



ECONOMIC JUSTICE NETWORK of FOCCISA Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa

## Pre Hong Kong WTO Civil Society Consultative Conference on Trade and HIV/AIDS, Kempton Park Conference Centre, Johannesburg 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005

The Economic Justice Network (EJN), in collaboration with the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) are pleased to invite you to a seminar on Civil Society WTO consultative conference to be held at Kempton Park Conference Centre, Bonaero Park in Johannesburg from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005. The conference, which has been organised as a preparatory event to the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference, is meant to provide a forum for civil society organizations drawn from the SADC region to raise their voice on the effects of the neo-liberal policies of the WTO which have brought so many untold miseries to ordinary people in the region.

## The conference aims to:

- a) Bring together activists, social movements, unions, faith-based organisations and NGOs to reflect and gain an understanding on the power dynamics of the WTO free trade system, its manifestations and impact on development in the Southern Africa context.
- b) In particular, the workshop will provide information and analysis on the impact of trade agreements under NAMA, TRIPS, AGRICULTURE and the GATTS and their impact on key sectors of the Southern African economy, and will provide a forum for actors/stakeholders from the various sectors to share their particular experiences.
- c) Come up with a SADC Civil Society position on the WTO to present to the conference in Hong Kong as a strategy for engagement by civil society to influence policies towards alternative and/or complimentary development to the neo-liberal development paradigm of the WTO.