



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

annual2016.tni.org



TNI strives for peace, equity and democracy in a sustainable world, brought about and supported by an informed and engaged citizenry.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fiona Dove – Executive Director, Transnational Institute

In 2016 we witnessed the disturbing consequences of permanent war, neoliberal policies and globalization that have unleashed forces that are shaking the status quo at its roots. TNI has long warned of these dangerous consequences, but is still horrified at the worryingly fast-paced shift towards authoritarianism across the globe.

Whether it was the election of President Duterte in The Philippines and the subsequent murderous campaign against drug users; the dubious impeachment of President Rousseff in Brazil; the horrifying consequences of rising bigotry worldwide; or of course the election of Trump at the end of the year, 2016 was, in many ways, an *annus horribilis*.

While we may seem pessimists of the intellect, we make up for it with our optimism of will! We continue to draw hope from the social movements that doubled their commitment to the realization of the vision and values that TNI holds dear. We saw greater international solidarity and greater unity of movements connecting the dots between war, corporate power, neoliberal ideologies and climate change. And we saw a lot more young people join the struggle for justice.

In 2016, TNI began to implement its new 5-year strategic plan. This included the launch of a new War and Pacification programme, with an initial focus on the constraints social movements face under the new authoritarianism. Our other programmes developed strategies to take their work forward, with new focuses emerging on (renewable) energy democracy and the kind of new politics that is both necessary and emerging to deal with the challenges we face.

We are excited to incubate new areas of innovative thinking, and to extend TNI's networks and usefulness to burgeoning social movements.

Successful fundraising saw our budget increase by 30 percent over the previous year. This enabled TNI to grow in size and ambition in 2016. We increased our staff in Amsterdam by 45 percent, taking on young new programme staff and bringing in organizational capacity, including for personnel and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (PMEL). We were able to enhance our capacity on the ground, notably in Myanmar, where we now have a 7-person team in place. And we were able to employ four more dedicated staff with thematic expertise based in the South. We were also able to take on many more interns and volunteers.

In all, we had 70 people dedicated to helping TNI achieve its goals. We have also set ourselves internal objectives to ensure that TNI is able to manage and sustain this growth.

As part of larger movements, in 2016, we have:

- democracy under threat. Neoliberalism and the unprecedented concentration of financial and corporate power is increasingly undermining public sovereignty as the underpinning of modern democracy. This is not only resulting in widespread alienation from politics, it is also fueling the rise of reactionary forces.
- stopped two massive trade and investment agreements, the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- fundamentally shaken the legitimacy of investor protections over that of people and planet.
- won over governments to negotiating an international treaty to reign in the impunity of transnational corporations.
- catalyzed a momentum for radical reform of international drugs policy.
- returned more public services to the people they were intended to serve.

Millions of people will benefit.

All of these victories, of course, bear testimony to the dogged work of decades. Our task now is to ensure that these gains are not reversed, and to redouble efforts where we are not yet able to demonstrate success.

We are very proud of our internationalized team and the contributions they have made to the social movements we support. In the coming year, we hope to create more space for supporters of our work to contribute where they can – whether financially or in kind.

We are also grateful to all the donors – big and small – who believe in us and make our work possible. With you all, we can get a little closer to realizing our mission.

Thank you!



BUILDING BLOCKS FOR JUSTICE

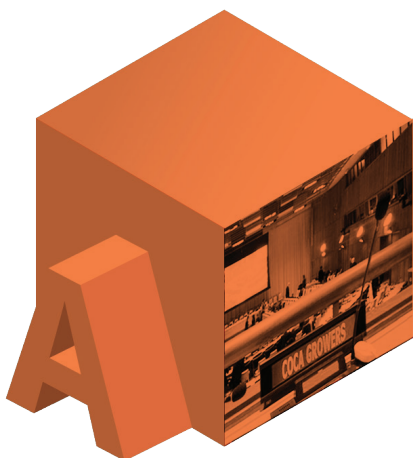


Awareness

Build understanding of what blocks justice and explore viable ways forward

Voice

Support communities, especially those suffering exclusion and poverty, to organize, demand and find solutions



Access

Demand access, control and accountability of key public and private institutions to citizens

PEDRO ARENAS

Director of the National Observatory on Crops and Producers that have been declared illicit, Colombia

I have been in contact with TNI for the last 13 years. TNI invited me to collaborate on the steering committee that promoted the first global forum on producers of prohibited plants – crops like opium or coca. Later they invited me to participate in workshops on the International Guidelines on Alternative Development. They offered me training on drugs policy in 2013. Recently, I participated in several meetings along with TNI staff on drugs policy and the peace process in Colombia.



My experience of working with people from TNI has been great. TNI staff are extremely professional. They conduct deep analysis of drugs policies. They offer excellent technical support thanks to their expertise on the issues and topics they work on. They visit communities and work hard to get a direct understanding of the realities of the people they work with. Their reports and articles are consequently always of a high standard.

To me, working with TNI has helped me to develop an international perspective on drugs, drugs policies and the agreements adopted by the UN, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, and other institutions. The work with TNI helps me to maintain contact with other countries and learn about progress around the world.

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BUILDING AWARENESS

Around the world there is an energy revolution going on. But this revolution is not just about solar panels and windmills, it is fundamentally a people-powered movement as citizens take back control of their energy systems from corporate monopolies.

In October/November, TNI and UK activist-research collective Platform organized a 6-week peer-learning course on energy democracy, bringing together activists, academics and practitioners to deepen our analysis on how we can build a true energy democracy, examining the obstacles, highlighting the possibilities and drawing learning and inspiration from frontline struggles.

Over 75 people signed up – a third of whom were from the Global South – to the weekly course that featured video presentations and live online discussions and debate. In between sessions, participants actively shared experiences and raised questions in online chat spaces and on Facebook. The course material built up collectively is now a critical resource for an emerging Energy Democracy movement that TNI hosts – www.energydemocracy.org. One participant commented, “It was a fantastic introduction to democratizing energy [...] – showcasing the inspiring work happening around the world felt so positive! I loved hearing from each and every speaker in both the videos and webinars.”

TNI has a long experience in producing high-quality publications and holding seminars, but is also always keen to experiment with new formats and methodologies to build knowledge, awareness and learning of critical global issues. The energy democracy course was the second online learning course TNI has held – we hope to build around its success to expand such initiatives to all areas of our work.

 **94 PUBLICATIONS
IN 9 LANGUAGES**

**TNI STAFF SPOKE AT
94 PUBLIC MEETINGS** 

 **198 MEDIA STORIES**

**861,519 VISITORS
TO MAIN WEBSITE** 



DEMANDING ACCESS

Debates on drug policies nearly always revolve around drug use. The actual producers of prohibited plants are nearly always excluded from the discussion, even though many are impoverished, caught up in the violence of the drug war, and yet have a clearer understanding of solutions to minimize drug harm than many politicians.

So in January 2016, in the run-up to a major meeting of the UN Special Assembly on Drugs, TNI brought together producers of prohibited plants from 14 countries to discuss their experiences and present demands. Peasant farmers from as far afield as Myanmar and Jamaica shared their personal experiences – from the fumigation of plants that have poisoned their rivers to the militarized policing that has led to deaths of family members and neighbours. The forum issued the historic Heemskerk declaration directed at their governments and the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) and remained actively engaged in both the UNGASS process and the International Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD2), held in 2016.

TNI actively supports the direct access and involvement of social movements and community organizations in influencing government policy. In 2016, TNI also facilitated trips by Filipino organizers to speak to European institutions on trade policy; a delegation of Hondurans to lobby the Dutch development corporation FMO; and Myanmar civil society representatives to meet World Bank officials.

