

Dear Honourable Trade Ministers,

We are petitioning you in response to the recent announcement that Pacific Island governments will be a signing, with Australia and New Zealand, the PACER-Plus trade agreement.

PACER-Plus has long been promoted as a development and economic cooperation agreement however the leaked texts have shown an agreement that will see the majority of the benefits flow to Australia and New Zealand. Papua New Guinea, in its decision to leave the negotiations described PACER-Plus as a 'net loss'. Fiji is not expected to sign due to their belief, amongst other reasons, that the 'protections' within PACER-Plus are inadequate to protect their infant industries. While Vanuatu's Council of Ministers will seek to have the final decision of whether to sign or not sign PACER-Plus based on independent assessment. An independent assessment needs to be not just on the legal text but more importantly on the market access offers.

Civil Society Organisations from across the region and Australia and New Zealand have long held concerns about the impacts of PACER-Plus and those concerns were justified given the assessment in *Defending Pacific Ways of Life: A Social Impact Assessment of PACER-Plus*, as well as the decision of PNG government, Fiji and the process outlined by the Vanuatu Government.

The specific concerns with PACER-Plus we have are, but not limited to:

- **Threatening Livelihoods and local industries** - Increased imports from Australia and New Zealand, coupled with useless protections and safeguards for Pacific manufactures and producers will undermine the ability of Pacific governments to set a development future based on Pacific industries. Some have forecast the loss of 75% of Pacific manufacturing jobs under PACER-Plus;
- **Negative Health impacts** - Non-Communicable diseases are a major problem in the region and commitments under PACER-Plus will see those exacerbated due to an increase in cheap, unhealthy foods as well as threats to healthy, culturally appropriate food production. This is coupled with the potential brain drain of health professionals out of the Pacific as well as potential undermining of health services;
- **Gendered impacts** - The majority of Pacific women are engaged with the infant industries and the informal sector with PACER-Plus exacerbating that vulnerable position. As such Women will experience the negative impacts of PACER-Plus the most, from loss of formal employment, gender-based barriers to trade, and additional care burdens amongst others;
- **The Loss of the right of governments to regulate** - The ability to regulate allows governments to shape the economy in the interests of development, environmental/cultural protection and human rights. The current text and the attempts to protect this right are inadequate and at worst meaningless due to their requirement to not breach a country's commitment, rendering any right to regulate below the commitments in PACER-Plus;
- **The Failure of the OCTA** - The Office of the Chief Trade Advisor, the office established to support FIC negotiators, has repeatedly failed to adequately defend FIC positions, often publicly defending the weak offers from Australia and New Zealand. The OCTA's hastily commissioned Social Impact Assessment was a last minute attempt to quieten the voices of civil society but it lacked independence and proper methodology;
- **Lack of development outcomes** - PACER-Plus is underpinned by the belief that trade agreement will facilitate greater investment in the Pacific Island Countries, yet the evidence on this is mixed at best. The push to have the Pacific under take a legally binding restructure of their economies will benefit Australia and New Zealand investors not Pacific Island peoples.

The recently released “A Peoples' Guide to PACER-Plus” offers an opportunity to begin a more transparent and accountable conversation about what PACER-Plus means for the Pacific and we call on governments to undertake such a process.

We believe that PACER-Plus is a dumb deal that will do more harm than good to our countries, limit in a legally binding way how Pacific Island communities can determine their own development and as such call on our governments to:

- Not sign any PACER-Plus agreement as it currently stands;
- Immediately release the texts of PACER-Plus, including the market access offers;
- Undertake independent analysis on the potential impact/ benefits of Pacer-Plus based on the market access offers.
- Allow national Parliament's the ability to debate PACER-Plus membership before making any commitments.

