

Fair, Green and Global Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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An Asian Center for Social and Environmental Renewal

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tmi
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ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence	GPT	Global Plastics Treaty
BHR	Business and Human Rights	IFI	International Financial Institution
BIT	Bilateral Investment Treaty	IPC	International Planning Committee
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	IPO	Indigenous People's Organisation
CBO	Community-based organisation	ISDS	Investor-State Dispute Settlement
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	LDF	Loss and Damage Fund
CFS	Committee on World Food Security	LNG	Liquefied natural gas
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention of UNCCD	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CSDDD	Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive	NBS	Nature Based Solutions
CSIPM	Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism	NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
CSO	Civil society organisation	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women	PWGM	People's Working Group on Multistakeholderism
DFCD	Dutch Fund for Climate and Development	RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
EC	European Commission	SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of CBD
ECA	Export Credit Agency	SSF	Small-scale fisher
ECI	Export Credit Insurance	TNC	Transnational Corporation
ECT	Energy Charter Treaty	ToC	Theory of Change
(E)HRD	(Environmental) Human Rights Defenders	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
FGG	Fair, Green and Global Alliance	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
FMO	Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent	UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
FTA	Free Trade Agreement	VGGTs	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework		
GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund		
GEF	Global Environmental Facility		

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fair, Green and Global Alliance aims to recalibrate power within the global architecture of trade and value chains by amplifying the voices of people who are practising, claiming or defending human rights and fair and green economic practices. FGG partners and members are cooperating and building momentum with grassroots actors worldwide – from factory workers to fisherfolk – to link local experiences to global processes. We build diverse movements united around a common vision of fair and green trade and value chains that: prioritise people’s rights over profit, public needs over corporate power, healthy ecosystems over unbridled consumption, and transform social relations.¹

Through intensive collaboration across the globe, the FGG Alliance works to ensure that civil society actors are informed, organised, mobilised and working together so they have the power to influence agendas in public debates and key policymaking spaces, and, ultimately, shift policies and practices. FGG envisions a world where human rights are respected, communities and ecosystems thrive, and everyone – regardless of gender, ethnicity/origin, religion, caste, age, wealth – can participate equally in societies, and have opportunities to enjoy sustainable livelihoods and decent work at a living wage.

2. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Progress toward just, sustainable and inclusive economies and societies

In the third year of the Fair, Green and Global Alliance’s Power of Voices programme, we saw the fruits of our long-term efforts reflected in increased momentum among movements worldwide calling for more just, sustainable and inclusive economies and societies, both locally and globally. Our sustained pressure is pushing important issues higher up the agenda, such as the need for more just forms of water governance and trade policies that protect and advance women’s rights. We are bringing about major policy shifts, from the renewal and planned expansion of the International Accord for Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry to new legislation to protect the labour rights of workers in the digital economy.² More than a decade of effective cooperation by FGG members and partners worldwide has contributed to the EU’s planned coordinated withdrawal from the Energy Charter Treaty, as well

as support for ending export finance for oil and gas.³ Much work remains to be done, but these positive changes translate to both immediate and long-term improvements in the lives of workers and communities around the world.

Policymakers are also responding to our call for stronger rules for businesses, both locally and nationally, although extreme corporate lobby power means such rules continue to fall far short of what is needed to ensure respect for human rights and the environment. By the end of 2023, the EU’s new Battery Regulation, which includes due diligence requirements, had been adopted, and agreements had been reached on new legislation to ban products made with forced labour and on the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).⁴

Big Tech companies continue to dominate the digital economy. But awareness of their excessive power is growing and progress is being made to reign them in, including stronger enforcement of competition and anti-monopoly policies. The momentum for stronger Southern leadership in innovating and regulating the digital economy is growing. The Generative AI landscape is booming and leading the next epoch of developmental agendas and challenges. Across sectors and border, people’s movements are working together to defend democratic systems of global governance and keep corporate capture of key decision-making spaces at bay.⁵

Increased conflict and insecurity

Yet we face enormous challenges, including ongoing war and blatant disregard for international humanitarian law in Ukraine and Gaza, which has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians and the escalation of global, and national, divisions. The rise of essential commodity prices and extreme inflation – some 30% in countries such as Pakistan, Myanmar and Nigeria, and reaching triple digits in Argentina – have exacerbated vulnerabilities of the most marginalised people.

Meanwhile, the year 2023 was the warmest on record, with billions of people affected by extreme weather and climate disaster. Vietnam, Laos and Thailand recorded their highest temperatures ever. In the latter, temperatures exceeded 44 degrees in April. The window to reduce carbon emissions and avert climate chaos is about to close. Countless communities worldwide are engaged in long-term struggles against powerful corporations and investors to defend their territories and precious ecosystems from devastating projects, like the

new airport currently being constructed on the mudflats and mangrove forests of Manila Bay and the water-depleting lithium mines in Argentina's arid high Andes.⁶

The shift toward low-carbon economies is intensifying competition to control global supply chains of 'critical raw materials', reflected in a wave of new legislation and initiatives by governments – Indonesia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Chile, the EU, the US – to protect or promote domestic interests. While resource-rich countries in the Global South could see some economic benefits, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the integrity of ecosystems, water resources and biodiversity may be at serious risk due to extraction of transition minerals, and land-grabbing for large-scale, corporate-driven renewable energy projects.⁷

Limited civic space and political uncertainties

Civic space remains limited in many countries. Given safety risks, FGG partners must carefully consider whether and how to address certain topics. Harassment and repression of environmental, human and labour rights defenders remains common. In Sri Lanka, the government is taking steps to weaken workers' legal protections from unfair dismissal and the right to organise, and to curb online free speech. In Bangladesh, the end of 2023 was extremely turbulent, with minimum wage protests, strikes, blockades, and violent clashes in the run-up to the January election. Tens of thousands of workers and opposition leaders were arrested. Despite international pressure, the election process went ahead. The political landscape is volatile, with some one hundred elections set to take place worldwide in 2024.

In such contexts, international solidarity and dependable, flexible support to civil society actors is absolutely crucial. The Dutch government's Power of Voices framework has been and remains an essential source of support for civil society actors worldwide to play their fundamental role as the guardians of democracy, human rights and environmental sustainability. Yet the results of the November election have created uncertainty about the Dutch political commitment to international cooperation, with profound implications for long-term progress on the Ministry and FGG's shared goals, including protection of human rights and advancement of SDGs and climate goals. The FGG Alliance remains dedicated to amplifying the voices of partners – in the Netherlands and around the world – to advance human rights, equality and justice everywhere.

3. REFLECTION ON FGG THEORY OF CHANGE

In 2023, the FGG Alliance commissioned an external Mid-Term Review (MTR) of its Power of Voices programme. The MTR entailed desk research and interviews/focus group discussions with 39 partners, three advocacy targets, four peers and six staff members of the MoFA (including Embassies), a horizontal analysis and application of process tracing methodology in ten in-depth case studies.

We are extremely pleased that the MTR provided an overall positive assessment of the FGG Alliance, our programme and ways of working. The MTR found strong confirmation of our Theory of Change (see visual below) and assumptions, and many strengths in FGG's approach. The need to address the current architecture of trade and value chains and the power of capital – two core assumptions of the FGG programme – were found to be 'strongly reflected' in the MTR analysis and the programme was found to have 'high relevance' for partners, members, and the Dutch MFA. The FGG programme was seen as well aligned with the MoFA's policy on inclusive economic growth, and reflective of the interconnectedness of MoFA policies including on 'indigenous people's rights, land use, climate and social justice, or [on] gender, the right to unionise and exploitation at work.' The principle that 'rights-holders can best speak for themselves', a key assumption of the ToC, was found to be consistently reflected in the programme. The MTR specifically highlighted key 'enablers' of FGG's effectiveness, namely:

- positive collaboration spirit; shared agenda-setting; responsiveness to partners' needs;
- FGG resources facilitating logistical support [for partners to engage in activities/decision-making spaces/etc.]
- the strengthened legitimacy of both FGG partners and members gained through their partnerships;
- leverage on multiple pressure points;
- long-standing networks; network building;
- deep technical expertise.

The effective functioning of the FGG Alliance is a result of a solid strong governance structure and more than 13 years of experience in close working relationships. The MTR also included several valuable recommendations about the ToC and monitoring frameworks, including making more explicit the learning loop in the ToC (see left side of ToC image), and further reflection and learning on certain specific topics. The latter has already been taken up in 2024.

In short, our ToC describes changes per Result Area (denoted by A-X):

A. *Capacities strengthened*

B. *Agendas set and momentum built (toward policy and practice change)*

And positive policy and practice changes by targeted actors in relation to:

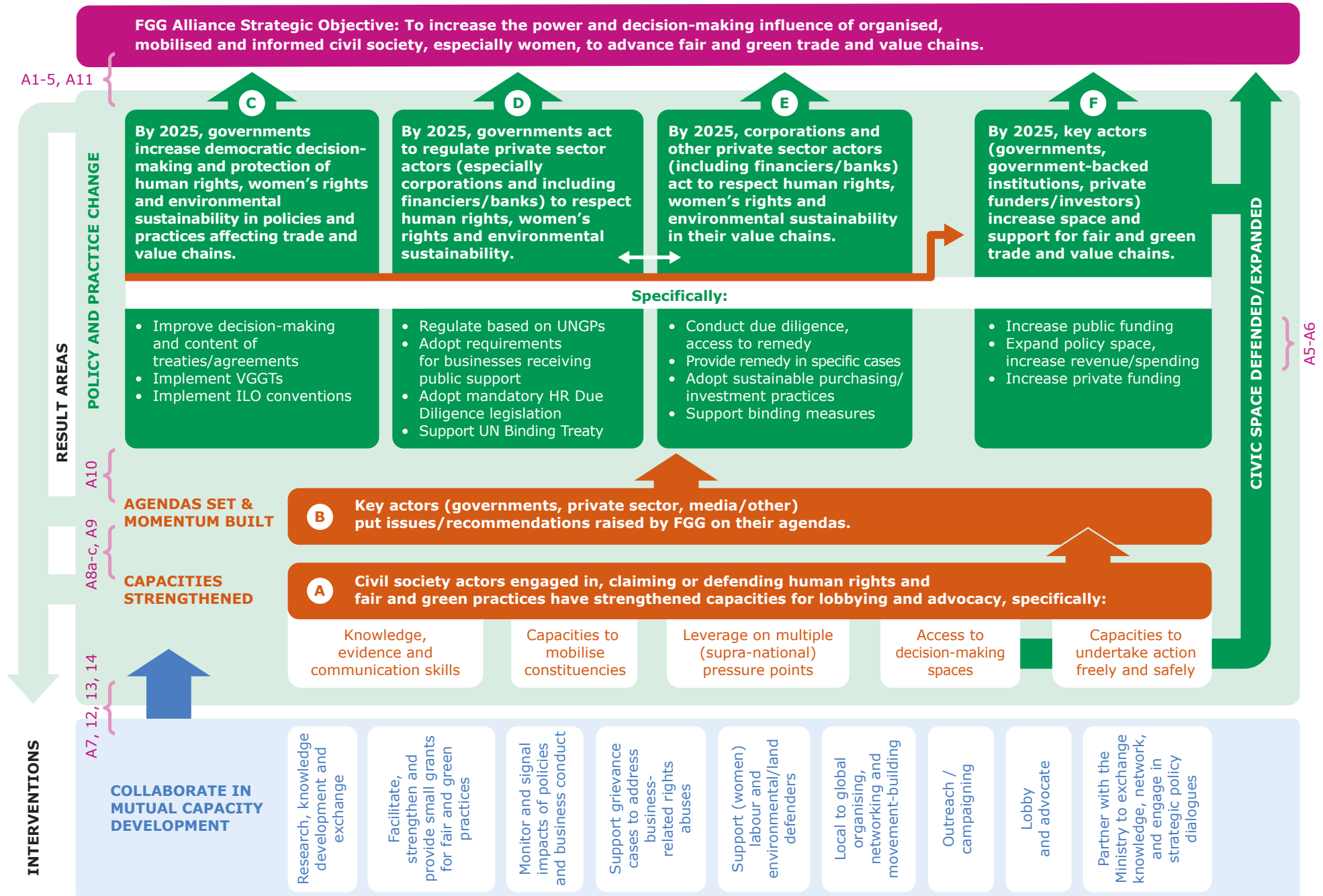
C. *Trade, investment and tax agreements, and policies (e.g. climate, tenure) that affect trade arrangements*

D. *Rules for business*

E. *Corporate conduct*

F. *Policy space and financial support for fair and green practices*

And, finally cross-cutting Result Area X. Cross-cutting result of civic space defended/expanded



Result areas and strands of work

The following report is structured thematically around ten ‘strands of work’ in addition to the cross-cutting theme of civic space. Throughout the report, we pay particular attention to the work done and results achieved in FGG’s focus countries.⁸ Results in Area A (Collaboration in mutual capacity development) and Area B (Agenda-setting toward policy and practice change) are interwoven in each chapter, as these are the steps toward (thematic) policy and practice change results (Area C-F). While our work under the various strands is presented separately, much is interconnected: each area of work forms a piece of the puzzle that should in the end contribute to socially just and sustainable societies.

In Annex 5, we show the linkages between FGG’s indicators and the Ministry’s SCS basket indicators and present a brief analysis of FGG’s progress on the SCS indicators. We also include an overview of 2023 targets and results below. More detailed results for each of the FGG indicators can be found in our IATI publication.