 **5 DRUG POLICY DIALOGUES**

TWO LOBBY TOURS



 **43 MEETINGS WITH POLICY-MAKERS**



AMPLIFYING VOICE

“We never had a workshop like this. We want to work together, and make our own policy,” said a Shanwoman/man at a workshop in Kengtang, Myanmar. Supported by TNI at the request of Myanmar youth and student organizations, about 70 Shan, Akha, Lahu, Wa and Kachin community leaders had gathered to discuss the key land issues affecting them. The workshop was one of three held in different parts of Shan state.

Land is critical for livelihood and life for millions of people in Myanmar, but also a huge source of conflict in the state. Many participants reported on how the Myanmar army and other armed groups had long been seizing land, and how in recent years the threats were increasingly posed by new extraction projects and dams. With the opening up of the Myanmar state after years of military rule, many felt now was a critical time to speak out, formulating key demands on the right to land, and calling for recognition and support for customary land tenure practices of shifting cultivation.

TNI’s work in Myanmar is low profile but far-reaching. Our expertise on drugs, land and trade policies is deeply appreciated by many local partners and networks, as is our quiet and constant support that sets us apart from other international organizations. This is no accident – it is how TNI defines solidarity. Our philosophy is to support organizations with expertise, but to enable local communities and movements to advocate for themselves, in their own voices and in their own ways.

 **TNI HOSTS OR PLAYS LEADING ROLE IN 14 INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS**
(400+ ORGANISATIONS)

TNI WORKS WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN 19 COUNTRIES 

 **TNI CO-ORGANISED 95 SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**
(ATTENDED BY 6400 PEOPLE)

DOI RA

Senior Programme Coordinator at Paung Ku

I have been working with Paung Ku, a civil society strengthening initiative in Myanmar, for just over a year. Paung Ku already had a strong relationship with TNI when I arrived. My work involves supporting civil society organizations in the Thanintaryi and Rakhine regions to address issues facing their communities, which mainly result from large-scale investment projects.



Working with TNI has been really very helpful. TNI is a great source of information. Through TNI we learn a lot about decisions in Europe that affect Myanmar. Just recently, TNI informed us that another round of negotiations between the EU and Myanmar was due to take place on a proposed investment protection agreement. This information helped us to issue statements to the European Commission and the government at the right time, calling for transparency around the agreement, public consultations, and proposing to postpone the agreement until key legal reforms have taken place in Myanmar.

I think TNI has great technical expertise. I particularly admire their adaptability to the local context. They consistently check in with us and other partners about strategies and approaches and their suitability for our contexts. We do a lot of work together, building capacity of local organizations, organizing workshops and advocacy training. The combination of our experience with TNI's makes a great overall package.

If there is one change I would like to see with TNI, it would be to see even more capacity in Myanmar. In Myanmar today we have many live issues to tackle and we need strong, consistent movements.

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PROJECTS

AGRARIAN JUSTICE

TNI has worked with agrarian justice movements for several decades, supporting impoverished, vulnerable and marginalized rural working people struggling to (re)gain control of their land, water and other natural resources. In 2016, TNI merged this work with our long-term work on environmental justice, in which TNI has challenged the role corporations have played in destruction of the environment, both directly as a result of their operations and also indirectly through their capture of government policy and promotion of unjust and ineffective market-led solutions.

Goal (2016-2020): To improve climate, energy and food security policies that would redirect trade and investment towards sustainable and inclusive food and energy systems, and which would genuinely address climate change challenges.

Goals for 2015	Results in 2015 to which TNI contributed
Strengthen capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Colombia, Myanmar, Cambodia, The Philippines and Europe to resist mining-energy and agroindustry projects that undermine food and land sovereignty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNI was recognized as an organization that provides reliable and trusted technical support on key issues to many local CSOs and local CSO networks, including, for example, many local CSOs in Myanmar working on ethnic land rights and on land and natural resource issues generally, including numerous ethnic armed groups (both those that have signed and those that have not signed a ceasefire agreement with the government). TNI strengthened the Europe-based Hands on the Land campaign through the highly successful Nyéléni Europe Forum in Romania that brought together 500 people to discuss positive proposals for access to land in the South and in the EU. In Colombia, TNI's communications and advocacy support for work against the coal mine El Cerrejon coal mine added momentum to a campaign that led the constitutional court to declare the diversion of the Arroyo Bruno (an important water source) as illegal because it was not consulted on with local communities.
EU policies that favour land concentration and land grabbing are analysed and questioned. Much of TNI's work in this area is done through our leadership in the Hands on the Land project, carried out with 16 partners whose official goal is mobilize European support for sustainable management of natural resources and the human right to food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hands On The Land campaign organized 800 activities (over the last two years) across Europe, reaching more than 40 million Europeans through media outlets, engaging 600,000 people, educating 50,000 and actively engaging 8,000 members of civil society and decision-makers in discussing and taking positions on natural resource management issues. TNI's analysis on land grabbing and land concentration in Europe was used by 30 MEPs as an input for their work on a new resolution on land policy in the EU. The Netherlands Development Finance Corp, FMO, acknowledged problems with the Agua Zarca hydro-power plant project and then announced withdrawal of funding in the wake of environmental activist Berta Caceres' assassination and in response to a global solidarity campaign that included advocacy work by TNI and other Dutch organizations. TNI provided key research support to an official EU Parliamentary study on the human rights impacts of European companies' involvement in land grabbing regions outside Europe.
TNI publications, and framing of issues such as our series on 'flex crops' are used by civil society organizations. (Flex crops seeks to unpack the complexity of globalized food regimes, where crops such as corn increasingly serve multiple uses and involve complex production chains. This understanding enables activists to mobilize effectively.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flex crops and commodities were incorporated in discourses at the Land and Water Convergence held in Mali in March, attended by 60 organizations. TNI's 'flex crop' terminology is cited 86 times in GoogleScholar during 2016. The framing was presented and discussed by different scholars at venues such as the Initiative of Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS) colloquium, the land and territory conference and the BRICS Initiative in Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS) conference.
The UN's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) are actively used by peasant and fishing communities to secure access to and control over land, water and other natural resources by communities in Cambodia, The Philippines, Myanmar, Uganda, Nigeria, Mali and South Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNI was called upon – by La Via Campesina and World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) – to provide academic, political and technical support to communities seeking to use the VGGT and the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines. CSOs in four countries in sub-Saharan Africa explored use of VGGT in natural resource struggles. TNI accompanied the Katosi community in Uganda and is writing up the learning. As a result of TNI support, an Indonesia WFFP partner, KNTI, will pursue a community audit of Jakarta Bay reclamation project using the VGSSF Guidelines.

Project in numbers

- 14 briefings and reports
- 500+ people from 43 countries representing 290 civil society organizations and social movements attended the Nyéléni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty
- Co-led five international networks, collaborated with three major international social movements, and supported strategic partners in seven countries
- Co-organized 41 seminars and workshops attended by 2,926 people

Why this issue matters

The struggle for livelihoods, dignity and sustainability is a struggle for democratic control of resources. In a globalized economy, control of land, water and natural resources is deeply unequal. For example, small farms have less than a quarter of the world's agricultural land and their land is shrinking as resources are grabbed by corporations and elites for the benefits of a select few. Moreover, climate change adds further pressures on communities, as extreme weather impacts on crops and land and as corporations seek to use it as an excuse to further entrench corporate-led false solutions. The reality, however, is small-scale farmers and fisherfolk produce up to 80 percent of food in developing countries and are the only ones feeding the world in sustainable ways. TNI believes that to build sustainable and equitable food and energy systems, we need to properly identify the causes of dispossession, obstruct false solutions promoted by corporations, and support real solutions led by farmers, fisherfolk and communities.

