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MEDIA RELEASE

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Don't revive dead TPP, say 200 organisations in 15 countries

Two hundred organisations from 15 countries have urged trade ministers meeting in Chile next week not to use the failed TPP as a model for future agreements. The ministers from some of the 12 TPP countries plus China, Korea and Colombia are meeting on the 14-15th of March to discuss the future of international trade agreements post-TPP.

AFTINET Convener Dr Patricia Ranald said that 44 diverse Australian organisations endorsed the open letter to trade ministers, including the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, ActionAid, Combined Pensioners, Friends of the Earth and many other unions, church, environment and other community groups.

“Australian organisations representing around two million people have joined with civil society organisations around the world to advocate for a fairer trade future – one which puts people and the planet first,” Dr Ranald said today.

“The TPP failed because it put corporate rights ahead of people’s rights and generated so much community opposition that the Australian Parliament did not endorse the [implementing legislation](#).”

“Unfortunately some governments, including Australia, are trying to revive the dead TPP. We urge trade ministers not to make the same mistakes in future trade agreements, including the RCEP*.”

The open letter criticises the TPP for not delivering on promises of secure livelihoods, good jobs and prosperity.

“[The TPP] would have restricted governments’ ability to regulate to ensure affordable medicines, financial stability, workers’ rights, protection of the environment and climate change mitigation, and to protect indigenous rights and other fundamental human rights,” the organisations write.

“For these reasons, we believe it is not acceptable for TPP rules to be used as a model for future trade negotiations whether bilateral, regional or multilateral.”

“We urge you to accept that this model has failed, and to engage with us and others in a more open and democratic process to develop alternative approaches that genuinely serve the interests of our peoples, our nations and the planet.”

The full letter and list of endorsing organisations is [here](#) and attached as a PDF document.

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*The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCE) negotiations involve 16 countries (Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Japan, South Korea and the 10 ASEAN countries)

Open letter to Trade Ministers meeting in Chile, 14-15 March 2017

It is clear that the withdrawal of the United States means that the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement as previously negotiated is dead. As representatives of many millions of people in a wide range of unions, civil society groups and social movements we believe that the TPP text, negotiated in secret, served the interests of large corporations at the expense of governments' rights to regulate in the public interest and of our fundamental rights as citizens. It gave special additional rights to global corporations that were enforceable in discredited offshore tribunals, despite widespread public opposition.

The TPP did not deliver on promises of secure livelihoods, good jobs and prosperity. It would have restricted governments' ability to regulate to ensure affordable medicines, financial stability, workers' rights, protection of the environment and climate change mitigation, and to protect indigenous rights and other fundamental human rights. We are better off without the TPP.

For these reasons, we believe it is not acceptable for TPP rules to be used as a model for future trade negotiations whether bilateral, regional or multilateral, including the World Trade Organisation. We urge you to accept that this model has failed, and to engage with us and others in a more open and democratic process to develop alternative approaches that genuinely serve the interests of our peoples, our nations and the planet.

See full list of endorsing organisations [here](#) and attached as a PDF document.