Table 1: Overview of targets and results 2023

FGG indicator #	Indicator	SCS indicator #	Target 2023	Results 2023	Target 2025	Results 2021 2022 2023	% on track after 3 years
6C	by result area C, D, E, F # instances in which key actors adopt and/or implement FGG policy/practice recommendations		6	31	105	112	107%
6D			27	25	150	77	51%
6E			28	144	61	231	379%
6F			13	5	118	9	8%
6Cx	of these, # in which the adopted and/or implemented policies/practices contribute to expanding/defending civic space		3	8	32	17	53%
6Dx			5	10	49	31	63%
6Ex			1	1	20	8	40%
6Fx			3	1	38	1	3%
6Cg	of these, # in which adopted and/or implemented recommendation contributes to gender equality		1	9	53	26	49%
6Dg			4	4	65	8	12%
6Eg			2	103	26	106	408%
6Fg			5	1	61	1	2%
6SCS1	of these, # of laws, policies and norms, implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	SCS 1	34	178	219	282	129%
6SCS2	of these, # of laws, policies and norms/attitudes, blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	SCS 2	40	24	227	154	68%
5C	by result area C, D, E, F # key actors who support and/or promote FGG policy/practice recommendations	SCS 3	60	62	263	151	57%
5D			57	73	262	201	77%
5E			32	35	119	86	72%
5F			27	37	231	72	31%

FGG indicator #	Indicator	SCS indicator #	Target 2023	Results 2023	Target 2025	Results 2021 2022 2023	% on track after 3 years
5Cx	of these, # in which the supported and/or promoted recommendation aims to contribute to expanding/defending civic space		20	17	114	26	23%
5Dx			18	9	97	45	46%
5Ex			5	21	34	25	74%
5Fx			6	2	81	6	7%
5Cg	of these, # in which supported and/or promoted recommendation aims to contribute to gender equality		20	17	118	31	26%
5Dg			17	24	110	42	38%
5Eg			7	10	65	14	22%
5Fg			14	5	121	13	11%
4	# key actors (government, private sector, other) who put FGG policy/ practice recommendations on their agendas (e.g. meetings, debates, media coverage)		163	216	619	698	113%
4x	of these, # in which the recommendation a key actor puts on its agenda aims to contribute to expanding/defending civic space		44	46	191	138	72%
4g	of these, # in which the recommendation a key actor puts on its agenda aims to contribute to gender equality		51	51	223	109	49%
3	# targeted civil society actors that lobby and advocate for improved policies and practices in trade and value chains and advance fair and green practices based on capacities mutually developed	SCS 4	291	523	495	935	189%
2	# targeted civil society actors with strengthened capacities for lobbying and advocacy	SCS 5	514	960	741	1850	250%

FGG indicator #	Indicator	SCS indicator #	Target 2023	Results 2023	Target 2025	Results 2021 2022 2023	% on track after 3 years	
2x	of these, # with strengthened capacities contributing to and/or relevant for lobby and advocacy aiming at expanding/defending civic space		150	362	333	777	233%	
2g	of these, # with strengthened capacities relevant to advance gender justice		139	534	308	981	319%	
1	# of CSOs included in the FGG programme	SCS 6	591	1117	798	2053	257%	
l	learning sessions organised by FGG members and partner organisations	NA (qualitative indicator)						
g	lines of work in which FGG members and partners build upon gender analysis and incorporate gender justice in their strategy	NA (qualitative indicator)						
o	The extent to and ways in which FGG involves local groups in the design and implementation of the FGG programme	NA (qualitative indicator)						
5Cx, 5Dx, 5Ex, 5Fx	# in which the supported and/or promoted recommendation aims to contribute to expanding/defending civic space	SCS 9	49	49	326	103	32%	

4. PROGRESS TOWARD TARGETS – PER STRAND OF WORK

4.1 TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS – RESULT AREA C

In 2023, FGG advocated for trade and investment agreements that are based on democratic decision-making and promote respect for human rights and environmental sustainability. A key objective is to regain and increase the policy space for governments to act in the public interest by removing barriers, like Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), that effectively restrict governments' abilities to regulate.

Tackling the Energy Charter Treaty

In 2023, FGG partners and members continued to advocate for alignment of trade policy with climate commitments, with a focus on preventing the Energy Charter Treaty's (ECT) expansion to countries in the Global South and an exit from ECT by European countries. In Bangladesh, following campaigning and awareness-raising of FGG partners, officials at the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource stated that they would revisit and reanalyse the ECT before making a decision on possible accession. In addition, the Government of Bangladesh sent a letter to the ECT Secretariat requesting details about the recent amendments to the ECT. Since 2022, FGG partners have organised national-level events and campaigned on ECT, including training of journalists on the issue. In 2023, their work contributed to nine articles in three major newspapers that were critical of the ECT.

Advocacy in Africa, particularly by FGG partners in Uganda, Tanzania and Nigeria, has also succeeded in preventing expansion of the ECT. In 2023, FGG partners organised a strategy meeting in Tanzania with CSOs from Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda and co-published a paper with recommendations on the state of play⁹ with respect to the ECT. A webinar, 'The Energy Charter Treaty: A threat to climate action in Africa', provided 50 CSO representatives with in-depth insights into the ECT, what it means for Africa, its modernisation, lessons from Europe, and an analysis of its ramifications for climate action in Africa. In Uganda, a

representative of the Ministry of Energy Mineral Development informally indicated that Uganda will not sign the treaty. This happened after meetings in which a CSO position paper with recommendations was presented by an FGG partner.

Meanwhile, FGG members in Europe played a significant role in convincing the European Commission to propose a coordinated withdrawal of the EU and all EU member states of the ECT – a historic decision to better align trade and investment policy with climate commitments. The withdrawal of European member states and the EU is important for countries in the Global South as it sends an important signal confirming the dangers of the ECT, including as an obstacle to climate action. In addition to the seven EU countries that had already decided to leave the ECT, three other countries announced plans to exit the ECT in 2023: Ireland, Denmark, Bulgaria. FGG contributed to these policy changes through years of media outreach, awareness-raising, advocacy at EU level and in member states, petitions and public pressure on decision-makers.

Advocacy against investment protection, and harmful Bilateral Investment Treaties and Free Trade Agreements

Advocacy by FGG partners and members against harmful Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) focused in 2023 on the proposed EU-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the EU-Mercosur FTA, as well as investment protection. In Indonesia, FGG advocacy contributed to holding the line against the EU-Indonesia CEPA. As part of the Indonesian Economic Justice coalition, FGG partners sent a letter to both negotiators of the EU-Indonesia CEPA trade negotiation during the 13th round of negotiations and organised a press conference to highlight the potential negative impacts of the proposed EU-Indonesia CEPA. The press conference resulted in several articles being published on the topic.¹⁰ The coalition met with the Ministry of Trade to make direct interventions and give input to the Indonesian negotiator on the position of civil society, particularly in relation to investment protection, the energy and raw materials chapter and digital trade chapters. At the invitation of a German parliamentarian, the coalition also shared the Indonesian civil society perspective in a meeting with a delegation of European parliamentarians visiting Jakarta, where they presented FGG research¹¹ on the issue

of trade and critical minerals in Indonesia, a key issue in the Indonesia-EU CEPA.

FGG partners and members continued to collectively advocate against FTAs in Latin-America. Parallel to the EU- Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Summit of Heads of State and Government in Brussels, more than 50 CSOs from Latin America co-organised a Counter-Summit¹² in the European Parliament, with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). During the half-day conference, representatives of CSOs, social movements, farmers' organisations, workers' unions and MEPs, as well as parliamentarians and governmental representatives from Latin American countries came together to evaluate lessons learned from more than 20 years of trade agreements between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean and outline a new trade relationship for the 21st century. FGG also co-organised two speaker tours in Europe, with representatives from Latin American environmental organisations and trade unions, who spoke to civil society groups and policymakers about the potential impacts of EU-Mercosur. Thanks to broad opposition from civil society, no progress was made during the CELAC Summit.

Meanwhile, an FGG partner from Argentina strengthened the National Campaign against the EU-Mercosur Agreement and implemented advocacy strategies, including developing campaign materials, convening debates and public mobilisations and taking part in three meetings with legislators. The group conducted a workshop on the impact of the agreement entitled 'Common Goods and Food Sovereignty vs. Corporate Power and the Architecture of Plunder'; organised a webinar 'The South always loses'¹³ and contributed to the report 'Sustainable Mobility - The EU-Mercosur Agreement and the Automotive Industry'.¹⁴

An FGG partner in Brazil also took part in and helped to strengthen and expand a national coalition of some 200 Brazilian CSOs against the agreement, the Brazilian Front Against the Mercosur-EU FTA, which raised visibility on the issues with activities and communications throughout the year. The partner took part in lobbying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Special Advisory Office of the Presidency on the agreement.

Advocacy by FGG partners and members highlighting the negative impacts of investment protection (ISDS) contributed to the decision by Colombia to renegotiate the country's

trade agreements. The Colombian Minister of Trade made the announcement following advocacy meetings with different ministries to highlight the harm of ISDS in Latin America as part of an International Mission to Colombia to Stop ISDS, in which FGG participated. FGG organised two public fora to explain the effects of the investment protection system and ISDS claims in Colombia, two workshops ('Stop ISDS and corporate abuse' and 'ISDS and public services') attended by CSOs and trade unionists, and a public hearing in the Colombia Congress with three MPs and one senator to galvanise support for a declaration endorsed by 300 organisations.¹⁵

Research and awareness-raising in the media by FGG partners in Tanzania drew attention to harmful impacts of BITs on sustainable development, human rights and the environment. At the invitation of the Tanzania Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs and Department of Natural Wealth, partners discussed their recommendations to terminate harmful BITs as well as a new, more sustainable, model of investments and development. The Tanzanian Parliamentary Committee on trade and Investment subsequently expressed support for FGG partners' positions and scheduled investment policy amendments. The government decided not to renew the Tanzania-Canada BIT.

In the Netherlands, FGG and allies have long raised awareness of the risks of ISDS cases, including those of RWE and Uniper against the government in relation to the decision to phase out coal-fired power generation by 2030.¹⁶ FGG has conducted research and raised awareness about the cases. An important result was achieved in 2023, when RWE and Uniper withdrew their ISDS cases.

Digital trade justice

In 2023, FGG raised awareness about artificial intelligence (AI) and within digital trade chapters, which pose a major barrier to strengthening the global and national governance of AI and digital technology, and have exacerbated existing global inequalities to the benefit of Big Tech corporations. FGG engaged in and contributed to discussions in several (international) policy spaces, including the WTO Public Forum, where an FGG member met with different policymakers ahead of the 2024 WTO ministerial conference and spoke at two events and later at the UN Conference

on Trade and Development (UNCTADs) ecommerce week – themed ‘Shaping the future of the digital economy’ – where an FGG member spoke at four sessions. FGG also prepared inputs that fed into UNCTAD’s 2023 issue paper on ‘Data for Development’, which emphasises the neo-colonial dynamics of the data economy, its infrastructural and access challenges and the green transition.

In Argentina, an FGG member participated in several advocacy spaces, including a workshop in Buenos Aires to discuss the country’s AI strategy, which was attended by the Lead in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at the World Economic Forum and an AI policy analyst at the OECD amongst others. FGG shared analysis on the negative repercussions of digital trade chapters, including in relation to AI. At a strategy meeting on ‘AI and the future of work’ involving Argentina’s Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Secretary of Strategic Affairs in the Presidency of Argentina, FGG raised awareness about the impact of AI in the world of work, and the difficulties in regulating the digital trade agenda. At an event organised by the Argentinian data protection agency, FGG spoke about trends and challenges in international cooperation on personal data protection and artificial intelligence. The event was attended by officials from the foreign ministry, national regulators, and the European Union, other CSO representatives and academics. As a result of these and other interventions, a WTO negotiator for Argentina changed their position on the cross-border tax moratorium on the imposition of tariffs on electronic transmissions, and invited FGG to advise their team on strategies towards the next WTO Ministerial conference.

At the invitation of German policymakers, FGG provided input on digital trade and data flow governance. FGG recommended prioritising the autonomous development rights of the Global South and reconsidering support for unrestricted cross-border data flows.

Trade, feminist foreign policy, and food and agricultural policy in the Netherlands

In November, FGG published the paper ‘Re-imagining trade and investment through a feminist lens’.¹⁷ The paper, which was launched at the ‘Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference 2023’ organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, consists of a set of recommendations for Dutch

feminist foreign policy, with a specific focus on trade and investment policy. At the conference, FGG organised a panel session on a feminist approach to trade and investment, which emphasised that Feminist Foreign Policy requires policy coherence, should go beyond mainstreaming gender, and include an intersectional lens, an inclusive approach, and address the root causes of inequalities.

FGG also drew attention to the impact of current international trade and investment agreements and structures on sustainable small-scale food producers and food security in the Global South. FGG engaged in mutual capacity development with partners from Kenya and Brazil to exchange knowledge and bring the link between trade and food to the attention of Dutch policymakers. The theme was picked-up by the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, who emphasised the need to take the international impact on farmers and food security in the Global South into account when developing the Dutch oriented agricultural policy; the Netherlands Food Partnership, which organised a special meeting with their network at which FGG presented the manifesto ‘The Dutch Agriculture Agreement reaches further than the Netherlands: offer prospects for sustainable farmers and consumers worldwide’; and in a parliamentary motion¹⁸ on mapping where Dutch food exports interfere with food production and associated local market forces of small-scale farmers in third countries.

Other results related to international trade and tax agreements

- FGG partners contributed to a zero draft of the Global Plastics Treaty (GPT). FGG has supported a group of 15 partners working nationally, regionally and internationally on the GPT. The group has developed joint demands and a joint advocacy strategy, provided strategic and communications support to other allies, and engaged in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meetings. As a result, the zero draft contains a number of elements that FGG has advocated, including establishing a cap on plastic production and introducing heightened regulations concerning the trade of plastic waste.
- Public awareness was raised on the role the Netherlands continues to play in facilitating the existence of large tax conduit structures, which causes other countries to lose revenues.¹⁹ As part of Tax Justice NL, FGG had

conversations with the Dutch Ministry of Finance and Foreign Affairs, putting the necessity of a tax reform on the agenda of Dutch parliament. At the international level, a resolution to begin the process of establishing a framework convention on tax was adopted – a groundbreaking result that could eventually lead to more multilateral decision-making on global tax rules.²⁰

4.2 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES – RESULT AREA C

Strong environmental and climate policies are part of the larger picture of fair and green trade and value chains that: prioritise people’s rights over profit, public needs over corporate power, healthy ecosystems over unbridled consumption, and transform social relations. FGG made progress on a number of issues in 2023, locally and globally.