Endorsed by:

National

Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, Fiji
Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)
Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations (VANGO)
O Le Siosiomaga Society Inc. (OLSSI)
Social Empowerment Education Programme (SEEP)
Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
Pango Youth Council Vanuau
Cook Island Teachers Union Aitutaki, Cook Islands
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)
New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU)
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)
Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET)
National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU)
Public Health Association of Australia
Union Aid Abroad APHEDA
Mothers Are Demystifying Genetic Engineering (MADGE) Australia
Jubilee Australia
New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) Australia
New South Wales Retired Teachers' Association
Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Australia
Peoples' Health Movement Oz
ActionAid Australia
The Grail in Australia Justice in Trade Agreements Network
FOODwatch
Finance Sector Union of Australia

Regional

Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG)
Council of Pacific Education (COPE)
Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW)
South Pacific and Oceania Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU)
Greenpeace Australia Pacific
Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (PPGCCSD)
Loreto Sisters Australia and South East Asia

International Grail Global Justice Network

Individuals

1. Vuetasau Junior Buatoka Suva, Fiji
2. Prof. Jane Kelsey, New Zealand
3. Kimber Rilometo Majuro, Marshall Islands
4. Sefeti Berwick Suva, Fiji
5. Tim Baice Auckland, New Zealand
6. Paula Feehan Wellington, New Zealand
7. Stephen Parry Freemans Bay, New Zealand
8. John Heatt Auckland, New Zealand
9. Brian Thomas Auckland, New Zealand
10. Lynne Thomas Auckland, New Zealand
11. Leanne Watkins Christchurch, New Zealand
12. Sarah Russell Raumati South, New Zealand
13. Harriet Wild Auckland, New Zealand
14. Tony Archer Palmerston North, New Zealand
15. Jacob Rados Christchurch, New Zealand
16. Kris Prasad Nausori, Fiji
17. Liz Gibson New Zealand
18. Tonia Waugh Dunedin, New Zealand
19. Alistair vH Wellington, New Zealand
20. Margaret Browne Auckland, New Zealand
21. Scott Armstrong New Plymouth, New Zealand
22. Wendy Caughley Seddon, New Zealand
23. Sian Mc Bride Auckland, New Zealand
24. Astrid Boulekone Port Vila, Vanuatu
25. John Weatherall Waimate, New Zealand
26. Dennis Maga Auckland, New Zealand
27. Anne Leitch Whangarei, New Zealand
28. Pauline Handley Wanganui, New Zealand
29. David Pate Wanganui, New Zealand
30. Camelia Dufus-Taylor Port-Vila, Vanuatu
31. Lindsay Barrett Port Vila, Vanuatu
32. Jean Marie WAGNER Port Vila, Vanuatu
33. Shona Kelly Whangarei, New Zealand
34. Ryan Taylor Piopio, New Zealand
35. Krishna Raghuwaiya Suva, Fiji
36. Peni Delaibatiki Suva, Fiji
37. Chris Watt, Australia
38. Thoma Bayer Port Vila, Vanuatu
39. Tim Dymond Perth, Australia
40. Jen Tsen Kwok, Australia
41. Steve Cram, Australia
42. Father Claude Mostowik Erskineville, Australia
43. Frances Murrell Fitzroy, Australia
44. Michael Croft, Australia
45. Peta Anne Molloy, Australia
46. Joan Kennedy, Australia
47. Irma Gilford Port Vila, Vanuatu
48. Jacki Leota-Mua Fiji, Fiji

