regional economies; fairer industries governed by binding and enforceable mechanisms on wages, workers' health and safety, freedom of association, and social protection; democratic ownership of public services; and recovery through a much needed just transition. Yet continued joint efforts are needed to ensure that governments aim for a post-COVID-19 'new normal', in which human rights and sustainable transition are guaranteed.

The FGG Alliance greatly values its strategic partnership with the Ministry, which contributes to a joint understanding, in-depth exchange, and a true collaboration and commitment towards the social and environmental justice agendas of partner CSOs around the world. By learning from each other, mutually strengthening the capacities that we need, and mutually committing to positive action, we are able to stop the fire and trigger sustainable positive change.

NOTES

- 1 ActionAid, Both ENDS, Clean Clothes Campaign, Milieudefensie (with Friends of the Earth International and Friends of the Earth Europe), SOMO and TNI.
- 2 The Lancet 2020. COVID-19: the gendered impacts of the outbreak.
- 3 Examples include bans on gatherings/protests, repression of journalists and whistleblowers criticising handling of lockdowns, suspension of elections and democratic institutions as states of emergencies are declared; see also: Human Rights Watch 2020. How Authoritarians are Exploiting COVID-19 Crisis to Grab Power
- 4 https://actionaid.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/We-Mean-Business-Protecting-Womens-Rights-in-Global-Supply-Chains ActionAid March-2020.pdf
- 5 CCC report "Tailored Wages 2019: The state of pay in the global garment industry"
- 6 HTTP://WWW.FOEEUROPE.ORG/OBSCURE-ENERGY-TREATY-THWART-GREEN-DEAL-091219
- 7 HTTP://WWW.FOEEUROPE.ORG/NGOS-CALL-STOP-EU-MERCOSUR-180619
- 8 2019. VROUWEN IN INTERNATIONALE HANDEL EEN KOOPJE?
- 9 2019. SELLING THE SILK ROAD: CHINA'S BRI IN MYANMAR
- 10 HTTPS://WWW.F0EEUROPE.ORG/EIB-MOVES-STOP-FUNDING-MOST-FOSSIL-FUEL-PROJECTS-141119
- 11 ASIA EUROPE PEOPLE'S FORUM 2019: THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI): AN AEPF FRAMING PAPER.
- 12 HTTPS://FAIRGREENGLOBAL.ORG/PUBLICATIONS/EXPANDING-CIVIC-SPACE/

Annex 1

THEORY OF CHANGE 1: IMPROVED CORPORATE CONDUCT

TABLE 2. MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT INDICATORS RELATED TO FGG INDICATORS AND FGG RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019 TO IMPROVE CORPORATE CONDUCT

MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT CORE INDICATOR (RELATED TO FGG INDICATOR(S) FOR TOC1; IMPROVED CORPORATE CONDUCT)	FGG RESULTS IN 2018 FOR TOC1; IMPROVED CORPORATE CONDUCT
DD1: # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development. (1.F.a., 1.F.b.)	16 practice changes, where governments took active steps to identify, prevent and mitigate adverse social, gender and environmental impacts of corporate activities, while 22 companies took similar concrete steps themselves.
DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/ attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development (1.E.a., 1.E.b.)	28 mechanisms, policies and regulations improved or introduced by national, regional and international government bodies to encourage more sustainable company practices. These mechanisms have the aim to improve accountability in respect of human rights and environmental impacts, as well as provision of adequate remedy to victims of adverse impacts.
DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage (1.A.a., 1.A.b., 1.D)	There were 35 outcomes in terms of companies improving their policies. 12 mechanisms being put in place or improved by governments that guarantee access for civil society to democratic decision making processes related to corporate conduct. In addition, the push for adoption of grievance mechanisms is starting to bear fruits; with 11 such mechanisms put in place or improved. A total of 313 policy proposals being put on the agenda of various decision-makers - both in governments and in the private sector, as well as that of social movements, scholars, and journalists, and thereby entering the public domain.
DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency (1.C., 1.D.)	31 alternative, participatory initiatives and models related to corporate conduct being developed or gaining momentum. A total of 313 policy proposals being put on the agenda of various decision-makers - both in governments and in the private sector, as well as that of social movements, scholars, and journalists, and thereby entering the public domain.
DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities (1.B.)	Strengthening the capacities of 343 CSOs in LLMICs so that they were able to better lobby and advocate for responsible corporate conduct based on increased skills, knowledge or network contacts.
DD6: # of CSOs included in SPs programmes (Total # of FGG partners (based on # partners in our partner database at time of reporting) – N.B. not separated per ToC.)	On the 31 st of December 2019, the FGG Alliance had a total of 1335 partner organisations in its partner database. These are partner organisations with whom we have a strong working relationship (not always financial) around the globe. In 2019, FGG has worked with 1129 partners.