Strengthening Indigenous people-led conservation and climate policies in the Philippines and beyond

In the Philippines, FGG supported civil society organisations, Indigenous groups and Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) in their conservation and reforestation activities, including through small grants and organisational capacity development support. Results at the local level include work by an FGG partner from Lanao del Norte. The partner organised six people’s organisations, composed of marginalised fishermen, women, and youth. The organisations participated in a variety of capacity strengthening activities like community organising, paralegal trainings on the different laws and policies concerning fisherfolks, and monitoring activities to ensure the sustainability and support of the organisations. As a result, the six organisations successfully established a two-hectare mangrove plantation, producing seedlings for sustainability and as an additional income generation for their communities. They successfully lobbied the Municipal Mayor and the Provincial Governor of Lanao del Norte for support with materials for their mangrove sanctuary and through their partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the organisations were able to also establish three mangrove nurseries funded by the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office. Other highlights include:

- Two Indigenous youth formations in Northern Mindanao, Philippines sustained and expanded their forest restoration initiatives within their ancestral domains using Indigenous tree species. Forests in these lands have been degraded due to land use conversion – one ancestral domain for mining operations in the past decades, and the other for large-scale monocrop plantations.
- An IPO in the Dulangan Ancestral Domain sustained their reforestation activities on the bare hills of what used to be a mining area in their community, with the support of FGG.

FGG partners also co-organised the Mindanao Week of Peace Forum to raise awareness about threats to the environment and ecosystems, such as the threat of open-pit mining in their province. The forum culminated with a Peace Walk that engaged more than 500 stakeholders from the academe, other CSOs, community-based organisations and the youth. The Filipino partner also engaged several government agencies such as the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Municipal Assessor’s Office, and the Philippine National Police in various consultations on the environment. The partner lobbied for support of initiatives on environmental protection, including the People’s Environmental Agenda, which they developed in 2022.

On the national level, the Climate Accountability bill, drafted by a Filipino FGG partner, was filed in the House of Representatives by the House Committee on Climate Change Chair Congressman and Congressional Representatives. If approved, the bill will require businesses to proactively prevent and address potential climate-related harms resulting from their operations and decrease their emissions of greenhouse gases. These companies will be obligated to provide climate-related financial disclosures, measure and analyse their emissions, implement measures to alleviate their negative impacts, and safeguard human rights in their operations.

At the ASEAN Civil Society Conference 2023, parallel to the ASEAN Summit 2023 in Jakarta, representatives from Indigenous communities in ASEAN countries were supported by FGG to share their experiences, highlight challenges, and collectively formulated recommendations. The key message conveyed was the importance of IP communities in protecting forests to address climate change, emphasising the need for secure land tenure, forest

rights, and preservation of indigenous knowledge. These recommendations were presented to the panel and ultimately endorsed as a general recommendation for the ASEAN Summit at the Asean People Forum 2023.

Steps towards stronger climate and environmental policies in Bangladesh

Since 2017, Bangladeshi FGG partners have advocated for a just energy transition in Bangladesh and raised awareness about the negative (gendered) impacts of fossil fuel projects. In 2023, their advocacy successfully culminated in a national, high-level conference co-hosted by the Bangladesh government, ‘Bangladesh Energy Prosperity 2050’, in which the importance of environmental, social as well as economic sustainability were high on the agenda. Various policymakers have made commitments to increase the use of green energy sources going forward. Significantly, for the first time, the ruling political party included a commitment in their manifesto to ensure at least 20% of Bangladesh’s energy consumption would be green and clean energy.

Amplifying voices for climate justice in the Arab region

With several international events in the Arab region in 2023, including COP28 and the IMF-World Bank annual meeting, it was an important year for strengthening understanding and engagement on climate and environmental justice issues among partners, academia and the wider public in the Arab region. Building on our work in the last few years, FGG continues to amplify Arab voices on issues of green colonialism, and energy and climate justice. FGG presented research and analysis on the (un)just transition in North Africa in webinars²¹; produced a book on ‘Dismantling Green Colonialism: Energy and Climate Justice in the Arab Region’,²² which has been the basis of many lectures, events and workshops across universities and public spaces in Morocco, Tunisia, UK and Germany; (co)organised four workshops at a Youth Climate Camp in Lebanon focused on just transition; and provided financial support to the organisation of the anti-IMF summit on just energy transition in North Africa. As a result of all these efforts key Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese and English media outlets published reviews, articles, op-eds, and interviews on climate justice in the Arab region.²³

Morocco is a key country for investment in green hydrogen and other renewable energy projects for export to Europe, with potentially disastrous impacts on local communities, including threats to their land and water access. Building on previous research, which has helped bringing the perspectives of affected communities into the spotlight at the national level and internationally, in 2023 FGG published ‘Green Hydrogen in Morocco: Just transition or Greenwashing Neocolonialism? The case of Guelmim-Oued Noun’.²⁴ As a result of the report, two Moroccan media outlets published articles examining the implications of green hydrogen projects in Morocco.

Accessibility of climate and biodiversity funding

FGG partners from Kenya, Uganda, and Bangladesh conducted community-level research into the impact of the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD), which is dedicated to supporting climate adaptation projects that benefit vulnerable communities and landscapes. The research revealed that the fund fails to adequately reach, include, and benefit women and vulnerable groups. Based on the research, FGG engaged in an open dialogue with the DFCD and MoFA and provided recommendations to improve the next phase of the fund. As a result, the DFCD consortium indicated they will incorporate several of the findings, especially regarding gender, into the next phase of DFCD.

As part of the global Drynet network, FGG actively contributed to the newly established Women and Gender Caucus at the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a self-organised coalition of women’s networks, organisations and allies that actively participated in the seventh GEF Assembly held in Vancouver, Canada. Advocacy by FGG toward GEF policymakers and council members of EU countries resulted in a request from policymakers for CSO input on how GEF can better implement the newly established Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which it manages.

Global climate and biodiversity policy: holding the line against false solutions and corporate capture

Throughout 2023, the FGG Alliance strengthened civil society movements to speak strongly against carbon markets and other false solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis, and to influence the narrative in the media by shedding light on the negative impacts of carbon markets, offsets, net

zero, etc. FGG partners and members co-developed and launched a 'False solutions training and advocacy toolkit',²⁵ engaged in regional trainings in Europe, Africa and Asia/Pacific, participated in webinars and published fact sheets on so-called Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and soil carbon farming, and issued a joint press release with allies on carbon markets. The fact sheets were launched during the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking (UNFSS) in July 2023 and were used as a resource for various debates, presentations and at the UNFCCC COP28. At the UNFCCC COP28, FGG partners organised press conferences and civil society campaigning actions, and engaged with policymakers, negotiators, and the media to raise awareness and hold the line against false solutions. Our efforts at COP28, which underscored the fact that carbon markets don't work to reduce emissions and have devastating impacts on communities and ecosystems, contributed to preventing a carbon market deal.

Years of campaigning by FGG members and allies also contributed to some positive results at COP28, including agreement to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). FGG engaged closely with the process of the Transitional Committee deciding on the text and provided recommendations to the Dutch representative in the committee. The Dutch government pledged €5 million, additional to existing climate finance and ODA, to the LDF. Moreover, three Dutch political parties included the LDF in their party programme for the 2023 elections. Our decades-long work with partners and allies worldwide also contributed to acknowledgement on the need to transition away from fossil fuels, although meaningful commitments remain lacking. At COP28, FGG engaged with the Dutch delegation and with policymakers and parliamentarians at the Dutch and EU level.²⁶

FGG members and partners also engaged with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes. At the 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, FGG advocated against false corporate-driven solutions by providing input into and co-ordinating a civil society statement on biodiversity and climate change.²⁷ The joint statement was supported by several parties and a number of our key points have been included in the draft resolution that SBSTTA will send to the CBD COP16 in 2024 for discussion and adoption. As part of the CBD Alliance, FGG set up a working group to prevent corporate capture of the CBD, which met six times

in 2023. The working group is developing a joint strategy, including a publication and advocacy plans for CBD COP16.

At the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC-21), FGG made strategic interventions, organised side events and engaged with EU negotiators and the Global Environmental Facility policymakers. This resulted in EU members' requesting input directly from FGG and Drynet on agenda items and papers for the UNCCD, in preparation for the EU position statement, which they shared in the EU group prior to the meeting. The statement included FGG's recommendations on land tenure, land degradation neutrality, gender, and CSO involvement in decision-making. It also resulted in the EU delegation supporting CSOs by ensuring that the omission of a key CSO recommendation from the conference report was corrected and added to final report.

4.3 POLICIES ON TENURE – RESULT AREA C

Many Indigenous and local communities around the world are facing displacement or eviction from their ancestral land or territories due to the impacts of global value chains. FGG partners and members support rights-holders in defending their tenure rights and bringing about policy, institutional and legal reforms to strengthen recognition of these rights, which are essential for securing livelihoods and are a precondition for food security, climate resilience, and empowerment of marginalised groups, women in particular.

Mutual capacity development on tenure rights

In 2023, FGG continued to work with Indigenous communities and Indigenous people's organisations to mutually strength-en capacities to advocate for their ancestral land rights. Activities ranged from supporting them to develop their organisational vision and mission and formulate strategic plans that are anchored on the needs of their communities, to improving their knowledge of their rights as Indigenous Peoples, including Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The communities also strengthened their knowledge of the concept of ancestral domains and lands, Indigenous Political Structures (IPS), and the connection of Indigenous Peoples with nature and natural resources, their systems, and practices to

maintain biological balance, mitigation and adaptation of climate change impacts. FGG also worked with Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) from various municipalities to strengthen their understanding of their roles as their communities' IPS and as mandatory representatives to the government and supported communities to file for government-issued Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).

Among other things, FGG has worked to increase inclusion of women and youth in Indigenous land governance. In 2023, a domain-wide women's formation was finally formed in Southern Bukidnon, Philippines. It was organised to develop and strengthen the voice and movement of women not just at the community/village level, but also to link efforts of women at the ancestral domain-wide level, and further build their constituency. This is a milestone because the Indigenous Political Structure, though male-dominated, now has to include a women's agenda, including recognition of the women's group in the decision-making structure. The women's organisation drafted their organisational vision, mission, and strategic plan, and is in the process for accreditation with a government agency, the Department of Labor and Employment. They have also attended a basic paralegal training for IP women, which focused on their rights as women.

FGG has also supported Indigenous youth by in organisational strengthening, and by organising learning exchanges. In 2023, two ancestral domain-wide youth formations in Northern Mindanao initiated their own local gatherings (nokens) – designing their own agenda to inviting resource persons from government agencies and their elders, and facilitating IP rights learning sessions with their fellow youth from their own communities. The local nokens brought in new young people and helped strengthen their constituency as the second-in-line within their ancestral domains, and reaffirm their capacities to initiate linkages with other stakeholders on their own.

FGG also worked with small-scale fisher (SSF) organisations to strengthen mutual advocacy capacities in light of the ongoing corporate capture of oceans and coastal areas. SSF organisations from Brazil, Sri Lanka, India and South Africa, as part of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), mutually strengthened their capacities in participatory research and skills to lobby and advocate for improved

national policies that protect the rights of SFFs and align with international human rights instruments like the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries. They formed a Participatory Action Research Coalition, which aims to strengthen research and contributions within the WFFP to shape their advocacy positions in line with fishers' needs.

Improved policies and support to communities defending and reclaiming their lands

In 2023, FGG partners and members successfully advocated to protect land rights and to improve land tenure policies and their implementation at local and national levels:

- In Uganda, the Parliament voted to adopt the Land Amendment Bill. The bill includes recommendations put forth by an FGG partner, as part of the Land Actors network. The recommendations focused on better management of the land tenure record systems to address the rampant illegal evictions associated with large scale multinational investments that affect the communities. This happened as a result of sustained advocacy by FGG and the Land Actors network over the past years, including during meetings as part of the yearly Land Awareness Week, to push for better safeguards in community land rights. An FGG partner also co-developed the CSOs proposal paper and presented it before the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development. The Ministry incorporated the proposals in the Land Amendment Bill and the parliament voted in favour.

At the local level in Uganda, an FGG partner supported the Apaa community to fight a planned forced eviction from their land. A group of 63 Apaa people staged a peaceful demonstration at the palace of their tribal king, which drew the President's attention. After talking to the group, the President ordered all evictions of the Apaa people to stop with immediate effect, and gave the group twelve million Ugandan shilling to return home. The Apaa community was supported by an FGG partner who had organised a series of capacity building activities for them, including on community mobilising and organising and to design peaceful actions and campaigns.

In Kiryandongo district, communities have resisted land-grabbing through organisation of a peaceful protest, a petition, and lobbying of MPs and the President.

In response, the President sent a team to the district to do a situational analysis and assess allegations of human rights violations and land grabs committed by multinational corporations investing in plantations in the area and forceful evictions of two communities from the land. The investigation helped in building pressure on the Kiryandongo local government to act on the human rights violations raised by the communities.