Building the European food sovereignty movement

In 2016, TNI invested staff time, political support and resources in the organization of the historic Nyéléni Europe Forum, which brought together 500 farmers, food and agricultural workers, trade unionists, researchers, activists, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and consumers committed to food sovereignty. The Nyéléni movement was born in Mali in 2007, and is a global movement that advocates for local, democratic ownership of our food, for land and food sovereignty.

The meeting, held in Romania in October, was a defining moment for the dynamic food sovereignty movement in Europe, helping to develop a common agenda, strategy and proposals. The meeting helped bridge and unite movements from western and eastern Europe as well as central Asia and cemented existing alliances such as the Hands on the Land campaign hosted by TNI. An active public policy working group, for example, was set up to engage with the next round of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. TNI acted as the focal point for organizing the Dutch delegation for the Forum and also facilitated the participation of a delegation from Myanmar in order to bring in fresh perspectives and open up North-South dialogue.

The Nyéléni Europe Forum was a major landmark event in a three-year pan-European education campaign, 'Hands on the Land for Food Sovereignty' in which TNI plays a coordinating role. This campaign, launched in 2015, brings together 16 European partner organizations with the goal of putting the aspirations and visions of those at the frontline of struggles for food sovereignty – small-scale fishing communities, peasants, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, young and prospective farmers – at the heart of policies that affect them.

"Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.... it ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social and economic classes and generations."

– Nyéléni Declaration 2007

EU land grabs

TNI's coordinated landmark publication, *Land concentration, land grabbing and people's struggles in Europe*, in 2013 continued to have ripple effects three years after its publication. After TNI was asked to produce an official study on farmland grabbing in the EU for the European Parliament in 2015, the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) decided to move ahead with its own in-depth investigation on access to land/land grabbing in Europe.

In 2016, TNI, in the context of the Hands on the Land alliance, forged strong links with many MEPs in the process, holding regular advocacy meetings and organizing a joint conference on the subject with Green MEPs in the Parliament in December, attracting 140 EU policy-makers and practitioners. TNI also co-organized a series of workshops on the issue with Hands on the Land partners in Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Romania, attracting over 200 participants from civil society, research, and farmers' organizations.

In addition, TNI was also involved in lending key research support to another official EU study, this time for the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights on the involvement of European corporate and financial entities in land grabbing outside of the EU.

Alliances and support for frontline social movements

TNI is considered a trusted ally by peasant movements and small food producers for our research, logistical and political support. TNI works closely with Via Campesina, that represents around 200 million small and medium-scale farmers worldwide, and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), which represents over 10 million small-scale fisherpeople. TNI has worked particularly closely with the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty's working group on land and fisheries, whose members include LVC and WFFP, providing technical expertise as they engage with the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Food Security (CFS).

In 2016, TNI helped coordinate guidelines that drew on the CFS' recommendations and outlined the policies needed to connect smallholders to markets. Drawing on contributions from 50 organizations, the *Connecting smallholders to markets guide* has been an invaluable tool for small-scale producers and more than 1,000 copies have been distributed. The evidence gathered in the guide has also been used to win policy support for these vital food markets at the CFS.

TNI has provided similar support to the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) at the Committee for Fisheries (COFI) at FAO. In 2016, TNI provided technical support to the WFFP in their negotiations around the implementation of Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Small Scale and Artisanal Fisheries, the first and only international instrument dedicated to securing the human rights of fisher peoples. At the meetings, two competing visions emerged, one centred on user rights and another on human rights. Later in the year, TNI co-published a paper that highlighted the differences and proposed actions fishing organizations could take to defend their livelihoods.

TNI has also sought to see how the new VGGT and the VGSSF could be used by communities threatened with land, forest, fisheries and water grabbing. Joining with three other international organizations, TNI supported four civil society organizations in Mali, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda with political, technical and academic support as they tested the use of the guidelines in their own contexts. TNI worked most closely with fishing communities in the Lake Victoria region of Uganda (Katosi), supporting their struggle and reflecting together on the outcomes. The result has been a series of small but significant victories with the communities succeeding in preventing businessmen from claiming access to their lands. It has also generated new cross-regional relationships, with fishers from Aniston, South Africa for example travelling to Indonesia to share their experiences. The learning is being developed into a series of videos and articles as well as a popular education booklet (published in 2017).

By working and building trust, TNI has been invited to participate at the internal discussion spaces of major international social movement networks, such as the European Coordination of Via Campesina (ECVC) assembly and the Trade Unions Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) general congress, and Grupo Carta de Belem.

Empowering peasants and ethnic minorities in Myanmar

As Myanmar opens up politically and economically, TNI's accompaniment work of local citizen organizations has expanded along with it. TNI researchers have worked on analysis and training for and with community leaders on land and investment policies who have used that knowledge to advocate for their own priorities. TNI's approach and philosophy of embracing a support role for local movements, rather than promote our own profile, has made us a trusted partner.

TNI spent much of 2016 involved in a series of 10 workshops with ethnic community groups on how to defend their rights to land at a time of political and economic transition. This included a five-day workshop in December for the eight ethnic armed organizations that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as they prepared for the 21st Century Panglong Conference. Many of these workshops helped coalesce demands and advocacy on the right to land and have led to the emergence of new civil society coalitions, such as the Land in Our Hands network.

TNI has sought to be as responsive to local needs as possible. This has led to workshops in regions typically ignored by the government and international NGOs, but also led to TNI developing new areas of work looking at, for example, the rights to restitution of land for internally displaced people and refugees. TNI has supported many of these meetings with expert input, research analysis, drafting of proposals and requested follow-up.

Finding an equitable solution that provides access to land for the many people displaced by armed conflict in Myanmar will be essential to the success of any peace process in Myanmar. TNI therefore organized consultation meetings on IDPs' right to land in March, June and October. The October meeting in Kachin State was attended by the Kachin Minister of Social Welfare and other state-level officials from various departments, including the Forestry Department, and established the basis for ongoing work with local partners, in which TNI will provide technical support for a baseline research study on IDPs' right to land in Kachin and northern Shan State in 2017.

A great deal of the learning from this mutual work with partner organizations was collated in a primer, published in January 2016, on *The meaning of land in Myanmar*.

"We never had a workshop like this. We want to work together, and make our own policy."

– Participant in Kengtung workshop, August 2016

Bridging scholars and activism

TNI's agrarian and environmental justice work is renowned for its bridging of activist and academic worlds. Throughout 2016, we continued to make those bridges, bringing together activists, academia and policy-makers at the Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS) colloquium in the Hague (February), the Conference on Land and Territories in Bogota (August), and the BRICS Initiative for Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS) conference in Beijing (November).

The colloquium in the Hague has become a renowned fixture in the calendar, in 2016 attracting 400 participants with 200 more wishing to attend. The colloquium analysed the privatization of global governance in the areas of land, conflict and climate, engaging TNI's trade & investment, corporate power, drugs and Myanmar projects.

Building on the colloquium, TNI launched a call for papers by young researchers on Agroecology and Urban Food Policy in August, which received over 90 high-quality submissions in a matter of weeks. Six researchers from six countries were selected, who attended various events and will produce research papers in 2017.

