FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2017
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Civil Society Protest at the Entrance of the WTO 11th Ministerial in Buenos Aires

BUENOS AIRES—Today, a group of civil society working together through the global Our World Is Not for Sale (OWINFS) network, present in Buenos Aires for the 11th Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), used the human amplification tactic of “Mike Check” to voice their concerns about the WTO negotiations. Please see the text of the chants below.

Civil society leaders demanded that no so-called “new issues” such as e-commerce and investment facilitation should be put on the agenda, particularly while the development mandate has not been concluded. They called for a binding LDC package and for removing WTO obstacles to food security through the conclusion of the permanent solution for public stockholding, as well as special safeguard mechanism, and disciplines on export competition.

A facebook live video is available here: http://bit.ly/2AaixAy
Free-use photos available here: http://bit.ly/2C1xJRU

Over 80 civil society experts – trade unionists, farmers, development advocates, and consumer activists – from more than 30 countries have traveled to Buenos Aires for the 11th Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as part of the global Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS) network. Civil society delegates are participating in OWINFS activities from: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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Our World is Not for Sale (OWINFS) is a global network of over 250 organizations from over 50 countries of the global North and South. We are united for a fair, transparent, and sustainable multilateral trading system. Over 80 experts from 30 countries have traveled to Buenos Aires for the MC11 – although two dozen of our expert civil society advocates were banned (and several still are.) More about our network, including a link to a directory of CSO experts available for interviews, can be seen at www.ourworldisnotforsale.net.

Our World Is Not for Sale “Mike Check” Chants, MC11, December 11, 2017

Mike Check!  Farmers and workers
Mike Check!  Fisherfolk and consumers
Our world  From the North and South
Is not for sale!  Standing united
Nuestro mundo  To oppose corporate greed
No está en venta!  And to demand
We are here  Trade for development
Global civil society  Good jobs
From 34 countries  and food security.

No WTO expansion!  Transform unjust WTO rules!
We condemn  The outrageous actions
By the host government  To blacklist 64 NGOs
Who had already registered  Without just cause.
We condemn
The baseless lies
About our colleagues
Who have been blocked!

We will not be silenced!
We will not be silenced!
Civil society will not be silenced!
MC11 lacks legitimacy!
WTO lacks legitimacy!
Member states should not agree
To negotiate at MC11
Under these circumstances

Just the latest example
How in the WTO
Big business is welcome
But civil society excluded.
Like the unfair WTO rules
Rich can subsidize
Big agribusiness
But developing countries
Can’t support small farmers
To promote food security.

Permanent Solution!
Permanent Solution!
Public Stockholding!
Public Stockholding
Food Security!
Food Security!
Food Sovereignty!
Food Sovereignty!
No WTO Expansion!
Transform unjust WTO rules!

Our world
Is not for sale!
Nuestro mundo
No está en venta!

Developing countries
Demanded changes
To current WTO
Since its existence
Implementation Agenda
Special and Differential Treatment
S&D Now!
Future agenda
Must be Development!
Fix unfair rules

No New Issues
No corporate wish-list
No New Issues
Don’t sideline development
No mandate for new issues
No work program for new issues
No E-commerce rules
No Investment facilitation
No Domestic regulation
No New Issues
No New Issues
No new issues
Through MSMEs!
Don’t be fooled!
MSMEs are a Trojan Horse
For Investment Facilitation
For Domestic Regulation
For corporate wish-list.
No new issues!
Azevêdo Promised
No Green Rooms
Bottom-up Process
Transparency
Inclusion
Now We Know
There WILL be Green Rooms?!!
DG’s Azevêdo
Broke his promise
No Top-down negotiations
No exclusive negotiations
No Green Rooms!
No Chair’s Text!
Agriculture rules
Complete hypocrisy
Rich can subsidize
The poor cannot!
Remove WTO obstacles
Food Security Now!
Permanent Solution!
Public stockholding!
Permanent Solution!
Public stockholding!
Special Safeguard
for developing countries

Export Competition disciplines!
Results on COTTON!
Export Competition
Results on COTTON!
LDC Package
Is Long Overdue
We Need Justice
DELIVER NOW
Make LDC Package
Binding NOW
NO More Lies
We demand
REAL S&D
G90 proposal
Nothing less
REAL S&D
Nothing less!
Domestic Regulation
Handcuffs governments’
Public interest regulation
Domestic issues
Not trade issues!
Not necessary!
No Domestic Regulation
Rules, in the WTO!
No Investment Facilitation
Not a Trade Issue!
No Negotiations
On Investment Facilitation!
No New Issues!
No New Issues!
No MSMEs Trojan Horse!
No E-commerce Rules!
No Domestic Regulation!
No Investment Facilitation!
WTO Turnaround
Food Security Now!
Public Stockholding Now!
Workable SSM Now!

Our world
is not for sale!
Our world
is not for sale!
Nuestro mundo
no esta en venta!
Nuestro mundo
no esta en venta!

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