- In the Philippines, an Indigenous community in Culion, Palawan successfully prevented a private company from developing their land. The IP community sought legal assistance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office to report illegal activities. They also lobbied the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to counter a resolution issued by the Municipal Mayor of Culion, which denied the existence of Indigenous Peoples in the area. In another case, an Indigenous community from Southern Bukidnon lobbied the NCIP to put a stop to a banana plantation project on their ancestral grounds, which violated their right to FPIC. The NCIP then invited the community leaders to discuss the situation after which the NCIP national office provided the leaders with a certified copy of their delineation map.
- In Indonesia, FGG supported a court intervention case by KPH Jawa, a consortium of CSOs working on the Java Forest which resulted in a positive court decision in support of the Ministry of Environment Policy to reduce the State Forestry Company (PERHUTANI) and accelerate the Social Forestry and Agrarian Reform for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. As a result, in 2023, the president issued 1,541 Social Forestry and 107 Agrarian Reform tenure certificates to ensure the tenure security of IPLCs, primarily from Java Island and former PERHUTANI areas. In Southwest Papua, a district regulation recognising IP rights was approved by the district parliament of Maybrat. The district regulation included the indicative maps of four sub-tribes. This is the result of workshops, field visits and a hearing in a participatory manner of the local government and Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous communities carried out the mapping of their customary territories and submitted a draft regional regulation in 2022. In West Papua Province, a district regulation recognising IP rights of five sub-tribes and the list of their clans was approved and legalised by the District Parliament of Manokwari. This is the result of the facilitation of an FGG partner who facilitated the drafting of regional regulations composed of academic manuscripts for the recognition of indigenous people rights at the provincial level.

- In Brazil, communities from Port Suape succeeded in blocking a proposal for commercialisation of a local park which would have had a harmful impact on the environment, livelihoods and human rights of the communities. The park is an important recreation area which also hosts several fruit trees which serves as additional livelihood supplement especially to the women of the communities. FGG partners organised workshops and meetings for women community leaders in order to strengthen their knowledge of their land rights, expand their networks and deepen the local and national movements. After a broad mobilisation of the to be affected communities and a joint public campaign against the commercialisation proposal, the Public Prosecutor's Office called a meeting to hear the communities' grievances, which resulted in in the Port of Suape cancelling the plan. FGG supported the communities through joint strategising and financial support.
- Communities in Manila Bay, supported by FGG, made their voices heard in the Netherlands. In February, the Dutch documentary series Frontline aired an episode about human rights abuses surrounding the New Manila Bay airport project, with a particular focus on the responsibility and complicity of the Dutch dredging company Boskalis. The episode included interviews with FGG partners who have advocated and lobbied against the project. The documentary aired on prime time in the Netherlands and Belgium and increased public and political awareness of the project and the adverse impacts of the dredging sector more generally. FGG played a role in shaping the content of the documentary, which was inspired by an FGG op-ed about the project.

Advocacy for land tenure rights at international spaces

At the International Forum on Peasants' Rights in Ukraine, Ukrainian policymakers discussed the FGG report on Ukrainian agriculture²⁸ which discusses the dangers for small-scale farmers of lifting the long-standing moratorium on the sale of agricultural land, and the impact of the war. It also includes post-war recommendations around land policy and reconstruction, taking into consideration that any change should be based on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Sovereignty. The recommendations and proposals discussed during the

Forum fed into the text of the Forum's resolution, which was approved by all 136 participants, including the policymakers present.

4.4 PUBLIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – RESULT AREA D

International/development finance institutions (IFIs/DFIs) and export credit agencies (ECAs) are among the major actors shaping the global architecture of trade and value chains, investing public money in huge projects that impact communities in the Global South. In 2023, FGG continued to advocate for strong human rights and environmental standards as a precondition for receiving both direct and indirect public financial support, divestment from those that do not meet such standards (such as fossil fuel projects), and access to remedy to communities adversely affected.

Toward fossil-free Export Credit Agencies

With support from FGG and in collaboration with six women-led organisations, four African FGG partners raised awareness about the impacts of fossil fuel projects and advocated for ending ECA support of fossil fuel projects. They succeeded in publishing twelve opinion articles in newspapers, with a focus on the gendered impacts of fossil fuels and a call for a halt to expansion of oil and gas activities. The articles significantly contributed to the mounting pressure on Afreximbank to reconsider its support for oil and gas projects in Uganda and Africa.

In the Netherlands, Parliament passed a resolution calling on the Cabinet to inform it of the results of a reassessment of the Dutch ECA's export credit insurance (ECI) for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Mozambique and consult it in the decision-making process on whether to continue with the ECI support. FGG partners in Mozambique coordinated a local CSO platform working on the issue, mobilised affected farming and fisher communities, and advocated through letters towards the Dutch government and Total Energies to warn them about the impact of the Mozambique LNG project on local communities and the environment. FGG members supported them by publishing research and organising a joint lobby tour within the EU and the Netherlands, raising awareness of the disastrous impact of the project and the role of Total Energies and the Netherlands.

Through advocacy at EU level, media attention, network-building and co-ordination of the ECA-Watch network, FGG also contributed to several results to improve policies of Export Credit Agencies. As of 2023, the Dutch government no longer accepts any applications for export credit support for new oil and gas projects in accordance with the Glasgow statement; Norway and Australia joined The Clean Energy Transition Partnership at COP28; and the European Commission proposed an end to ECA support for oil and gas projects at the OECD meeting in 2023.

Commitments in negotiations with development banks

In 2023, FGG partners and member continued advocacy work aimed at development banks, urging them to stop investment in harmful projects, consider gender in their policies and practices, and provide compensation to adversely affected communities:

- In Senegal, an FGG partner supported the communities of Sébikotane and Malicounda, who have been affected by the thermal power plant financed by the AfDB. As a result of a 15-month mediation process, the partner obtained an agreement with the bank client in which the Malicounda stakeholders completed cash compensation and livelihood restoration projects. In relation to another project, the TER railroad (phase 1 and 2), the partner managed to receive a commitment from board members of the Bank to veto the financing of phase 2 of the project if those impacted by the first phase are not compensated and rehoused.
- In Panama, FGG has for years supported a grassroots movement defending the rights of the Ngöbe-Buglé Indigenous people impacted by the Barro Blanco hydropower dam, which has been financed by the Dutch and German development banks, FMO and DEG. In 2023, FMO and DEG committed to implement a programme to mitigate impacts of project. FGG supported a complaint filed to the banks' International Complaint Mechanism, which recommended the banks undertake mitigation actions. This led to a dialogue/negotiation between FMO and DEG and project-affected Indigenous people. During this process, which is expected to lead to the signing of a formal agreement in 2024, FGG provided advice to representatives of the project affected communities.

- In Malawi, FGG is supporting communities experiencing adverse impacts, including loss of livelihoods and gender-based violence, in relation to the Salima Solar project, funded by FMO, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and JCM company. Following several incidents of gender-based violence on the part of workers of JCM, FGG raised the issue with local authorities and JCM, which did not have a gender or gender-based violence prevention policy. This resulted in the establishment of a regular roundtable to address the gender-based violence, which includes local CSOs, local government, and the company and seek solutions for the victims, as well as implementation of a prevention policy.

4.5 RULES FOR BUSINESS AND CORPORATE CONDUCT, CROSS-SECTORAL – RESULT AREAS D & E

FGG partners and members continued to call for strong, binding regulation – in general and in specific sectors – that requires companies to take responsibility for upholding human rights, labour rights and environmental standards throughout their value chains, and to provide remedy to affected workers/communities in cases of corporate misconduct. At the same time, regardless of regulatory gaps, companies must act responsibly and ensure their business activities respect human rights and sustainability standards. In our advocacy, FGG emphasises the need for regulation to integrate a gender perspective.

Progress toward strengthened rules for business in Latin America

- In Brazil, the draft Human Rights and Business Framework Bill received political support from important (national and regional) political actors throughout 2023. The biggest support came from Minister Silvio Almeida (Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship) who publicly declared the ‘Human Rights and Business’ agenda a priority issue. He reported that within the Ministry, initiatives are being mapped that take into account international and national experiences, providing the basis for more accurate action to safeguard human rights. He also announced that a working group will be created with several ministries to establish the inclusion of the theme in the National Human Rights Policy. He announced that he will hold an ‘inter-

ministerial collective’, with broad participation from civil society (affected people, workers, companies). This shift in the Ministry’s stance, prioritising binding regulation over a voluntary approach, signifies an important change. The Framework Bill, which reflects FGG’s recommendations on corporate accountability, serves as an example for other regions. With strategic and communications support from FGG members, local partners advocated for this legislative initiative by organising and participating in various seminars and individual meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- In Argentina, two national deputies presented a draft law to the National Congress on the regulation of Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and in support of the UN Binding Treaty, and put the Binding Treaty on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations in the international policies plan of their political party. FGG partners, with technical support from FGG members, advocated for this through campaigns and by developing communications materials, following the example of FGG partners in Brazil.
- In Guatemala, FGG partners advocated for women’s and Indigenous rights, particularly in relation to mining and palm oil. As a result, a Member of Parliament echoed FGG messages in several important gatherings and meetings, including the UN Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights negotiations and side events in Geneva. At the national level, the MP initiated a working meeting with key actors responsible for Business and Human Rights (BHR) in Guatemala to gain clarity on Guatemala’s position on the matter and gave room to an FGG partner to participate in a meeting with the Decentralization and Development Commission of the Congress of the Republic to advocate for feminist approaches on BHR in Guatemala. This is a significant development, because prior to the elections in 2023, it was impossible to have a conversation about BHR, let alone about (inter)national rules and regulations.

EU rules for business

In December, after six months of triologue negotiations between the European Parliament, Council and Commission, the EU reached a political agreement on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. In April 2024, as this report was being written, the Directive was adopted. While the agreement falls short on a number of key issues,

it is nonetheless an important breakthrough in corporate accountability, the result of decades of work by FGG and allies. In 2023, FGG worked with multiple CSO coalitions, lobbying for strong provisions on climate, climate due diligence and access to justice aggrieved workers, among other issues. Efforts included meetings with the European Commission, with MEPs and with member states, bringing case studies²⁹ and the voice of Southern groups into the debate, and developing concrete suggestions for amendments. Through the ‘Justice is Everybody’s Business’³⁰ campaign we disseminated a digital email petition calling EU citizens to put pressure on their relevant Ministers and other decision-makers to demand strong legislation on due diligence and we developed dedicated communication material, public statements and did media outreach. As a result of this work, the CSDDD agreement included a climate plan article which introduces a duty for companies to adopt and put into effect a climate transition plan in line with the 1.5 degrees targets, with emission reduction goals based on 5-year increments until 2050. Moreover, workers will be able to hold companies liable before EU courts if they are harmed through the companies’ operations. Aggrieved workers will be able to sue companies under the new civil liability regime when they are subject to harm as a result of a due diligence failure, opening new avenues for justice for those affected.

Another important success was achieved with approval in committee of EU legislation to ban forced labour, which now includes: proof or remediation for workers as a condition for lifting a product ban; a reversal of the burden of proof system whereby companies would need to prove the absence of forced labour in cases concerning areas and sectors identified by the EU commission as high risk of ‘state-imposed forced labour’; and a centralised complaint mechanism to facilitate action by victims. In 2023, FGG, as part of a broad civil society coalition, actively lobbied EU lawmakers for inclusion of essential elements to make the proposed regulation efficient, implementable and above all, impactful to address forced labour meaningfully.

In the Netherlands, FGG contributed to increased political support for stronger rules for business to ensure that Dutch and EU corporations do not harm human rights and the environment in their supply chains. Our analysis, as well as the analysis of the Dutch National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD Guidelines, which was written at the request of the

Dutch Parliament at FGG’s urging, contributed to the Dutch government’s support within the EU Council for CSDDD alignment with the OECD guidelines.

New governments support a feminist UN Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights

FGG continued to strengthen the movement for a UN Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights via global networks, including the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power (hereafter Global Campaign) and Feminists for a Binding Treaty Network. FGG provided strategic support for UN Binding Treaty advocacy, including organising webinars with allies, developing collective positions, coordination, oral statements, as well as the development of audio-visual materials to use in awareness-raising.

During the 9th session of the Chair of the UN’s Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) in October, FGG, as part of the Global Campaign, held individual meetings with State decision-makers emphasising the importance of the Global Campaign’s procedural and substantive proposals for a comprehensive and impactful Binding Treaty, as described in our new publication, ‘Frontiers of an Effective Binding Treaty’.³¹ In preparation for the OEIGWG, the Global Campaign organised more than 70 calls throughout the year and jointly analysed the Treaty texts and position papers. Our work resulted in prevention of proposed changes to the draft that would have reduced protections for rights-holders and affirmation of the importance of continuing negotiations. In addition, states agreed on the importance of finding new financial resources to advance the negotiations, including through transparent inter-sessional consultations where all states democratically discuss and agree on how to continue the work on the elaboration of the Treaty.

Other FGG advocacy work, in collaboration with the Global Inter-parliamentary Network supporting the Treaty, targeted new progressive governments in Latin-America. We organised a strategy meeting with the Latin American Task Force working on the Binding Treaty and the Global Campaign to develop a strategy in the context of new progressive governments in Latin America. FGG partners from ten countries in Latin America and the Caribbean advocated toward their national governments. Through the

development of short videos and a joint workshop in Brazil, FGG partners mutually strengthened their capacities to advocate for a UN Binding Treaty. A Latin American FGG partner presented information and updates to the Brazilian government and parliamentarians on the UN Binding Treaty. These advocacy efforts contributed to the governments of Colombia, Honduras and Brazil expressing their support for the UN Binding Treaty at the 9th session of the OEIGWG in Geneva – a major achievement.

Update on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct

The updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct, released in June, represent a major win for civil society and a major result of FGG work. The updated Guidelines improve standards or access to remedy on all of the 13 overarching topics, and many sub-topics, raised by FGG as part of the OECD Watch network. The new guidelines include explicit recognition of an intersectional approach including gender and human rights due diligence and reference to land rights including the VGGTs. The revised version also includes greatly improved climate provisions, which now stipulate that companies must implement transition plans in line with the 1.5 degrees of the Paris Agreement, including short, medium and long-term goals. In addition, the risks of damage to biodiversity, deforestation, pollution and the importance of a just energy transition have also been added to what will be expected from companies. Lastly, attention will need to be paid to the rights of Indigenous peoples - including FPIC - and to marginalised groups, intersectionality and human rights defenders. FGG members contributed to this result by participating in public consultations and engaging with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambitious OECD guidelines can have a global impact since they will set a standard for the current and future European and Dutch policy processes regarding corporate sustainable due diligence legislation.