TNI continues too to be a partner in MOSAIC, an action research project focused on the land/climate/conflict nexus in Myanmar, Cambodia and more recently The Philippines, which complements our work in Myanmar.

The expertise TNI has built up has meant that TNI staff are frequently called upon to provide input at activist gatherings. Some of these events in 2016 included an activist gathering in Denmark (October), talks during the Swedish Food Sovereignty Week & Human Rights Days (November), and Seminars on Public Policies for Food Sovereignty in the Basque country (November).

People

- Lyda Fernanda Torrero – Project Coordinator
- Dr. Jennifer Franco – Senior Research Associate
- Sylvia Kay – Hands On the Land Project Officer
- Timothé Feodoroff – Research associate
- Alberto Alonso-Fradejas – Research associate
- Zoe Brent – Research associate
- Dr. Jun Borrás – Fellow, Professor at the Institute of Social Studies
- Katie Sandwell – Programme assistant

Volunteers/Interns

- Ruben Rosenberg Colorni

Key publications

- Bioenergy in the EU
- Land for the few infographics
- Land grabbing and land concentration in Europe
- Cooling the planet: Frontline communities lead the struggle (also in French and Spanish)
- Ocean grabs: fighting the corporate take-over of fisheries governance: property rights versus human rights (also in French and Spanish)
- Guide: Connecting smallholders to markets
- Canadese onderzoekers waarschuwen Europeanen voor handelsverdrag CETA
- Food Safety, Agriculture and Regulatory Cooperation in the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- The involvement of European corporate and financial entities in land grabbing outside the European Union
- Land politics, agrarian movements and scholar-activism
- Report of 'Justice for Berta Caceres' International Mission (full report in Spanish)
- The challenge of the Voluntary Guidelines in the Context of National Food Security
- Blue carbon: ocean grabbing in disguise?
- The meaning of land in Myanmar
- Financialization: A Primer
- La bioeconomía : Primer
- Oil corporations vs climate: The Keystone XL Case
- Territorial peace and land grabbing in Colombia

Partners

Global

- La Via Campesina
- FIAN International
- World Forum of Fisher Peoples
- IPC on Food Sovereignty
- Friends of the Earth International

Europe-wide

- Hands On the Land including European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), FIAN Netherlands, FIAN Belgium, FIAN Germany, FIAN Austria, FIAN Sweden, FDCL (Germany), IGO (Poland), EHNE-Bizkaia (Basque country), Crocevia (Italy), Terra Nuova (Italy), Vedegylet (Hungary), Za Zemiata (FOE Bulgaria), Eco Ruralis (Romania)
- Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands)
- University of Wageningen (Netherlands)
- Afrika Kontakt (Denmark)
- HEGOA, University of the Basque Country
- Office for Human Rights Action on Colombia (OIDHACO)
- Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina (OMAL)
- RE-Common
- ATTAC France
- Fern
- Corporate Europe Observatory

Asia

- Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- Paung Ku (PK), Myanmar
- Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), Myanmar
- Land in Our Hands Network (LIOH), Myanmar
- Land Core Group (LCG), Myanmar
- Equitable Cambodia (EC), Cambodia
- Community Peace-Building Network (CPN), Cambodia

Africa

- Masifundise, South Africa
- PLAAS, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- Katosi Women's Development Trust (KWDT), Uganda
- Friends of the Earth Nigeria/Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Nigeria
- Coordination Nationale des Paysannes du Mali (CNOP), Mali
- Convergence Malienne contre les accaparement des terres (CMAT), Mali

Americas

- Land & Sovereignty in the Americas Activist Research Collective including IPC Latin America, Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC)/La Via Campesina Latin America
- Food First (USA)
- Cornell University (Philip Mc Michael and Wendy Wolford)
- University of California Davis (Liza Grandia)
- FIAN Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras and Brazil
- Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UAM) Xochimilco (Carlos Rodriguez)
- Universidad de Zacatecas, Mexico (Raul Delgado-Wise and Henry Veltmeyer)
- Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (Silvel Elias)
- Universidad de Costa Rica (Andres Leon Araya)
- Universidad del Externado de Colombia (Dario Fajardo and Vladimir Rodriguez)
- Universidad Nacional de Brasilia (UNB) (Sergio Sauer)
- Universidad Estadual de Sao Paulo (UNESP) (Bernardo Mancano Fernandes)
- Comité de Unidad Campesina de Guatemala (CUC)/LvC Guatemala
- Asociacion de Zonas de Reservas Campesinas de Colombia (ANZORC)
- Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) (Rita Zanoto and Marina dos Santos)
- Movimento Nacional Campesino e Indigena de Argentina (MNCI/LvC Argentina)
- Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios (CITI)
- Base Investigaciones Sociales, Paraguay
- Guatemalan Institute of Agrarian and Rural Studies (IDEAR)
- Fundacion Tierra Bolivia
- Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
- Jubilee South Americas
- Grupo Carta de Belem
- CENSAT Agua Viva, Amigos de la Tierra Colombia
- Comisión intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
- REDES Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay
- CUT Brasil
- CESTA Amigos de la Tierra El Salvador
- World March of Women

CORPORATE POWER

Corporations have become immensely powerful in recent decades, capturing the state and international bodies, privatizing democracy, determining economic and social policy, and putting in place a trade and investment agenda that gives them extensive rights and effective impunity for violations of human rights or destruction of the environment. TNI has helped build an international campaign to hold transnational corporations legally accountable and to support frontline communities seeking justice for corporate crimes, an end to impunity and the building of collective alternatives.

Goal (2016–2020): Move towards the establishment of a treaty for binding regulations for transnational corporations, which would end impunity, and secure justice for communities affected by corporate abuses.

Goals for 2015	Results in 2015 to which TNI contributed
Build an international coalition of civil society organizations working toward an Treaty on TNCs at the UN level, advocating binding norms in relation to human rights and corporate activities and mechanisms that provide access to justice for affected communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 new organizations active at the continental and international level joined the Stop Corporate Impunity network. • Strengthening of the network in North America (new collaboration with Corporate Accountability International), and in the farmers' rights sector (stronger working relations with La Via Campesina & FIAN) and new work on labour and migrant issues (with TUCA, WWM, TMP-E). • More than 100 activists from 29 countries – representing unions, peasant organizations, environmental organizations, youth, women, indigenous peoples, migrants and the access to medicines movements – convened in Geneva to participate in and observe the proceedings of the UN Human Rights Council in October 2016. Participants made 40 oral statements in the six panels of the session. • New relationships with parliamentarians as a result of two public meetings at the European Parliament as well as a roundtable during the World Parliamentarian Forum in Quebec. • Holding of Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Manzini, Swaziland on the occasion of the SADC Heads of State Summit built awareness and movement in Southern Africa with the participation of organizations presenting 11 cases from 6 countries. Over 500 people attended.
A significant number of governments engage in the Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group (OEIGWG) working on a binding instrument on TNCs and human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to strong lobbying, EU governments engage with process rather than obstructing negotiations. • Stop Corporate Impunity activities in March, June and October at UN of side-events, contributions to plenaries and outside mobilizations acknowledged as increasing engagement of governments. • Within European Parliament, debate shifted from focus on voluntary codes to a binding instrument. • Catalan parliament approved resolution supporting UN binding agreement.
The proposals of the International Peoples Treaty are made more concrete in order to develop more effective juridical strategies of resistance and access to justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With TNI's facilitation, Stop Corporate Impunity network presented six points/demands for consideration by the OEIGWG. • A permanent peoples' tribunal in Manzini, Swaziland on the occasion of the SADC Heads of State Summit hears 11 cases of corporate impunity from six countries. Over 500 people attended the formal PPT hearing.
The coalition of civil society organizations develops effective strategies to tackle corporate power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalan Centre on Transnational Corporations (and potential International Peoples' Centre on Corporate Impunity) received official support of the Catalan Parliament through a Resolution on 3rd November 2016, with the City Council of Barcelona proposing financial support. • TNI developed factsheets with representatives of the affected communities (MAB, Brazil and UDAPT, Ecuador) illustrating corporate impunity. • Improved media work in Spanish with articles in El Pais, Revista de la Jornada, and Publico.
Increased awareness on corporate capture of institutions of democracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Campaign began work on the issue of privatization of democracy, in particular with Brazilian, US, South African and European partners, developing a paper and organizing a dedicated workshop in October.