TABLE 3. MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT INDICATORS RELATED TO FGG INDICATORS AND FGG RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019 TO IMPROVE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT CORE INDICATOR (RELATED TO FGG INDICATOR(S) FOR TOC2; IMPROVED TRADE AND INVESTMENT)	FGG RESULTS IN 2019 FOR TOC2; IMPROVED TRADE AND INVESTMENT
DD1: # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development (2.F)	2 mechanisms, policies and regulations were implemented and enforced by national, regional and international government bodies to ensure policies related to trade and investment advance policy coherence for development in LLMICs.
DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/ attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development (2.E.)	15 mechanisms, policies and/or regulations were improved or introduced by national, regional and international government bodies related to improving policy coherence between development and trade and investment policies in LLMICs.
DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage (2.A.a., 2.A.b., 2.D.)	5 mechanisms were put in place or improved by governments that guarantee access for civil society to democratic decision-making processes related to trade and investment, in part as a result of engagements by the FGG Alliance. Contributed to a total of 77 proposals for improvement to policies related to trade and investment being discussed by national, regional and international government bodies and/or by private policymakers, in academia, public agenda, media and social movements.
DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency (2.C., 2.D.)	20 alternative approaches to the current trade and investment regime were developed, piloted and/or promoted with CSOs in LLMICs. These related to alternative climate and energy policies; natural resource management and land governance; and trade and investment negotiations. Contributed to a total of 77 proposals for improvement to policies related to trade and investment being discussed by national, regional and international government bodies and/or by private policymakers, in academia, public agenda, media and social movements.
DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities (2.B.)	Strengthened the capacities of 233 CSOs in LLMICs which as a result took initiatives that demonstrated they were able to better lobby and advocate for improved policies related to trade and investment.
DD6: # of CSOs included in SPs programmes (Total # of FGG partners (based on # partners in our partner database at of reporting) – N.B. not separated per ToC)	On the 31st of December 2019, the FGG Alliance had a total of 1335 partner organisations in its partner database. These are partner organisations with whom we have a strong working relationship (not always financial) around the globe. In 2019, FGG has worked with 1129 partners.

TABLE 4. MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT INDICATORS RELATED TO FGG INDICATORS AND FGG RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2019 TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AND TAX SYSTEM

MFA DIALOGUE & DISSENT CORE INDICATOR (RELATED TO FGG INDICATOR(S) FOR TOC3; IMPROVED FINANCIAL AND TAX SYSTEMS)

FGG RESULTS IN 2019 FOR TOC3; IMPROVED FINANCIAL AND TAX SYSTEMS

DD1: # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development (3.F.a., 3.F.b.)

3 mechanisms for improved financial, tax and spending policies were implemented and enforced by national, regional and international government bodies. Also, 10 concrete steps were taken by public financial institutions, to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts of their investments.

DD2: # of laws, policies and norms/ attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development (3.E.a, 3.E.b.) In 6 instances, actual measures were taken by national, regional and international government bodies to ensure financial, tax and spending policies advance socially just and sustainable development in LLMICs. Furthermore, 2 policies were improved or introduced by public financial institutions and private actors on accountability, transparency and safeguards, or investment policies adopted that advance socially just and sustainable development in LLMICs.

DD3: # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage (3.A.a., 3.A.b., 3.D.)

7 mechanisms were put in place or improved by governments and/or financial institutions and developments banks that guarantee access for civil society to (democratic) decision-making processes related to finance, tax and spending, in part as a result of engagements by the FGG Alliance. We also contributed directly to 5 grievance mechanisms being adopted or improved by financial institutions, such as in Zambia, where a mining corporation set up a platform to share and discuss information on its activities and tax payments.

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/ constituency (3.C., 3.D.) 97 proposals for improvement of financial, tax and spending policies were discussed with private and public policymakers, and/or in academic, public, media and social movement arenas.

DD5: # of CSOs with increased L&A capacities (3.B.)

15 alternative proposals to financial and tax and spending policies were developed, piloted, and promoted with CSOs in LLMICs.

97 proposals for improvement of financial, tax and spending policies were discussed with private

FGG Increased the capacities of 123 CSOs and communities in LLMICs that lobby and advocate for improved financial, tax and spending policies, based on increased skills, knowledge or network contacts.

and public policymakers, and/or in academic, public, media and social movement arenas.

DD6: # of CSOs included in SPs programmes (Total # of FGG partners (based on # partners in our partner database at time of reporting) – N.B. not separated per ToC.)

On the 31st of December 2019, the FGG Alliance had a total of 1335 partner organisations in its partner database. These are partner organisations with whom we have a strong working relationship (not always financial) around the globe. In 2019, FGG has worked with 1129 partners.