Defending multilateralism in UN decision-making spaces

FGG Alliance members and partners are working to defend inclusive multilateralism in UN spaces. In the last few years, we have revealed how corporate-driven multistakeholderism, which gives corporations a role in global decision-making, adversely affects global governance and eclipses the power

of countries in the Global South. In 2023, we continued our advocacy to prevent corporate capture of decision-making spaces:

- **UN Food Systems Summit:** As part of the People's Working Group on Multistakeholderism (PWGM), FGG co-published a new report: 'Multistakeholderism and the Corporate Capture of Global Food Governance. What is at risk in 2023?'³² The report was used to inform hundreds of civil society organisations in the global campaign against the UN Food Systems Summit about the latest developments in the corporate capture of global food governance spaces, and to inform discussions on the strategy needed to combat it. We shared our analysis in meetings with government representatives from seven LLMIC countries, as well as at a public forum and a report launch. A panel discussion on how multistakeholderism is a threat to multilateral governance and the participation and interests of developing countries was attended by 40 people, including representatives from governments and civil society organisations.
- **UN Summit of the Future:** References to multistakeholderism in the proposed agenda were removed due to opposition by G77 governments and civil society – a result of awareness-raising and advocacy of FGG and allies. The Summit, which is tasked with adopting an action-oriented Pact for the Future and is likely to address governance of the global commons (oceans, atmosphere, outer space, Antarctica and the sea bed), will now be a multilateral space. FGG organised bilateral meetings with delegates to the UN from Argentina, Brazil, Namibia, and Bolivia to discuss the threat of a shift from multilateralism to multistakeholderism for Southern countries and supported the capacity of the People's Working Group on Multistakeholderism, co-organising a two-day online workshop with civil society representatives and states active in the process towards a UN Summit of the Future. In September, a new report, 'Multistakeholderism: Is it good for developing countries?'³³ provided the basis for presentations at a public forum in New York, co-organised FGG, on Multistakeholderism and the UN 2.0 Challenges and Alternatives for Developing Countries.³⁴ Delegates to the UN from Pakistan, Cuba and South Africa attended.

4.6 RULES FOR BUSINESS AND CORPORATE CONDUCT, EXTRACTIVES SECTOR – RESULT AREAS D & E

As part of our broader work to ensure respect for human rights, women's rights and environmental sustainability in the context of global trade and value chains, FGG partners and members advocate for strong regulation of the extractives sector, as well as an end to unsustainable and harmful extraction and trade, such as fossil fuels. FGG works to secure access to justice and remedy for communities whose rights have been violated.

Steps towards regulation at national and EU level

- In Zimbabwe, the government launched and convened the Responsible Mining Audit in May 2023. This was the result of widespread calls for greater corporate transparency and respect for national laws governing the extractive industry from civil society, including FGG partners and mining-affected communities. FGG partners have been campaigning for years for responsible mining and pushing for participation of all stakeholders, especially mining communities, in the responsible mining auditing processes. The audit results are yet to be published, but the responsible mining audit report was presented to the 10th Parliament of Zimbabwe in November 2023. The Responsible Mining Audit seeks to establish if mining companies were complying with requirements relating to the submission of production returns as required by law, and to establish a framework that fosters responsible mining practices while guaranteeing the well-being of the communities and environments where mining activities are taking place. FGG partners will advocate for incorporating a gender lens to assess gender differentiated impacts and gender justice into the audit process.
- In Kishushe, Taita Taveta, Kenya, a mining company awarded a local Community Development Agreement Committee (CDAC) €63.802 as proceeds from the mining of iron ore in the area, in line with the Kenyan Mining Act 2016. CDACs are structures established to manage community royalties from mining, as a way of ensuring that communities affected by mining also benefit from the mineral's extraction. The Mining Act stipulates that host communities should receive 5% of the net revenue collected, however implementation is lacking. The payment

to the CDAC is a result of campaigns and a meeting between the mining communities and the state, supported by two FGG partners from Kenya. These FGG partners advocate for justice in natural resource governance and for communities to have a share of revenues generated from resources in their lands.

- In Colombia, the Senate approved a bill to ban fracking, a huge step forward towards a potential ban on fracking. A Colombian FGG partner, as co-coordinator of the 'Colombia Free of Fracking Alliance', played a significant role in this outcome by mobilising civil society organisations, organising campaigning actions, engaging media to influence public opinion, engaging with government officials to discuss the bill, and submitting bills to ensure fracking remained on the political agenda.
- In the Netherlands, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate adopted FGG's recommendation from 'Human Rights in Wind Turbine Supply chains' report³⁵ to include human rights safeguards in its tenders for wind energy. FGG published several research reports, including case studies from Zambia and DRC, and attended meetings with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. The Ministry also invited FGG to provide input for the design of the implementation plan of this tender process. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs also committed to further develop an extractives strategy to consult affected women and communities and reached out to FGG for support on this.
- At the EU level, FGG's recommendations in several key areas were included in the Critical Raw Materials Act, which was adopted by the European Parliament in December 2023. This was a result of multiple advocacy meetings and communication with policymakers, including dissemination of a position paper³⁶ on the draft Critical Raw Materials Regulation in May 2023, which included ten key concerns and recommendations related to the European Commission's Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.

Network building and mutual capacity development on transition minerals and a just energy transition

With the growing importance and interest in the need for a transition away from fossil fuels, accessing critical raw materials necessary to undertake this transition have become

a major priority for governments and corporations, including in Europe. Attempts to secure access to these minerals have entered into trade negotiations and given renewed importance for mining companies. In 2023, FGG continued to strengthen the movement for a just energy transition by establishing new networks and investing in mutual capacity development activities at the regional and global levels. Highlights include:

- In Buenos Aires, Argentina, FGG co-organised a major continental conference³⁷ on the global governance of the energy transition, attended by more than 120 activists, representatives of communities affected by fracking and lithium extraction, and academics. The conference examined issues related to trade and investment, and energy transition, and build a bridge between scholars, activists, CSOs, unions, and affected communities to strengthen relationships between academics and civil society.
- FGG co-organised the second global Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractivism³⁸ in Semarang, Indonesia. During the forum, FGG co-organised several workshops with partners, including exploring the possibility of a global campaign on transition minerals, bridging the divide between labour movements and affected communities around mining and extractivism, and looking at the relationship between trade chapters, raw materials, and national development.
- At a session organised at the WTO Public Forum, FGG spoke about the Indonesian experience in relation to a just energy transition, and how the process of sourcing critical raw minerals must not contribute to worker exploitation and environmental degradation in the communities where these minerals are located. The purpose of the session was to share lessons and perspectives from the Global South to highlight proposals to contribute to the current debate at the level of the WTO.

In September, we co-launched the CSO Coalition on Raw Materials, which includes over 40 civil society organisations (CSOs) from the EU and beyond. Ahead of the IEA Raw Materials Conference on 28 September in Paris, the newly formed coalition underscored the critical need for more inclusive discussions on sustainable raw material policies, advocating for a stronger representation of civil societies in global forums that dictate the future of raw materials. The coalition also called on MEPs to support the voting recommendations.

Divestment from fossil fuels and fossil-free politics

FGG partners in the Niger Delta strengthened their capacity to advocate for responsible divestment through joint research with an FGG member on key elements of oil industry divestment. The partners subsequently developed a joint set of 'National Principles on Responsible Divestment in the Oil industry', a tool for joint lobbying of the government. Advocacy and media attention led to a response by the government that it would look into the principles.³⁹ FGG also continued to strengthen capacities of partners on how to work on climate litigation. FGG developed the 'Climate Case Tool'⁴⁰ which will be freely accessible for legal practitioners, climate activists, academics and everyone interested in climate litigation.

In the Netherlands, an important step was taken toward phasing out fossil fuel subsidies when parliament passed a resolution calling for development of phase-out scenarios (expected in February 2024). Furthermore, at COP28, Minister Jetten launched an international coalition to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, calling on other countries to be transparent on the amount of fossil fuel subsidies, and to address international barriers to phase out fossil fuel subsidies together and to implement national action.⁴¹ Phasing out Dutch fossil fuel subsidies, while reinvesting the saved expenses in renewable energy and energy efficiency, social protection measures and increased international climate finance for countries in the Global South, could reduce Dutch emissions between 13.1 percent and 19.8 per cent by 2030, which would greatly help to get the Netherlands on track to meet its 2030 climate goals. FGG members contributed to this result by co-publishing research⁴² on Dutch fossil fuel subsidies.

At the EU level, through the Fossil Free Politics Campaign, FGG advocated to restrict fossil fuel companies from influencing climate policies. In March, we submitted a petition to the European Parliament to investigate the role of these companies in the energy crisis and EU dependency on Russian oil and gas. In October, the petition committee of the EP agreed to organise a hearing in 2024. It will be the first time that the role of fossil fuel companies in these issues will be investigated in the EP.

Agricultural extractivism

In Uganda, the Kiryandongo (Western Uganda) local government implemented FGG recommendations to adopt strict regulations to curb corporate misconduct by several transnational agribusiness companies, which has included violent evictions of communities and destruction of houses and other property, leading to injuries and death. FGG partners published a report on the issue, campaigned against the injustice, supported the affected communities to speak out, and organised various engagements with the local government. As a result, the local government started profiling the area's investors and agribusiness corporations, monitoring their investment plans and requiring them to hold quarterly engagement meetings to ensure respect and protection of the human rights of the communities, put in place community benefit sharing mechanisms, and adopt Corporate Social Responsibility measures to respond to the needs of the communities. In follow up, the local labour officer and community development officers visited two multinational agribusiness companies in the area and conducted mediations to resolve land conflicts between the corporations and the community. The district Chief Administration Officer followed up with the Ministry of Finance to ensure compensation for the Nubian and Kibyama people, who were evicted from their land by the companies.

FGG also continued to promote sustainable production, amplify the voice of smallholders, and hold corporate and downstream actors to account in the palm oil supply chain. An FGG partner co-hosted a preparatory CSO strategy meeting in Jakarta prior to the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Round Table meeting in Jakarta. The CSO meeting created space for local community and worker representatives to voice concerns and priorities for the RSPO General Assembly and others. In addition, an FGG partner contributed to a process by RSPO and RSPO members, CSOs included, to develop and pilot a so called 'jurisdiction approach' to promote and check sustainable palm oil production.⁴³ Through participation in the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Board of Governors and work with the RSPO Secretariat and CSO counterparts, FGG contributed to securing a second phase approval for the RSPO Outreach Programme to Intermediary Organisations (CSOs, indigenous CBOs, unions, small holder organisations, women groups). The programme earmarks USD \$5 million for capacity development of Southern CSOs to effectively

engage with RSPO and its mechanisms to partake in decision-making and hold RSPO member companies accountable, e.g. by submitting complaints to through RSPO Complaints Panel.

Moreover, as a result of efforts by an FGG partner, the RSPO Secretariat and the RSPO Complaints Panel endorsed a pilot around a Sabah-based Conflict Prevention Panel to resolve land and labour disputes between companies and respectively communities and workers, in a localised, non-bureaucratic manner. The Conflict Prevention Platform pilot offers a concrete opportunity to test case a way of resolving conflicts, in direct dialogue between companies, affected communities and workers, at field level. An FGG partner, through involvement in the RSPO Task Force negotiating the RSPO Principles and Criteria, also helped prevent a watering down of FPIC. An FGG partner is member of the RSPO Steering Group, overseeing the review and overhaul of the RSPO Complaints and Appeals Procedure (CAP).⁴⁴

4.7 RULES FOR BUSINESS AND CORPORATE CONDUCT, GARMENT SECTOR – RESULT AREAS D & E

Labour rights violations, unsafe working conditions, wage theft and poverty wages are just a few examples of corporate misconduct faced by millions of – mostly women – workers in the garments sector. In 2023, FGG partners and members continued to advocate towards garment brands and retailers to respect labour rights, and toward governments to regulate the sector and safeguard workers' rights.

International Accord on Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry

After months of negotiations, a new International Accord on Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry was agreed in November, with an FGG member as Witness Signatory. FGG was on the forefront of efforts to extend and expand the Accord, which included public advocacy, research, tracking of safety incidents and campaigning towards garment brands. The new Accord builds on the example of three previous Accord agreements, the first of which went into force shortly after the deadly Rana Plaza collapse of April 2013. The 2023 Accord will run for three years, with an automatic extension of three more years, and will expand its important work to more countries where

workers continue to work in unsafe factories. Currently, the Accord has country programmes in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and signatories of the International Accord have to sign at least one of these country programmes. By December 31st, a total of 101 global brands and retailers had already signed the renewed International Accord, 89 had signed the Bangladesh Safety Agreement and 93 had signed the Pakistan Accord.

Campaign for severance pay and against wage theft

As part the ongoing global PayYourWorkers-RespectLabourRights campaign, FGG advocates for a Severance Guarantee Fund and supports workers in securing their legally mandated severance pay and any wages legally owed to them, as well as protection of their right to organise. The campaign links to specific ‘urgent appeal’ campaigns involving urgent cases of wage and/or severance theft and union-busting at the factory-level. In 2023 successes were achieved in the following cases as a result of campaigning and advocacy by FGG and allies:

- **Cambodia:** In February, Adidas supplier Trax Apparel provided full back pay and rehire opportunities to eight union leaders and activists fired nearly three years earlier. The campaigning began after Trax Apparel suspended, then terminated, 368 workers, including the leaders of a newly formed independent union, citing a need to downsize in June 2020. By December 2020, management had offered to rehire most of the workers affected by the downsizing, but had refused to rehire any of the union leaders and activists and had continued to engage in union-busting activities.
- **Pou Chen, Myanmar:** After engagement with and pressure on Adidas, Adidas ensured the reinstatement of 13 worker leaders who were fired after a strike demanding improved working conditions and a wage increase. Additionally, the 13 other workers who were fired and who did not wish to return to the factory received severance.
- **Guatemala:** In February, JNB Global, a Target supplier, provided all legally owed severance and back pay (\$55,000) to seven workers who were unlawfully fired in February 2021 and restored severance and seniority rights for its entire workforce of 400 employees—benefits which the management had stripped them of during the pandemic.