Project in numbers

- 17 new organizations join the Stop Corporate Impunity Campaign
- Co-organized 13 workshops attended by 1,635 people
- Nine meetings with key policy-makers
- *State of Power* report read by 9,051 people

Exposing the impacts of mining corporations in Southern Africa

In August, TNI supported 11 communities from six countries in Southern Africa to gather and share experiences of the activities of mining firms in their regions. The communities came together at a Permanent Peoples' Tribunal held in Manzini, Swaziland, which collated disturbing accounts of corporate abuses and impunity as well as inspiring stories of resistance and struggle.

Nonhle Mbuthuma was one of the many powerful women leaders present, at the forefront of resistance against extractivism in the continent. She leads the Amadiba Crisis Committee resisting titanium mining by Australian company Mineral Commodities (MRC) in the sand dunes of Xolobeni, on the Wild Coast, South Africa. She took on the leadership shortly after the assassination of its former leader Sikhosphi Bazooka Rhadebe by unknown gunmen, suspected of links to MRC. Undeterred by the dangers, she proclaimed adamantly at the tribunal that "We are not going to be intimidated. MRC will never mine in our land. Mining here will not only destroy our present but also our future."

The cases were heard by a distinguished panel of international jurors and included testimonies on the destructive activities of Tendele mining and Ibutho coal in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa; Glencore in Mines Kitwe, Northern Zambia and Shanduka in Zimbabwe; Maloma Colliery in the Nsoko and Lubombo regions of Swaziland, Anhui and Jinan Mining in Marange, Zimbabwe; as well as Vale and Jindal in Tete Province, Northern Mozambique. Gianni Tognoni, one of the jurors, explained the power of the tribunal as it allowed people "to present their cases not as victims but as true subjects of international law". This is key to the growing international movement against corporate impunity that believes international law must be constructed from the bottom-up and change the balance of power between TNCs and communities.

The tribunal concluded that each of the cases provided "sufficient evidence that the communities exposed to the intervention on their lands and life by TNCs are victims (individually and collectively) of severe and systematic violations of their rights to life and human dignity" but also noted the "incredible will and capacity for peaceful and creative resistance" by the affected communities. The tribunal was a pivotal moment in building collaboration between different communities, movements and networks in Southern Africa resisting corporate globalization and human rights violations. It will also help strengthen the growing international movement against corporate impunity. The tribunal will be followed up with a second session in 2017 examining struggles of workers, women and resistance on issues of land sovereignty and agriculture.

"There is a major legal gap in international human rights law that needs to be closed to end the impunity for human rights violations committed by TNCs. This must be the main objective of this new legally binding international instrument that will be developed by the UN Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights." (Building a UN Treaty on Human Rights and TNCs – Proposals from the Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples' Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity).

Building support for an international treaty

In October, TNI helped bring together 100 delegates from 29 countries, representing communities affected by corporate impunity to influence and accompany the work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. This group, under the aegis of the UN Human Rights Council is working towards developing a treaty to tackle corporate impunity. This working group was the result of long, effective campaigning by TNI and others that led to its historic establishment in 2014.

In the run-up to the 2016 meetings, TNI helped carry out an in-depth consultation with legal experts and the entire Stop Corporate Impunity coalition to coalesce demands into six key points. These were presented to the governments negotiating the establishment of a treaty. During the meetings themselves, TNI followed an inside-outside strategy, supporting affected communities to engage with officials inside the event as well as organizing public workshops concluding the week of mobilization with a mass demonstration at the corporation Trafigura's headquarters – one of the biggest global commodities corporations.

In 2016, the campaign won a powerful new ally, Alfredo-Maurice de Zayas, UN independent expert on a democratic and equitable international economic order, who argued it was time to move from a voluntary corporate-led approach to addressing corporate human rights abuses towards the adoption of a legally binding instrument. Following concerted pressure, the EU and its member states began to engage rather than obstruct the UN Inter-Governmental Working Group discussions. The Ecuadorian president of the working group also praised the work of the Global Campaign facilitated by TNI.

Meanwhile, with TNI's support, the global campaign to stop corporate impunity continues to grow. TNI supports three staff, one each in South Africa, India and Brazil, to build the campaign amongst academics, civil society organizations and government officials. In India, the campaign was actively promoted amongst Indians CSOs at the BRICS from Below summit in October. It was also on the agenda of land and environmental campaigners at the ISS colloquium on land in February, Plan B movement for Europe in Madrid and within the TTIP campaign in several European countries. There are now 212 members of the campaign.

Building a UN treaty on human rights and TNCs – six points summarized

1. Corporations are legal persons and are bound to respect human rights
2. Host states of TNCs have a duty to ensure that their corporations and their subsidiaries do not impair human rights wherever or however they operate
3. An international tribunal on TNCs and human rights should be set up to complement national and regional mechanisms to guarantee enforcement of the Treaty and access to justice for affected communities
4. New legal tools are needed to ensure liability for human rights abuses throughout complex production and labour supply chains and corporate structures
5. International Financial Institutions' policies and international trade treaties must be evaluated and changed in relation to a binding framework which affirms the supremacy of human rights law
6. The human rights of affected communities must be recognized and adequate support provided to overcome legal hurdles that prevent access to justice such as court costs and protracted processes

See the full six points here:

http://www.stopcorporateimpunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/SIX-points_ENG.pdf

Uniting movements against acts of corporate impunity

The shocking human costs of corporate impunity were brought home starkly with the assassination of renowned indigenous activist, Berta Caceres, in Honduras in March 2016. Berta had been a firm defender of peasant and indigenous peoples' rights and led the struggle against the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam whose construction had been imposed on indigenous territory without prior consultation. Her assassination by gunmen linked to the corporations invested in the project prompted an outpouring of grief and international solidarity, in which TNI actively participated through the international movement to stop corporate impunity.

TNI was part of an international 'fact-finding' delegation that travelled to Honduras in April and produced a report and recommendations to the government and the international community.

TNI also hosted a lobby tour by the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) and the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders of Honduras to Europe in order to put pressure on the EU institutions and corporations funding the Agua Zarca dam and other destructive extractive projects in Honduras. As a result of TNI and others' pressure, the Dutch development corporation FMO withdrew funding and has undertaken to exit the Agua Zarca project.

