



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**5TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

Dear Friends,

As we navigate the dynamic and volatile global trade policy landscape, it is essential to stay informed about the implications of the climate related unilateral measures and directives mooted by developed countries and their impact on economies of developing countries and the livelihoods of farmers especially in Sub Saharan Africa.

Whereas SEATINI recognizes the imperative to address the climate crisis and the urgent need to create sustainable supply chains while promoting responsible production and sourcing practices to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, I wish to reiterate that the climate crisis demands collective action and not unilateral measures.

Despite the historic responsibility for the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, many developed countries are implementing unilateral measures that shift the burden to developing countries, promoting false solutions to climate change and undermining international cooperation and climate justice.

The European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) among other measures and regulations are likely to have far reaching negative implications on economies and livelihoods of small-scale farmers especially those in the targeted products and value chains.

The EUDR requires companies trading in coffee, cocoa, oil palm, rubber, soy, tea among other commodities as well as their derivatives, to conduct extensive due diligence on the value chain to ensure the goods do not result from recent (post 31 December 2020) deforestation, forest degradation or breaches of local environmental and social laws.

The reality on the ground is that the coffee sector in Uganda is on tenterhooks due to the EUDR's mandatory traceability and compliance requirements coupled with a tight deadline of December 30, 2024. This tight deadline poses significant challenges for the Uganda's singular most important agricultural commodity (coffee). Since 60% of Uganda's coffee is exported to the EU market, compliance with the EUDR is crucial to sustaining this market access.

In view of these prevailing circumstances, it is therefore paramount for the Government of Uganda to come up with holistic approaches to address all the regulations, directives and measures coming from developed countries; and also address all the targeted products.

I would like to reiterate that addressing the climate crisis requires solidarity, not unilateralism.

Sincerely,

*Jane Nalunga*

Jane S. Nalunga

**For more information. please contact:**

The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute – (SEATINI) Uganda

P. O Box, 3138, Kampala

Plot 806, Block 213, Bukoto-Kisasi Road – Kampala

Email: [info@seatiniuganda.org](mailto:info@seatiniuganda.org)

Website: [www.seatiniuganda.org](http://www.seatiniuganda.org)