Awareness raising in the Netherlands and other EU countries about the garment sector

The exhibition ‘Handmade’, which targeted particularly a younger audience, took place in three Dutch cities in 2023 and attracted 1,100 visitors. Through interactive elements and video stories of young garment workers around the world, it offered insights into the garment production process, working conditions and the lives of the workers. Visitors were introduced to the fight for living wages as well as issues of safety, gender and freedom of association. The exhibition drew attention to the European Citizen Initiative (ECI) ‘Good Clothes, Fair Pay’ petition, which calls for EU living wage legislation for garment workers worldwide. The legislative proposal would oblige any company selling products in the EU to do their part in ensuring that the workers in their supply chains are paid fairly. FGG played a key part in the ECI campaign, which collected over 240,000 signatures in the EU. Although the campaign did not reach the necessary one million signatures which would lead to discussion of the law proposal at EU Commission level, the campaign resulted in a hearing on the topic in the European Parliament.

4.8 RULES FOR BUSINESS AND CORPORATE CONDUCT, TECH SECTOR – RESULT AREAS D & E

FGG is addressing the need to strengthen knowledge and understanding among CSOs worldwide to recognise intersections with between the digital economy and their domains of work, and to advocate effectively on issues such as regulating Big Tech, data privacy and ownership, and Artificial Intelligence governance. As Big Tech’s excesses and the impacts of digitalisation on global value chains becomes increasingly visible, governments have begun to take note and proceed on much needed regulatory measures for the tech sector. FGG advocates for strong laws to effectively counter corporate power and malfeasance, and to ensure respect for human rights – including the rights of the rights of workers, producers, small traders, farmers and users – and environmental sustainability in the digital economy.

Knowledge and capacity development on tech issues

In 2023, as part of our broader efforts to strengthen capacities of civil society actors on diverse tech issues, FGG organised a residential institute for emerging civil society leaders. The Institute, entitled ‘Frames and Frontiers for a New Digitality’, contributed to stronger Southern leadership on digital issues and fostered South-South alliances and solidarity-building.⁴⁵ The 27 participants from 14 countries across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa expanded their learning and capacities to engage with digital issues, acquiring the necessary vocabulary and tools to appropriately frame and approach emerging digital intersections with their work, as well as develop strategies for effective political organisation. The Institute featured an intense week-long programme of sessions and activities designed to provide participants with the necessary vocabulary and tools to appropriately frame and approach emerging digital intersections with their work, as well as develop strategies for effective political organisation.

Advocacy around the Global Digital Compact

FGG continued to advocate for the inclusion of Southern voices in the Global Digital Compact process. In 2023:

- FGG worked with diverse stakeholders – civil society, the digital rights community, multilateral agencies and governments – in pushing for and mainstreaming a progressive, pro-Global South agenda for the ongoing Global Digital Compact process, a critical milestone in international digital cooperation that will be adopted as part of the UN Summit of the Future in 2024. We brought key civil society networks and partners onto a common platform – the Global Digital Justice Forum – to influence this important process.⁴⁶ Through several months of dialogue, deliberation, and consultation with several communities in the Global South, we co-constructed submissions for the UN’s open consultation and deep dive sessions.
- At the UN Internet Governance Forum, an FGG member co-organised a pre-event on ‘A Global Compact for Digital Justice: Southern Perspectives’. The event critically examined the Compact’s potential to address global governance gaps in digital cooperation and brought influential actors to the table to discuss the agenda including the co-chairs of the Global Digital Compact

process, the UN Tech envoy, representatives of the governments from Rwanda and Germany and multilateral agencies including the UNCTAD and UNESCO.⁴⁷

- FGG supported the Diplo Foundation’s training sessions tailored for representatives of UN Permanent Missions in New York, which focused on the Global Digital Compact and digital governance. FGG developed training material, authored a policy brief and served as a resource for the sessions.
- We also addressed the concerning absence of the Global South’s voice in recent Global Digital Compact consultations and emphasised the critical issue of corporate influence shaping these discussions at a virtual event where representatives of G-77 countries were present.

Feminist digital justice at CSW

Important advocacy work was also done to advance feminist digital justice. FGG co-lead a process to evolve a feminist charter of demands from the Global South through consultations with nearly 100 feminist academics, scholar-practitioners, activists, civil society representatives, and trade unionists.⁴⁸ The Declaration of Feminist Digital Justice was developed by an FGG member in collaboration with a global working group of 36 feminist scholar-practitioners from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa after a year-long dialogue process and deliberations on a gender-just digital future that rejects digital capitalism and colonialism.

The Declaration of Feminist Digital Justice was launched during the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). FGG also contributed to the draft text of the CSW Outcome Document focused on building alternate visions of new feminist institutional structures and rejecting the outdated idea of techno-solutionism. Through our participation in the Women’s Rights Caucus meetings and leveraging our existing networks with feminists in the Global South, we were able to share our perspectives on gender-inclusive public digital innovation and penalisation of corporate impunity for women’s human rights violations in the digital age with the delegations of Argentina, South Africa, and many European countries.

Positive action in India and the EU

With respect to workers' rights in the digital economy, a key result was achieved in India in 2023, when the Government of Rajasthan passed a Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill. This landmark legislation, which creates fund for guaranteeing social security benefits to platform-based gig workers, will help bridge the gap with regard to protections for gig workers. FGG contributed to the consultation process around the bill, by putting forward our vision for decent work at platform-negotiated workplaces, including a taxation levy and a participatory board that has worker participation.

As part of our overarching work to tackle the global dominance of Big Tech, FGG continued to monitor digital mergers and advocate against problematic mergers. In 2023, FGG helped set up the Digital Mergers Monitoring Project, which will create the infrastructure for CSOs to better engage in merger reviews, exchange information, monitor deals updates and coordinate advocacy for policy change. In the EU, FGG, together with allies, advocated and campaigned around Amazon's acquisition of iRobot. We submitted our concerns to the European Commission's competition department and asked for this acquisition to be thoroughly scrutinised and, ultimately, prohibited. Our concerns were picked up by several media outlets. Following our engagement with the EU Commission and an in-depth Phase II Investigation, the EU Commission decided the deal would lead to anti-competitive effects and should be blocked. As a result, Amazon and iRobot cancelled their merger agreement. This is an important victory for the nascent group of CSOs engaging with merger reviews.

4.9 FAIR AND GREEN SYSTEMS: AGROECOLOGY – RESULT AREA F

The FGG Alliance aims to expand policy space and financial support for fair and green systems, approaches and practices. One key example is agroecology, a model of food production grounded in social and environmental justice which is based on food producers' knowledge of local ecosystems. FGG supports agroecology-based entrepreneurship among women and youth from IP communities, as well as positive policy changes at all levels.

Promoting support for agroecology at community, national and regional levels

- In the Philippines, Indigenous representatives from eight communities attended an intensive course on Agroecology and Culture (AgroEcCu), creating a pool of trainers and a coordination body for agroecology practitioners who help mentor other community members to transition to agroecology. The trainers have thus far assisted in the orientation and preparation of farm plans of a women-led IPO from one of their own communities and participated in a co-learning visit to an organic irrigated rice farm in Quezon, Bukidnon to learn about organic rice production. In Bukidnon, FGG partners gained skills in agroecology practices and the production of Indigenous rice varieties based on Indigenous knowledge systems, which resulted in the conservation of 14 Indigenous heirloom rice varieties. Another partner learned about agroecology practices, including farm planning and resource mapping, and in response to emphasising the value of Indigenous knowledge systems and practices in agroecology, the community established a ½ hectare Agroecology and Culture community learning farm, and a women's group from the community piloted a community-based social enterprise initiative linked to the farm. In Calamianes, a women-led IPO received support on organisational development, project concept development and enterprise planning, which in turn helped them formulate the vision, mission, values and objectives of their social enterprise.
- In West Java, Indonesia, where the majority of the local peasants are elderly, an FGG partner trained youth in reforestation, agroecology and entrepreneurship. Youth aged 17-30 were trained in agroecological practices to transform an existing monoculture horticulture farm into an organic coffee agroforest. They also learned how to process coffee with the intention of creating a high-quality coffee product (Farm to Cup). The green beans were sold to a cooperative and the processed coffee was sold through e-commerce platforms. The training has subsequently been expanded to children and women's groups. In Tanah Papua, the Namblong tribe established an Indigenous community-owned business enterprise (BUMMA). After ensuring that their land was mapped and tenurial rights were clear, and assessing the potential commodities and environmental services of the area, the community developed a business plan, and discussed it in their Customary Assembly.

- In Cambodia, an FGG partner strengthened the capacities of Indigenous groups from 10 different villages. The groups learned the importance of diversification of farming practices that can improve farmers livelihoods, and build networks with other communities. They also learned the importance of having agricultural development in claiming and protecting their land, multi-farming for food sovereignty and seed exchanging with other communities.
- In Bangladesh, the Youth Paani Committee (water committee) successfully advocated towards local authorities to support their agroecological practices. After gaining knowledge through regular exchanges with local farmers groups, including women farmers engaged in native seeds exchange and bringing this knowledge to regular meetings with local government policymakers, the Youth Paani Committee requested policy and financial support for agroecology and tidal river management from their local governments. As a result, the local agriculture office provided new salt-tolerant and climate-tolerant crop seeds, fertilisers and saplings to 70 farmers, including 20 youth farmers, improving their economic situation considerably. Furthermore, the youth farmers have been registered as a farmer group and are working with the agricultural department to support small and marginal farmers with sustainable climate-tolerant and salt-tolerant farming practices. FGG contributed through financial support, as well as joint strategising on how direct support for agroecology can be combined with lobbying and advocacy.
- In Kenya, an FGG partner from Vihiga county has long been advocating for agroecology at the county level, including participating in a learning visit with Vihiga county officials to Muranga County, which enacted an agroecology policy in 2022. Vihiga county has since started formulation of their own agroecology policy. At the national level, ten FGG partners participated in various stakeholder consultation meetings as part of a Technical Review of the National Agroecology Strategy initiated by the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture. The partners views on agroecology were taken into account in the new (fourth) draft of the National Agroecology Strategy, which is expected to be formalised into official policy in 2024. At the regional level, an FGG partner filed a legal case on in the East African Court of Justice against Kenya's decision to lift the ban on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), which threatens agroecology and small-scale farmers. FGG supported the partner through knowledge sharing and support for

mobilisation of civil society on agroecology and GMOs, as well as support for a social media awareness raising campaign. The case got extensive media coverage.⁴⁹

Strengthening the global food sovereignty movement

The FGG Alliance continued to support and engage in the International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty,⁵⁰ an autonomous and self-organised global platform of small-scale food producers and rural workers organisations and grassroots/community-based social movements that advance the food sovereignty agenda at the global and regional level. In 2023, the IPC continued preparing the new (third) Nyéléni process aimed at engaging broader movements to articulate intersectional proposals towards more just and ecological food systems. A first Nyeleni preparatory meeting with allies and movements was organised in June, resulting in agreements on the principles for developing the process, the key elements of movement convergence to be built and on the governance structure for the new process. FGG members are involved in the task team and methodology group organising the Nyéléni process.

In 2023, FGG also convened representatives from five global food sovereignty civil society allies - La Vía Campesina, the World March of Women, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas and the Global Grassroots Justice Alliance - for a strategy meeting and joint training of trainers. The meeting provided a unique opportunity to analyse the current moment together from the historical perspective of intersecting systems of oppression, bringing their different entry points and experiences. The meeting resulted in a deepened joint analysis and an initial roadmap for further work together. Other work including a meeting of representatives of the international food sovereignty movement with Chinese food sovereignty networks during a land and food sovereignty conference in Beijing. The groups shared experiences and analysis in order to lay the groundwork for collaborations in the future. The conference provided a rare opportunity for FGG partners and members to meet and discuss key political issues directly with food sovereignty activists and critical agrarian scholars within China, as well as a diverse group of international activist-scholars prominently featuring young scholars from the Global South. This meeting was a first step to try to link to the context of China and create direct links to networks in China with the potential for joint activities to develop in the upcoming years.

Successful advocacy in UN food system spaces

After years of civil society advocacy calling for the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to take a leading role in coordinating global policy responses to the food crisis, the CFS has now taken up this role through establishment of a ‘platform’ in its Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027 adopted at the CFS51 in October. The platform function enables the CFS to leverage its convening power, opening up a coordination space for discussing controversial issues and convening a wide range of actors, including other human rights-based UN agencies whose policy outcomes are complementary to those of the CFS. This outcome is the result of pressure from the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which FGG supported by contributing to the strategy and drafting documents for submission to governments. FGG supported the CSIPM by undertaking research, providing technical and logistical support, participating in regular meetings, and supporting with communications and outreach.

During the UN Food Security Summit two-year stocktaking moment in July 2023 and during the CFS51, with FGG support, African peasant and civil society organisations and the CSIPM advocated for human-rights, food sovereignty and peasant agroecology, as contrasted with corporate-driven multistakeholderism. Efforts included a policy brief ‘An African Civil Society Assessment of the UN Food Systems Summit National Pathways’⁵¹, released alongside the two-year stocktaking moment for the UNFSS and the full report ‘They will feed us! A people’s route to African food sovereignty’⁵² which was presented in a side event and referenced in the statement of CSIPM⁵³ at CFS51. Thanks to pressure by the CSIPM and FGG allies, Peasant Organisations (POs) and CSOs were recognised as key players to participate in the process of formulating national pathways. Additionally, several medium to large media outlets⁵⁴ amplified key messages from the report, highlighting the negative impact of multistakeholder initiatives on the global governance of food systems.