People

- Brid Brennan – Project Coordinator
- Diana Aguiar/Monica Vargas – Coordinator of Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples' Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity
- Gonzalo Berrón – Research Associate, Brazil
- Benny Kuruvilla – Research Associate, India
- Sol Trumbo Vila – Project Officer
- Matthijs Peters – Research Associate
- Susan George – President of TNI
- David Fig – Fellow

Major publications

- Building a UN treaty on human rights and TNCs (also in Spanish)
- Tax evasion and weapon production (also in Dutch)
- Military spending, tax evasion and the Netherlands Infographic
- Report of 'Justice for Berta Caceres' International Mission (also in Spanish)
- Hold TNCs responsible for violating a human right if they block access to medicines
- State of Power 2016 (also in Spanish)
- Who are the Davos class? Infographic (also in Spanish)
- Financialization: A Primer
- Paz territorial y acaparamiento en Colombia
- Joint publications with TNI-VIGENCIA, Jornada Revista and articles with El Pais; Revista sobre la Jornada; ALAI

Partners

International

- Bi-regional Europe-Latin America and the Caribbean Enlazando Alternativas Network
- CADTM International
- FIAN International
- Friends of the Earth International
- International Articulation of those Affected by Vale
- La Via Campesina International
- The International Office for Human Rights Action on Colombia (OIDHACO)
- World March of Women
- World Rainforest Movement

Regional

- Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe – ATALC
- CADTM – AYNA, Americas
- Focus on the Global South, India/Thailand/Philippines
- Hemispheric Social Alliance, Americas
- Jubileo Sur Americas
- Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD), Americas
- Social Movements for an Alternative Asia (SMAA)

Africa

- African Women Unite Against Destructive Natural Resource Extraction (WoMin), South Africa
- Alternative Information Development Center (AIDC), South Africa
- Bench Marks Foundation, South Africa
- Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD), Zambia
- Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria
- Groundwork – Friends of the Earth South Africa
- JA! Friends of the Earth, Mozambique
- La Via Campesina Africa
- Rural Women's Assembly Africa

Americas

- ATTAC Argentina
- Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association (ABIA)
- Brazilian Network for the Integration of the Peoples (REBRIP)
- CDHAL, Canada
- CEDIB, Bolivia
- Censat Agua Viva – Amigos de la Tierra Colombia
- Corporate Accountability International, US
- Derechos Humanos sin Fronteras, Perú
- Educational Assistance (FASE), Brazil
- Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho (FESPAD), El Salvador
- Grassroots Global Justice, United States of America
- Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) – Global Economy Project
- Instituto Equit – Gênero, Economia e Cidadania Global, Brazil
- Instituto Políticas Alternativas para o Cone Sul (PACS), Brazil
- Justiça Global, Brazil
- Mesa Nacional frente a Minería Metálica, El Salvador
- Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens (MAB), Brazil
- Movimiento Rios Vivos, Colombia
- Polaris Institute, Canada
- Red Muqui Sur, Peru
- Terra de Direitos, Brazil
- Unión de Afectados y Afectadas por las Operaciones Petroleras de Texaco (UDAPT), Ecuador
- Vigencia, Brazil

Asia (and Middle East)

- Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL), Philippines
- Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), Philippines
- Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (Stop the Wall), Palestine
- ATTAC, Morocco
- EU-Asean Trade network, South-East Asia
- Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ), Indonesia

Europe

- ATTAC France
- Centre Europe Tiers Monde (CETIM), Switzerland
- Col·lectiu de Respostes a les Transnacionals (RETS), Catalunya, Spain
- Coordination Climat Justice Sociale, Switzerland
- Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), Belgium
- Ecologistas en Acción-Ekologistak Martxan – Ecologistes en Acció, Spain
- Enginyeria sense Fronteras, Catalonia
- Entrepueblos, Spain
- France Amérique Latine (FAL), France
- LAB, Euskal Herria
- Milieudéfensie – Friends of the Earth, Netherlands
- Multiwatch, Switzerland
- NOVACT, Spain
- Observatório de la Deuda en la Globalización (ODG), Spain
- Observatorio de Multinacionales en America Latina (OMAL), Spain
- Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos (RIDH), Switzerland
- SolidaritéS, Switzerland
- SOMO – Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, Netherlands
- War on Want, United Kingdom

See full list on Stop Corporate Impunity website

DRUGS & DEMOCRACY

TNI believes that current prohibitionist drug policies are ineffective, counter-productive and undermine human rights. Over more than 20 years, TNI has become a leading global institute on drug policy reform – unique for our technical and policy expertise and for our pioneering proposals related to farmer participation, harm reduction on the supply side and regulation of markets for cannabis and mild stimulants.

Goal (2016-2020): To show that the ‘Vienna consensus’ is broken, to highlight the breakthroughs in alternative policy directions, to contribute to significant drug policy shifts in selected countries and to build support for future changes in the UN treaty system and institutional drug control architecture.

Goals for 2015	Results in 2015 to which TNI contributed
Ensure 2016 UNGASS recognizes the reality of a broken consensus and accepts the possibility of future changes in the UN treaty system and its institutional architecture.	<p>Important steps taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad group of countries issued a joint declaration at UNGASS death penalty expressing dissent about the outcome document. • Growing bloc of countries questioned the international drug control system. • Discourse shifted towards a more human rights, health and development-based approach.
Ensure active engagement of other UN agencies and meaningful participation of civil society in UNGASS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With TNI's strong encouragement, other relevant UN agencies eg UNDP and OHCHR actively contributed to UNGASS preparation. • Broad civil society participation ensured in preparatory process, with notable impact on the outcomes of the negotiations.
Organize forums with opium, coca and cannabis farmers in order to facilitate participation in policy debates and UNGASS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local opium farmers' forums organized in Myanmar, contributed to a farmers' forum in Colombia, and organized one Global Forum. • Advocacy on importance of farmers' participation in drug policy discussions accepted at both official level and within the policy reform community. • Farmers' representatives were included in the Civil Society Task Force, at ICAD2 and in the UNGASS itself. • UNODC and CND documents included language on the need to address poverty rather than criminalize farmers' communities.
Continue the cross-fertilisation of experiences and best practices in drug law reform and cannabis regulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of briefings on cannabis policies published (Indonesia, Paraguay, Latin America). • Input and advice given to Canadian and Jamaican governments and Dutch parliamentarians on regulation of Cannabis markets. • Examples of best practices fed into drug law reform discussions and proposals in Myanmar and Thailand.
Explore different options for revision of the UN drug control treaty system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable scenarios elaborated for countries to legally reconcile cannabis regulation with international treaty obligations. • Briefing paper published with partners on treaty reform options. • Side events organized on treaty reform options during UNGASS in New York and CND in Vienna.
Continue informal dialogues to facilitate strategic policy debates and creation of like-minded groups and consolidation of coordinated positions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy dialogues held in Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Myanmar, Colombia and Germany
Move international debate about Alternative Development towards concept of harm reduction, applied to the drug supply-side.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side event held on outcomes of ICAD2 during CND in Vienna • Active participation taken in discussion on future of Alternative Development at COPOLAD meeting in Bogota and special session at Cambodia dialogue. • UNGASS outcomes document placed Alternative Development within the broader SDG agenda and broadened concept to urban drug markets and violence reduction.

Project in numbers

- 1,168 English subscribers, 1,127 Spanish to our specialist lists
- 4,789 followers of the Drugs & Democracy programme twitter account @DrugLawReform
- More than 3,700 people reached in person through workshops, talks, and events in 15 countries
- Broad audience reached through articles citing or mentioning our work and perspectives in *The Myanmar Times*, *Vice Magazine*, *OpenDemocracy*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *El Espectador*
- 12 policy briefings and reports published

Why this issue matters

For much of the last century, international drug policy has been based on a moralistic, prohibitionist and irrational approach that has had disastrous consequences for millions of people. Peasants have faced dispossession of their land, violence and chemical contamination, while drug users have been criminalized and pushed into more dangerous forms of drug use, and small traders have been subjected to disproportionate sentences leading to an explosion of incarceration and overcrowded prisons around the world. Meanwhile the expanding illicit drug markets have fueled corruption, criminal networks and deadly cycles of violence. TNI believes we need a new approach rooted in principles of human rights and harm reduction, based on evidence of what works, and one that protects and upholds the dignity of farmers and users.