49. Isidore Sitapai Pasanai Singapore, Singapore
50. Erica Corr Mardan, Australia
51. Terry Tuiletufuga AUCKLAND, New Zealand
52. Gregory Babilis, Australia
53. Alberto Blanco, Australia
54. Maureen Searson Batemans Bay, Australia
55. Janet Grogan Perth, Australia
56. Leanne Edmiston, Australia
57. Meg Blow Perth, Australia
58. Tamsin Kelly Lilydale, Australia
59. Michael Moller Woodgate, Australia
60. Alison Lyssa, Australia
61. Kathy Faldt NorthMaclean, Australia
62. Mary Hedges, Australia
63. Agnieszka Skorupska Melbourne, Australia
64. Elizabeth Story Dernancourt, Australia
65. Mark S. Karratha, Australia
66. Jim Morris Hurlstone Park, Australia
67. Revelly Robinson Hunters Hill, MO, United States
68. Garry Davies Brisbane, Australia
69. Steward Tonowane Honiara, Solomon Islands
70. Tony Konjarski, Australia
71. Darryl Nelson Redcliffe, Australia
72. Meyer Brownstone toronto, Canada
73. Adrian Cooke Wilsonton, Australia
74. John Halstead, Australia
75. Derek Finter Blaxland, Australia
76. Mark Murphy Roselands, Australia
77. Liliana Cuba sydney, Australia
78. Paula Young , Australia
79. Dereka Ogden Tugun, Australia
80. Lance Morgan, Australia
81. Cassandra Barford Roselands, Australia
82. Robert Tarry Port Vila, Vanuatu
83. Frank Cotterill, Australia
84. Anna Kowalczyk, Australia
85. Steve Cram Strathfield, Australia
86. Hector Malano , Australia
87. Tanua Pine TARAUA, Kiribati
88. Latileta Gaga Suva, Fiji
89. Oata Joshua Tuatagaloa Apia, Samoa
90. Frennie Beytagh, Australia
91. Kerry Thomas Devon Hills, Australia
92. Meri Lewavudi Suva, Fiji
93. Bruce Momoe Suva, Fiji
94. Satya shandil Suva, Fiji
95. Lice Cokanasiga Suva, Fiji
96. Maureen Penjueli Suva Fiji
97. Cope SG Suva, Fiji
98. Christine Cooper, Australia
99. Merewairita Moci Suva, Fiji
100. shivam naidu Suva, Fiji

101. Manutea Durand Port Vila, Vanuatu
102. Dan Coughlan, Australian
103. Deborah Gleeson, Australian
104. Sitiveni Finau Nukunuku, Tonga
105. Carmel Hobbs Bundoora, Australia
106. Gabriel Crossan Carlton North, Australia
107. Bronwyn Trickett , Australia
108. Latai Taumoepeau Sydney, Australia
109. Hahano Ki Mala'ekula Namoa, Australia
110. Dorothy Broom Turner, Australia
111. Peter Tozer , Australia
112. Tanya Jalil Melbourne, Australia
113. Diane Wanasawage Annandale, Australia
114. Ruth Sandy Melbourne, Australia
115. Terry Mason Reservoir, Australia
116. Matt Breen, Australia
117. Mere Tuilau Suva, Fiji
118. Lara Daley, Newcastle, Australia
119. Adam Wolfenden, Newcacle, Australia
120. Joel Simo, Port Vila, Vanuatu
121. Joey Tau, Suva, Fiji
122. Andrea Maksimovic, Melbourne, Australia
123. Fiu Elisara, Apia, Samoa
124. Michael Waites, Sydney, Australia
125. Anthony Hayes
126. Blandine Boulekone
127. Cameron White
128. Joleen Mataele
129. Shem Tamar
130. Susan Wolfenden
131. lai sakita
132. Marie Johannsohn
133. Marica Harrison
134. Valerie Morse
135. Frank Bilaupaine
136. Paula Aruhuri
137. TeAo Pritchard
138. Fancy Brown
139. Jill Biddington
140. Maggie Ferguson
141. Rebecca Ackhurst
142. Pauline McCarthy
143. Bridger Rossiter
144. Matty Gee
145. Rebecca Stuart
146. Laura Bailey
147. Maraia Tabunakawai
148. Cliff Bird
149. Aqela Vakaruru
150. Sylvia Frain
151. Rosa Koian
152. Sapa Saifaleupolu

153. Betty Barkha
154. Catherine Sparks
155. Kennery Alvea
156. Kenneth Lameta
157. Ria San Gabriel
158. Kevin Wolfenden
159. Oriana López Uribe
160. Kuini Lutua
161. Loreen Baniuri
162. Mathilda Butal
163. Jessie Kampai
164. Benedict Ferguson
165. Ashvini Ambihaipahar
166. Angela Collier
167. Janet Quigley
168. Matt Henderson
169. Siale Ilolahia
170. Cathy Daley
171. Jack Daley