4.10 FAIR AND GREEN SYSTEMS: WATER, ENERGY AND OTHER PUBLIC GOODS AND SERVICES – RESULT AREA F

Next to agroecology, FGG Alliance partners and members advocate for sustainable, socially and gender-transformative governance of public goods and services, including water, energy and digital infrastructure.

Agenda-setting and increased support for inclusive water management

FGG partners and members advanced the global civil society agenda on inclusive water governance. Prior to the 2023 UN Water Conference, FGG developed the Transformative Water Pact (TWP), a progressive water governance framework based on the tenets of environmental justice and care.⁵⁵ The pact was initiated by an FGG member and IHE-Delft and co-produced by more than 40 FGG partners. Several FGG partners were present at the launch of the TWP, which took place during a session at the UN Conference that was hosted by the Colombian Ministry of Environment, which also expressed their support for the TWP. FGG also supported the global water justice movement in coordinating a global campaign, which produced the Water Justice Manifesto.⁵⁶ Signed by more than 600,000 individuals and 500 organisations, the Manifesto amplified the voices of water defenders and frontline communities. It provided a unified analysis that connected the human right to water and sanitation to key issues, including: the harm of water privatisation, commercialisation and financialisation; Indigenous Peoples rights to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent; the responsibility of the state to promote public water and support community water systems; and the need to centre rights-holders and protect workers. The Manifesto was launched at an event in New York and presented at the UN Water Conference. After persistent organising efforts, and with the support of UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights to Water and Sanitation, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay and select Southern UN Member States, the Peoples Water Forum claimed space in the High-Level Segment in the General Assembly Plenary Hall on 23 March⁵⁷ to deliver this historic appeal.

On the local and national level, FGG also contributed to increased support for inclusive and/or public water management:

- In Kenya, the Governor of Kilifi County agreed to collaborate with an FGG partner on the development of an Ocean Water Policy. This followed the FGG partner's direct lobby talk with the governor about the need to develop a policy to regulate the extraction of salt from the ocean by salt companies.
- In Bangladesh, advocacy efforts to secure support for a People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management were successful. In two separate personal meetings with Satkhira District (local) government and the (national) Bangladesh Water Development Board, government officials expressed their support for the development of a People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management. Following several meetings of FGG with RVO and the Dutch Embassy in Bangladesh, RVO staff for Bangladesh also expressed their support for the development of a People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management and their willingness to further explore opportunities for collaboration. Lastly, after an FGG member introduced the concept of a People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management to the Global EbA Fund, the funder agreed to support the development of a People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management.
- In Guatemala, the municipality of Raxruhá publicly supported a proposal for political agreements on inclusive water management that legally recognises the human right to water and acknowledges the role of municipal authorities to guarantee this right to all. The proposal has a focus on access to water for women and indigenous communities, and on incorporating guiding principles for business and human rights. The proposal had been developed by civil society organisations and communities, coordinated by an FGG partner from Guatemala. The municipality of Raxruhá also actively worked with CSOs in review and exchange sessions in relation to the proposal.
- In Brazil, several government officials have cited FGG's work⁵⁸ on Reclaiming Public Services in their work to resist the current push for privatisation, which includes a bill which would require carrying out a popular consultation for each privatisation process of public services.⁵⁹ While the bill is unlikely to pass, it shows that policymakers are appreciative of this work, but also leveraging research

on deprivatisation to block privatisation from happening in the first place.

Towards green and clean energy in Bangladesh

In 2023, Bangladesh's ruling political party included a commitment in their manifesto to ensure at least 20% of Bangladesh's energy consumption should be from green and clean energy. It was the first time the ruling party committed to greening Bangladesh's energy. An FGG partner from Bangladesh has been a leader in advocating for a green energy transition in Bangladesh and in bringing together civil society advocating for this goal. In 2023, their successful advocacy culminated in the holding of a national, high-level conference jointly hosted with the Bangladesh government, 'Energy Prosperity for Bangladesh 2050',⁶⁰ where the importance of environmental, social as well as economic sustainability were high on the agenda. The conference also contributed to the formation of a dedicated sub-committee for renewable energy expansion to achieve energy prosperity by 2041, within the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. Creating this sub-committee is an important step to keep the transition to renewable energy on the Bangladesh political and policy agenda. The Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources in Bangladesh also made recommendations to parliament for the exemption of imports tariffs of renewable energy-based technologies. During the Energy Prosperity conference, civil society organisations had presented a 21-point declaration and demands for a shift to renewable energy, including this recommendation.

Digital futures

In 2023, FGG informed the development of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) secretariat's report, crucial for ECOSOC-directed discussions on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) +20 Review. This review will examine the progress made against the landmark WSIS agenda, which came out in 2005 and had articulated the vision for a digital paradigm that

was strongly aligned with a pro-people, pro-development justice perspective. FGG participated in a preparatory initiative for the 2025 high-level meeting on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and facilitated in-depth discussions among diverse stakeholders.

In November, FGG organised the ‘The Roots of Resilience Conference,’ in collaboration with The New School and the Government of Kerala unit on cooperatives.⁶¹ A crucial outcome of the conference was the unveiling of the Thiruvananthapuram Declaration – A New Innovation Ecosystem for our Collective Digital Futures, which outlined a vision and commitment to shaping the future landscape of digital innovation.⁶² FGG spearheaded this collaborative effort with the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council and the Platform Cooperativism Consortium towards establishing a robust framework for alternative platform cooperatives and fostering a global digital commons. The Declaration, which has been open to endorsements and has been translated into several Indian and non-Indian languages, was launched in the presence of government representatives and a member of the state legislature.

4.11 EXPANDING/SAFEGUARDING CIVIC SPACE

Around the world, rights-holders and their organisations continue to be excluded from decision-making that directly affects them. In many contexts, efforts to organise, demand social and environmental justice, and defend human rights – including labour rights, women’s rights, the right to land, water and livelihoods – may be met with repression, including harassment, imprisonment and violence. In all the work described above, FGG aims to defend, as well as expand, civic space: ensuring that civil society can safely participate in and influence decision-making at all levels, including safely organising and engaging in peaceful protest and dissent. In addition, in 2023, the Alliance continued to support rights defenders (among them defenders of human, women’s, environmental, labour and Indigenous people’s rights) facing acute risk by providing urgent support. Examples in 2023 include:

- In Myanmar, the military junta arrested and detained two organisers and five worker leaders following a wage protest at Hosheng Myanmar Garment Co. Ltd. in Yangon. Additionally, other worker leaders and staff

of an FGG partner were also designated as ‘instigators’ of the protest and were faced with an extreme threat of arrest and charges. Workers had started protests after several were dismissed after calling for a wage increase. In response FGG members coordinated international civil society support for the partner and the worker leaders. They also wrote a letter to the Netherlands embassy to play a constructive diplomatic role in this urgent human rights defenders case and urged one of the buyers of the factories – identified through FGG research – to use its influence to support the workers. The partner’s staff and worker leaders were eventually released from detention in September 2023.

- In response to violent repression from the local police to community members of Rempang Island, Indonesia, FGG published a solidarity statement. The community was peacefully protesting the construction of a development project without the consent of the residents. As a result of the statement, and the work of FGG partners, a writer from the paper magazine ‘Earth matters’ that reached 60,000 readers in the UK, decided to publish an article about the case. The voices and demands of the local communities opposing these unsustainable projects have been amplified outside Indonesia.
- In the Philippines, FGG provided urgent action grants to an Indigenous community in Coron, Palawan to resist a demolition order forcing them to vacate their island. In an effort to address the situation, the community submitted letters requesting for dialogue and resolutions to government agencies such as the DENR, DAR and NCIP for the recognition of their rights and for the involvement of key actors from these agencies in addressing their concerns. Also in the Philippines, another grant supported more than 140 Indigenous households from four communities in Kadingilan, Bukidnon that were evacuated because of a crossfire between the military and unidentified lawless groups. Often, IP communities are vulnerable to involuntary displacement as a result of these conflicts. Lastly, an FGG partner in the Philippines received an urgent action grant when two of their community activists were abducted. They used the money to facilitate the (temporary) hiding of four other activists.
- FGG has worked to amplify the voices of Palestinian partners, shining a light on Israeli violations of human rights and calling for a cease fire. Activities included a webinar with local partners, blogs, a radio interview by a New

York-based journalist and a senior editor of the podcast Drilled⁶³, and mobilisation efforts to sign a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General António Guterres to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. The UN Secretary General eventually urged the Security Council to call for a ceasefire in Gaza on December 8th.

Capacity development for defenders

Alongside of urgent support, the FGG Alliance supported activities designed to strengthen the capacity of defenders to prevent and adequately respond to security threats:

- In response to the increasing threats to (E)HRDs in Uganda, an FGG partner organised a security training for staff, community liaisons, local partners, media persons and board members. The training focused on implementation of a security protocol: participants learned how to sense and avoid possible confrontation and situations that may lead to arrest, how to prepare for field activities and what to do in case of security threat and arrest.
- An FGG partner in Cameroon strengthened security-related capacities of community leaders from two communities that are advocating against land grabbing by a palm oil company and are facing intimidation by authorities and investors. The leaders learned how to monitor and report abuses and rights violations through an online application developed by the partner in 2022, which has been installed on the smart phones of leaders and activists under threat. The leaders learned how they can use the app to create alerts when they are in danger.
- An FGG partner from Ecuador worked to carry out risk assessments and to implement security trainings that contributed to strengthening their ability to carry out their work safely. After threats against team members and several attempts to break into the offices to steal sensitive information and materials, another FGG partner in the region, an expert on risk assessment and security for EHRDs, carried out two trainings with more than 20 staff members to assess the risks and collectively build a plan for their security. As a result, the Ecuador partner can continue to safely carry out their lobby and advocacy strategy to demand justice for the victims of Chevron oil spills and dispossession of their territories in the Ecuadorian Amazon, caused by oil exploitation.
- FGG continued to support Solidarity for Myanmar,

a platform of eight CSOs from Myanmar, to carry out collective activity towards emergency response, strengthening and resilience-building of its member organisations, and international solidarity and advocacy. The CSOs have been working together to share experiences, build upon, and support each other's work. FGG provides coordination support and funding for organisational and urgent needs of the platform's member organisations, which were forced to relocate to Thailand due to the military coup.

- FGG organised the Southeast Asia Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) 2023 Summit in Adonara Barat, Indonesia in May 2023, which opened up dialogue space and fostered collaboration between WEHRDs and government agencies, religious and academic institutions of Indonesia.

Participation of rights defenders in key decision-making spaces

FGG regularly facilitates rights defenders, particularly women, to make their voices heard in key spaces. In addition to the many examples integrated into the thematic work above, FGG supported women from five indigenous communities in Northern Mindanao and Calamianes, part of an FGG member's WEHRDs Fellowship Programme, to participate in the National Consultation of Women Environmental Defenders, organised by The Asia Foundation. The consultation served as a platform for the WEHRDs to present their environmental and human rights advocacies to government agencies, civil society organisations, and policymakers. Together with other WEHRDs coming from different parts of the country, and representing farming, fisheries, youth, and indigenous sectors, they were able to share environmental issues faced by their communities. These include, among others, FPIC violations, conflicts caused by overlapping tenurial instruments, and environmental hazards due to aerial spraying. The women urged the government agencies to have more genuine responses to their issues. The government agencies present - the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine Commission on Women, and Commission on Human Rights - committed to more gender-responsive laws and national action plans on business and human rights, including gender mainstreaming in government programmes and openness to more dialogues.

5. COLLABORATIONS, LEARNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

5.1 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The FGG Alliance strongly values its strategic partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. FGG members and partners and the Ministry continue to have fruitful dialogue on various policy processes. These exchanges are crucial for FGG's understanding of the development of Dutch policies, and for the Ministry's understanding of policy impacts, thereby contributing to the possibility of improved policy coherence. Examples in 2023 include:

- FGG and the Ministry co-organised 'Het Grote Beleidscoherentiedebat', which took place in January 2023. The successful, well-attended event included constructive talks on improving policy coherence.
- FGG and the Ministry jointly organised a workshop to introduce the idea of 'Right Digitalization' to about 15 representatives of the Ministry's trade and development cooperation department. In the workshop, FGG described digital trade tropes and myths, and discussed directions for the digital inclusion of marginalised groups in the Global South. FGG discussed 'right digitalisation' which enhances democratic ownership over the digital and supports an equitable transition towards sustainable development goals, i.e. social, gender and economic justice and environmental sustainability.
- FGG members hosted a session during the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy high level conference, organised by the MoFA in November 2023. The topic of the session was 'Reimagining Trade and Investment through Feminist Alternatives'. Four activists from Latin America, Africa and Asia presented their views on the struggles of local communities and movements on their continents (in relation to negative impacts of mining and other large-scale investments) and what a feminist foreign policy could mean for those struggles. The aim was to contribute to the shaping of the Dutch feminist foreign policy by sharing concrete ideas on important elements of such a policy. On the issue of trade, FGG members took part in the Breed Handelsberaad to discuss various trade policy issues with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A representative of the Dutch MoFA, together with

representatives of the FMO, Climate Fund Managers, WWF and SNV, participated in a Round Table discussion organized by FGG in December to discuss the draft report on Lessons from the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD). The report covers the impacts of DFCD fund-ed pilot projects in Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda, in particular investigating to what extent women and margin-alised groups benefit from DFCD.

- FGG partners from South Africa and the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organised a Round Table to exchange insights on the mining sector's impact on women and communities, share strategies for stakeholder engagement in policy development and implementation, and discuss how to ensure a just energy transition centring women and communities' needs.
- FGG worked together with the Ministry of Finance to organise an informative meeting about shrinking civic space, civil society engagement with IFIs and fear of retaliation. The audience consisted of officials from the Ministry Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. A goal was to increase engagement of Dutch embassies on IFI cases and to secure room to manoeuvre for civil society liaison officers at embassies to receive inputs and observations from FGG partners and project affected people directly.
- An FGG member participated and presented at an RVO event where we exchanged lessons learnt from Tidal River Management in Bangladesh and Holwerd aan Zee (Friesland), putting the spotlight on the potential for mutual learning between both countries when it comes to climate adaptation and social inclusion.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science accepted an FGG member as the NGO representative at the Commission on the Status of Women 68 (CSW68) in the official Dutch government delegation. We will represent Dutch civil society at the summit to promote better gendered tax and debt policies of UN member states.