Amplifying farmers' voices at the UN

Producers of prohibited plants have traditionally been excluded from debates on drug policies, even though many are from impoverished communities who reap little monetary benefit and suffer directly from the violence involved in the drug war. TNI has long argued that any solutions to drug impacts must involve hearing from those who cultivate prohibited plants. So in January, TNI held an historic meeting that gathered producers of prohibited plants from 14 countries to discuss their experiences and prepare their demands for the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drugs Problem later in the year. The participants shared their personal experiences of the health, environmental and social impacts of drug policies, such as the fumigation of plants that have poisoned their lands and rivers, the militarized policing that has led to human rights violations and deaths, or forced eradication that deprived communities of their basic livelihoods. Based on the discussions, the forum issued a declaration directed at their governments and UNGASS. The meeting was reported on widely in the Dutch media.

Farmers representatives were subsequently involved in preparatory stakeholder meetings and at UNGASS itself. TNI's Pien Metaal was elected as a member of the UN Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) to advocate for farmers' rights in the whole UNGASS process.

Thanks to TNI's work, there has been a noticeable shift towards acceptance at both the official level and within the policy reform community of the need for participation of farmers' communities in debates on drug policy. The Civil Society Task Force, International Conference on Alternative Development and the UNGASS itself have supported inclusion of farmers' representatives. The UN agencies' documents and discourse have also included language on the need to address poverty rather than criminalizing farmers' communities in an explicit manner.

"We are telling our government, stop investing in the war on drugs, invest in us. We have proposals and solutions."

– Wilder Mora Costa, Colombia

Building a country alliance in favour of drug policy reform

In 2016, a special session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS) on drugs policy was convened, marking an important milestone in UN drug control history. TNI has been intensively involved in the preparatory process, with the hopes it could lead to a broad international recognition that the 'Vienna consensus' was broken and that systemic changes in the international drug policy architecture were needed.

Unfortunately, despite the glaring failures of the drug war, an admission that consensus had broken down ended up being blocked in the final outcome document along with any explicit language in support of harm reduction, decriminalization and ending the death penalty. Nevertheless, some victories were won in 2016 and important steps made towards the inevitable eventual break with the current UN drug control framework. A significant development was the emergence of a bloc of countries such as Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, Ghana, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal and Norway that committed to move away from the punitive paradigm.

Another important sign of progress was the greater involvement of other UN institutions in the process, such as the UNDP, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This enabled advances on issues of drugs and development, human rights, gender, proportionate sentencing, access to controlled medicines and alternatives to punishment. It has the potential to shift the debate further towards a more coherent UN approach to drugs consistent with human rights principles and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Meanwhile, TNI continues to build support for drug reform efforts in many individual countries that break with the international consensus. Through our policy dialogues that bring civil society, academia and policy-makers together, as well as our deeply researched reports and media outreach, TNI has helped sustain momentum. In 2016, TNI, in collaboration with reform-oriented governments and key partners like WOLA, IDPC and GIZ, organized policy dialogues in Cambodia (January), Santo Domingo (October), Myanmar (November) and Colombia (December) and the Brandenburg Forum in Germany (July).

TNI also produced research reports pushing for cannabis policy reform in Latin America, Asia and Europe. TNI has been advising several governments on how to deal with legal tensions with respect to their treaty obligations triggered by policy changes towards legal regulation of the cannabis market. In the Netherlands, TNI was asked to participate in an inter-ministerial brainstorm session for the Dutch EU Presidency in the first half of 2016.

"In 2007, I had the honour and pleasure, as General Secretary of the JND (National Drugs Board) of Uruguay, to organize together with TNI and WOLA the first Informal Dialogue on Drug Policies in Latin America. The results we have today in Uruguay in the field of drugs and human rights can be traced back to then... The ongoing support you have provided... also allowed us to join forces with colleagues and friends throughout Latin America."

– Milton Romani Gerner, former Permanent Representative of Uruguay at the Organization of American States

Advancing drug law reform in Myanmar

Throughout 2016, TNI has also worked closely with the new Myanmar government as it considers new approaches on drug policy. TNI helped support the establishment of the Myanmar Opium Farmers' Forum in order to ensure that farmers' voices were heard in the national debates. In May, 34 opium farmers came together to issue a declaration calling for an end to forced eradication and for recognition of traditional uses of opium and customary land tenure rights.

TNI has also supported the emergence of a national Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG) that is seeking to ensure drug issues are included in peace negotiations and national dialogues with ethnic groups. DPAG meets monthly and actively engages in discussions with parliamentary and government officials about drug policy reform options.

In the second half of the year, TNI working with the National Drug Users Network Myanmar (NDNM), published a policy briefing, *Found in the Dark*, on the impact of drug law enforcement in Myanmar. The report was a key input in a regional informal drug policy dialogue that TNI co-hosted in November in Myanmar.

"For drug policy issues, TNI really is the best source. TNI is the only institution that has been working on this issue for such a long time and it has contributed a lot to this drug-related work in Myanmar."

– Ye Ni, Editor at Irrawaddy (independent news agency in Myanmar)

People

- Martin Jelsma – Programme Director
- Ernestien Jensema – Team Coordinator
- Pien Metaal – Senior Project Officer
- Tom Blickman – Senior Project Officer
- Tom Kramer – Senior Research Associate, Myanmar
- David Bewley-Taylor – Associate, UK
- Ricardo Vargas – Associate, Colombia

Interns:

- Dania Putri (Indonesia)
- Devika Sud (India)

Major publications

- What comes next? Post-UNGASS options for 2019-2020 (with IDPC)
- The Global Forum of Producers of Prohibited Plants (GFPPP) report
- Found in the Dark – Myanmar policy briefing
- Paraguay: The cannabis breadbasket of the Southern Cone
- UNGASS 2016: A droken or d-r-o-a-d consensus?
- Cannabis regulation and the UN Treaties
- The fascinating history of cannabis prohibition timeline
- Cannabis in Indonesia

Partners and networks

Global

- Global Commission on Drug Policy (GCDP)
- International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPDPD)
- Global Forum of Producers of Prohibited Plants (GFPPP)

Americas

- Research Consortium on Drugs and the Law (Colectivo de Estudios Drogas y Derecho, CEDD) Latin America
- Intercambios Asociación Civil, Argentina
- DeJusticia, Colombia
- Observatorio de Cultivos Declarados Ilícitos (OCDI), INDEPAZ, Colombia
- Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) Mexico
- Colectivo por una política integral hacia las drogas (CUPIDH), Mexico
- México Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD), Mexico
- Centre for Research on Drugs and Human Rights (CIDDH), Peru
- Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID), Costa Rica
- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), US

Asia

- National Drug Users Network Myanmar (NDNM)
- Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum (MOFF)
- Drug Policy Advocacy Group (DPAG)
- Lawyers Collective, India
- Paung Ku, Myanmar
- Metta Development Foundation, Myanmar
- iDefend, Philippines

Europe

- Forum Droghe – Fuoriluogo, Italy
- University of Utrecht (Criminology), Netherlands
- Transform Drug Policy Foundation, UK
- Release, UK
- Global Drug Policy Observatory (GDPO), Swansea University, UK
- International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, UK
- Diogenis Association, Greece
- Energy Control, Spain
- International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Services (ICEERS), Spain
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany
- Grupo de estudio de políticas sobre el cannabis (GEPCA) (Task Force on Cannabis Policies), Spain

Africa

- Confédération des Associations de Sanhaja du Rif pour le développement, Morocco

MYANMAR

The election of a new civilian government in Myanmar in 2015 raised hopes for democratization, greater economic and social justice and an end to one of the longest running armed conflicts in the world. In Myanmar, TNI's work on agrarian justice, trade and investment, alternative development and a humane drugs policy come together. TNI's Myanmar work aims to strengthen civil society organizations, particularly those based in ethnic regions, in dealing with the challenges brought about by the rapid opening-up of the country and the desire of its people for an inclusive and sustainable peace.