The Dutch government has engaged with FGG Alliance partners, protect civic space and environmental and human rights defenders. In relation to these topics, the CSO consultations held by the Dutch Embassies in countries are invaluable to FGG partners. In 2023, these included:

- **Bangladesh:** FGG engaged with the Dutch Embassy in Bangladesh about several issues related to labour rights in the garments sector. In several meetings they spoke about the functioning of the implementation body of the Accord in Bangladesh (the RSC), minimum wage negotiations, and violence and threats in relation to these negotiations. We also discussed the People's Plan for Community-based Tidal River Management.
- **Indonesia:** FGG participated in Strategic Partnership meetings organised by Dutch Embassy in Indonesia.
- **Kenya:** FGG partners from Kenya participated in various events organised by the Dutch Embassy, including the 2023 SDG festival in Nairobi where participants reflected on what is needed to achieve the SDGs by 2023, and a meeting on engaging with youth (on King's Day). For their part, Embassy representatives participated in a strategy meeting held in Kenya in 2023, with presentations and a Q&A session on how the embassy and FGG can strengthen their collaboration. They also visited a local partner to learn more about their work on agroecology.
- **Mozambique:** The Dutch ambassador in Mozambique participated online in a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised by FGG with several and Mozambican partners. The partners shared their experiences of the social and environmental risks and impacts of the Mozambique LNG project, which is supported by the Dutch ECA.
- **Myanmar:** FGG engaged with the Dutch Embassy in Myanmar regarding the detention and prosecution of workers and organisers of labour rights organisation following a wage protest.
- **Pakistan:** The Dutch embassy in Pakistan was interviewed as part of FGG's Mid Term Review and the case study on the Pakistan Accord.
- **The Philippines:** Following a request from FGG, the Dutch ambassador to the Philippines visited fishing communities in Cavite, Manila Bay whose livelihoods have been impacted by sand mining by Boskalis in relation to the New Manila International Airport development in Bulacan.
- **Sri Lanka:** FGG sent a letter to the Dutch Embassy in Sri Lanka regarding the effect of the labour law reform process and debt restructuring on worker in Sri Lanka.
- **Uganda:** An FGG partner in Uganda participated in an event hosted by the Dutch Embassy on shrinking civic space in Uganda and shared a presentation on this trend, including its impacts on the safety and ability of civil society organisations and HRDs to do their work.

- **Zimbabwe:** FGG partners were invited to speak at the Netherlands Embassies Regional Human Rights Forum where they addressed corporate accountability and human rights due diligence in relation to minerals extraction, with a particular focus on gender justice.

Cooperation among FGG Alliance members

A key FGG assumption, confirmed in our Mid-Term Review, is that social movements are most powerful when they are inclusive and converge around a shared vision of social, economic, environmental and gender justice. FGG members and partners complement and add value to the Alliance by bringing different constituencies, approaches, skills, geographic coverage and expertise together to achieve a common objective. The added value of the Alliance can be seen in countless examples of intense collaboration within the FGG Alliance in 2023, typically organised by working together as part of larger networks or platforms and campaigns.⁶⁴ A small sample of joint activities in 2023 includes:

- Milieudefensie/FoE Europe, SOMO, and Both ENDS collaborated in the Mozambique LNG case by jointly strategising and lobbying including a letter to the Dutch State Secretary for Taxation and Fiscal Services and to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.
- TNI, FoEI and an ActionAid partner from Kenya conducted joint research to support African organisations to develop an understanding and an autonomous assessment of UNFSS follow-up action, with particular reference to its impacts on national food policies and on the realisation of food sovereignty, agroecology, territorial markets, peoples' access to and control over land and seeds, and peasant rights.
- TNI, SOMO and IT for Change organised a digital capitalism course for activists and organisations to strengthen their understanding and advocacy around digital economy, including digital trade issues.
- TNI, FoEI, ActionAid, CCC, IT for Change, Milieudefensie and SOMO cooperation on the UN Binding Treaty.
- ActionAid, SOMO, Both ENDS, CCC and Milieudefensie continued joint lobby and advocacy towards the Dutch government and parliament for mandatory binding regulations for businesses.
- SOMO and Both ENDS collaborated closely in lobbying towards FMO, including in strategic dialogues with FMO

and in our support of the people affected by the Barro Blanco dam. Strategic collaboration with partners on advocacy was strong, including a joint visit to Panama to jointly support partners in negotiations with the development banks.

- Both ENDS and Milieudefensie collaborated with partners and other CSOs (from Uganda, Ghana, Togo) working on ECAs and a just energy transition in Africa.

FGG members also worked together with other MoFA-funded strategic partnerships, including: Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action on land use and governance, gender justice and mutual capacity development; Fair for All on tax justice; Green Livelihoods Alliance on mandatory environmental human rights due diligence, CBD and jointly advocating to halt ECA support for fossil fuels to instead support a just energy transition; Sustainable Textile Initiative – Together for Change (STITCH) on freedom of association and urgent appeals work.

5.2 LOCAL OWNERSHIP

The FGG mid-term review confirmed ‘strong Southern leadership in the work of the Alliance’ and found our principle that rights-holders can best speak for themselves to be ‘very much a recurring theme underpinning various aspects of the work of FGG’ and ‘consistently reflected’. Collaboration with FGG was found by the MTR to be ‘adaptable and flexible, creating the conditions for partners to set priorities and lead on the work in their local and national contexts, as well as in international settings’. The FGG programme is built around the expressed priorities of partner organisations in the Global South and the communities they represent, based on the challenges and opportunities they themselves have identified. We involve partners in all phases of the programme: from design to implementation and evaluation. FGG members are either based in the South or embed Southern leadership in their governance or decision-making structures or processes.

FGG works with local partners (CSOs, CBOs, community groups, and network, amongst others) that are strongly rooted in the communities we support. Our approach is to support people affected by social injustices to organise and advocate for their rights *themselves*. This ensures not only local ownership but, more importantly, local *leadership*. As the MTR states, the evidence ‘underscores the importance for FGG members and partners of facilitating and amplifying

the voices of rights-holders in their initiatives and decision-making processes - including research, advocacy, messaging, campaigns - and intersects with leadership from the South and feminist approach.’

On a practical level, to ensure that FGG plans are based on the issues and needs identified by our partners and the communities they represent, FGG members **remain in continual dialogue with partners**. This includes, for example, organising joint bimonthly meetings with the partners, in-person annual strategic meetings, and exchanges in alliance level thematic groups involving Alliance members and partners from various countries

Much FGG work entails **strengthening people’s awareness and understanding of their rights**, and then supporting them as they pursue their own strategies to ensure their rights are respected. For example, through cooperation within FGG, an FGG partner working on a coal-fired power plant project funded by the African Development Bank learned how to use accountability mechanisms to defend their rights and claim compensation for income loss caused by the project. The group subsequently incorporated work on accountability mechanisms in their own strategies, by raising awareness among communities about AfDB policies and accountability mechanisms, and co-filing complaints. In 2023, the partner’s efforts proved successful: a large group of project-affected communities got compensated for income loss and a livelihood restoration project now provides support for small entrepreneurship.

FGG partners and members **engage in mutual capacity development** to strengthen each other’s lobby and advocacy capacities by learning from each other’s often complementary knowledge, skills, and positions. For example, FGG members and partners co-organised a conference on ‘Feminist Just Transition’ for academics and activists operating at the front lines in the Global South. The goal of the conference was to develop a shared narrative and come up with locally driven principles on what Just Energy Transition from a ‘Feminist lens’ can look like, why it is important and what it should entail.⁶⁵

Supporting local/Southern-led coalitions and networks is another way in which FGG members try to strengthen local ownership. A selection of examples noted in the report include: a national coalition of some 200 Brazilian CSOs, the

Brazilian Front Against the Mercosur-EU FTA; the Indonesian Economic Justice coalition, which advocated against the CEPA trade agreement; the newly established Women and Gender Caucus at the Global Environmental Facility (GEF): a self-organised coalition of women's networks, organisations and allies; a domain-wide women's formation in the Philippines aiming to strengthen the voice and movement of women both at the community level, and at the ancestral domain-wide level; a grassroots movement defending the rights of the Ngöbe-Buglé Indigenous people impacted by the Barro Blanco hydro-power dam in Panama.

Finally, FGG members use their leverage to enable Southern partners to **access decision-making spaces** and advocate their own agendas. For example, FGG supported partners to attend the UNFCCC COP 28 to advocate for climate justice and operationalisation of a Loss and Damage fund, amongst other issues. The delegation was led by FGG partners, and particularly by women from the Global South. In another example, an FGG partner from Bangladesh took part in the ne-negotiations for the Pakistan Accord, stating that the support of FGG in preparing for this meeting helped their understanding of the negotiations and helped participate in an effective way.

5.3 LEARNING AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES

The FGG Alliance aims to reflect, learn and improve itself by means of a learning agenda, with internal and external learning activities, and a qualitative indicator on learning. As described above, FGG members and partners foster learning on a wide variety of issues, from how to identify investors and mother companies abusing environmental, economic and social rights, to the issue of extraction of lithium and other raw materials in vulnerable areas and the role of Export Credit Agencies.

At the Alliance level, FGG's learning agenda focuses on: (1) gender equality and inclusion; (2) upscaling and replicating fair and green practices; and (3) organising and fostering far-reaching Southern ownership of and leadership in the FGG programme. All three questions were addressed through learning activities involving FGG members, partners and/or others. Diverse learning events and processes organised by FGG members and partners in 2023 touched on these topics. Below is a small selection:

- An FGG member's internal learning process called 'Examination of Power' involving a range of Southern partners in a 1.5 year-long intensive exploration of relationship of power, trust and collaboration
- A process to develop input into the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy (resulting in a publication) and an event during the MoFA's Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy conference in November where FGG partner activists from the Global South shared their visions on what is needed for a Feminist Foreign Policy based on their experiences with the negative social and environmental impacts of mining and other large-scale investments
- A conference on Feminist Just Transition in September for academics and activists operating at the front lines in the Global South. The goal of the conference was to come up with locally driven principles on what Just Energy Transition from a 'Feminist Lens' can look like, why it is important and what it should entail
- A seminar and consultation on the 'Impacts of the Mercosur-EU agreement on women' involving some 50 feminist and gender rights organisations from Latin America, in particular from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay
- Training sessions in Central India around community-based forest management and equitable governance, involving capacity building for women and youth, boosting sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, nursery development and reforestation – in collaboration with the state forest department – as well as forest fire prevention and control
- An expert dialogue with labour experts, trade union representatives and members of civil society on 'Worker Data Rights in the Digital Economy' as part of our overall efforts at promoting/strengthening the data rights agenda
- A political economy course for 30+ food sovereignty activists from Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt on food sovereignty and agrarian issues

The topic of Southern ownership of and leadership in the FGG was frequently discussed in 2023, including in Steering and Programme Committee meetings, at the 2023 FGG Annual Meeting and as part of the FGG Mid-Term Review. Insights and lessons were also shared in several publications, including an FGG paper on Sharing Power and a Partos publication called 'Voices on Power' a special edition of Vice Versa, to be published in 2024.⁶⁵ Based on these discussions, FGG's position in relation to the 'Shifting Power'

and ‘Leading from the South’ debates is that it is essential that power is shared: through our many international networks, FGG members and partners from the Global North and South each use their leverage and play their respective roles in pursuing collective agendas for change.

5.4 SUSTAINABILITY

In 2023, FGG continued to invest in the sustainability of our partners and results. The most important strategy to ensure sustainability is our movement building and mutual capacity development approaches. Connecting diverse civil society organisations – research organisations, campaign organisations, to CBOs, movements, women’s groups and activists in Global North and South – strengthens and ensures sustainability of advocacy efforts. By making sure we stay connected, jointly strategise and collaborate even after financial support ends, we continue to strengthen each other and amplify each other’s messages. In addition, mutual capacity development ensures that partners have the capacity to advocate for their own rights, even when they no longer receive (financial) support from FGG. In order to reach the point of being able to advocate independently, longer-term support is important. For that reason, FGG members often engage in long-term partnerships, continuously exchanging knowledge over a longer period of time to create a solid foundation for advocacy work.

FGG also supports organisational capacity strengthening and leadership development. For example, Samdhana supports newly established Indigenous People’s Organisations by assessing the Indigenous community’s needs and capacities, supporting them in organising as IPOs with clear organisational structures, and guiding them in developing the necessary elements to become their own independent organisations, such as an organisational vision and mission, and five-year strategic plans. The strategic plans then serve as a guide for the IPOs with concrete steps towards achieving the goals they have identified for themselves. The goal is that in the long-term, they will be able to manage their own organisations without support from FGG. Meaningfully engagement of youth is also important as it ensures that the struggles, gains and lessons learned of present leaders are carried on and built upon in the future. Samdhana accompanies youth organisations, facilitating learning exchanges and trainings, and supporting youth-led initiatives. The ‘Youth Noken’ gatherings of young indigenous

peoples in the Philippines and in Indonesia (described above) are spaces for youth to exchange of knowledge, values, community products, experiences and lessons.

FGG also contribute to partners’ sustainability by strengthening their fundraising capacity and supporting partners in diversifying funding. In 2023, several FGG members provided fundraising training, developed joint fundraising initiatives with partners or linked partners to funders. For example, TNI linked the Nyeleni Global Gathering Process to funders and supported small-scale fisher partners to establish a coalition to apply for funding together. Some partners leveraged FGG experience to apply for new funds. For example, partners in North Africa used the experience gained on just transition as part of FGG to apply for additional funding. Some of these efforts have already paid off in 2023: an FGG member supported a partner in Uganda to secure new funding from a philanthropic donor.

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