Goal (2014–2016): Support ethnic-based civil society organizations in addressing ethnic conflict in Myanmar and in making the current peace process more inclusive.

Goals	Outcomes in 2016 to which TNI contributed
<p>Provide space for strategic thinking for ethnic groups from Myanmar and support liaison with ethnic armed opposition groups and political parties, as well as with international experts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At seminar in March, representatives of ethnic-based CSOs, armed organizations and political parties were able to have open discussions on solving ethnic conflict in the country, and helped build increased understanding between CSOs, political parties and armed groups on their different strategies and priorities. • CSOs representing opium growing communities and drug users presented a vision for a different drug policy at the annual TNI-GZI Asia Informal Drug Policy Dialogue organized in cooperation with the Myanmar government. Participants included – for the first time – a senior advisor to the SSA-South/RCSS, to discuss links between drugs and conflict. • TNI organized several workshops for 60 CSOs enabling them to engage in policy dialogues on investment protection in the EU-Myanmar Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and the new regional trade agreement RCEP. Consequently, workshop participants participated in a consultation hosted by EU delegation during the fourth round of negotiations in December 2016.
<p>Provide high quality and balanced analysis on Myanmar to increase understanding among ethnic actors, policy makers and international community of key issues affecting ethnic communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNI published commentaries, policy briefings and indepth reports on ethnic conflict, land, drugs, investment and women and peace. • TNI's publications were used for example by CSOs to analyse and comment on the draft National Land Use Policy (NLUP) as well as the 1993 Narcotics. • Director-General from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry wrote a letter to TNI thanking for the initial analyses of the first draft of the NLUP, and asked for further concrete suggestions. • Government representatives used TNI's final and more detailed response to the NLUP to produce the final NLUP draft, which included many of the key recommendations of TNI and local CSOs, including on ethnic land rights and the right to land for women.
<p>Build capacity of ethnic political actors and civil society organizations in key policy areas such as land and management of natural resources and drugs policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On request, TNI helped to organize two out of five thematic workshops – land & natural resources and social issues – for the eight Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). This resulted in common positions subsequently brought into the 21st Panglong Conference. • TNI organized several land workshops with ethnic-based CSOs and EAOs in Mon, Kachin, Kayah and Shan States. These workshops helped to coalesce demands by local communities to be treated as human rights holders, including the human right to land. • With TNI support, the Myanmar Lands In Our Hands network (LIOH) developed joint responses to the draft NLUP and the Farmland Law. • Through TNI co-organized meetings, CSO representatives were able to engage with government representatives, and present their proposals and policy recommendations, for example in the National Dialogue on Customary Communal Tenure of Rotational & Fallow Taungya. • The NLUP final draft was adopted in 2016 after a long consultation process (TNI, Paung Ku and LIOH co-organized 14 regional pre-consultations involving over 1200 participants). The NLUP is largely viewed in positive terms as many actors felt that they could see voices and contributions included; those working in ethnic areas described it as having 60–65 percent good provisions.

Project in numbers

- 5,000 TNI publications distributed in Myanmar
- 52,000 visits to TNI's web publications
- 1,100 participants in 23 workshops
- Regular media coverage in *Myanmar Times*, *TIME magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Reuters*, *The Irrawaddy*, *New York Times* and others

Why this issue matters

As Myanmar opens up politically and economically, TNI's accompaniment of local citizen organizations has expanded as well. TNI researchers have co-operated with local CSOs in providing analysis and training on drugs, land and investment policies for community leaders who have used that knowledge to advocate for their own priorities. TNI's approach and philosophy of embracing a support role for local movements, rather than promote our own profile, has made us a trusted partner.

Empowering ethnic-based civil society organizations to defend and promote the right to land

As the Thein Sein government formally adopted the National Land Use Policy (NLUP), TNI spent much of 2016 involved in a series of workshops with ethnic-based CSOs and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) in Mon, Kachin, Kayah and Shan States on how to defend and promote the right to land at a time of political and economic transition. This included a 5-day workshop in December for the eight EAOs that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as they prepared for the 21st Century Panglong Conference.

Many of these workshops helped to coalesce demands by local communities, many of whom depend on control of land and related natural resources economically, socially and culturally, to be treated as human rights holders, including with regard to a human right to land. TNI has also helped strengthen multi-ethnic civil society coalitions, such as LIOH, to defend rights to land.

TNI has sought to be as responsive to local needs as possible. This has led to workshops in regions typically ignored by the government and international NGOs. It led to developing new areas of work looking at, for example, the rights to restitution and redistribution of land for internally displaced people and refugees. TNI has supported many of these meetings with expert input, research and analysis, provision of international best practices, drafting of proposals and requested follow-up, and facilitated bringing diverse ethnic communities together around these issues.

Finding an equitable path forward in Myanmar that guarantees respect for the right to land of the many people who have been displaced by numerous causes, especially conflict and militarization, will be essential to the success of any peace process in Myanmar. TNI therefore co-organized with The Border Consortium (TBC) two workshops for local representatives of IDPs that culminated in a public forum and the release of a joint statement by the workshop participants. A follow-up meeting on the issue in Kachin State in October was attended by the State Minister of Social Welfare, other state-level officials, the Forestry Department, as well as international NGOs. CSO representatives at the meeting in Myitkyina set up a steering group for ongoing work, which TNI is supporting with a baseline research study in Kachin and Northern Shan State to be carried out in 2017.

A great deal of the learning from this mutual work with partner organizations was collated in a primer, published in January 2016 on *The meaning of land in Myanmar*.

"We never had a workshop like this. We want to work together, and make our own policy."

– Participant in Kengtung land workshop, August 2016

Pushing for just investment and trade

As Myanmar opens up, it will be critical that its trade policies serve its people rather than the multinational companies keen to exploit its natural resources. This will require the government taking a firm stand to demand trade deals that allow the country to develop sustainably – and this will require a mobilized civil society determined to defend its rights.

TNI has therefore actively supported training, education and coordination by Myanmar civil society on trade and investment policy. In September TNI co-organized a workshop with local CSOs Paungku and KESAN on the risks of investment protection clauses in the upcoming regional trade deal (RCEP) and in the EU-Myanmar Investment Protection Agreement. In November, Myanmar CSOs participated in a TNI co-organized ISDS training in Manila, alongside 35 other participants from Southeast Asia. When EU negotiators held consultations in December during the fourth round of negotiations with Myanmar, they were forced to debate well-prepared, informed civil society representatives.

Myanmar CSOs launched several calls to the EU and Myanmar government requesting transparency in the negotiation process and calling for a postponement of the EU-Myanmar Investment Treaty until further steps in the peace process are made.

“Not long after the [TNI] workshop, I had the opportunity to attend consultation meetings with the Secretary General of ICSID [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes – World Bank] and representatives from the European Commission. The workshop prepared me well for those kind of meetings – through the role play sessions, case studies and reference materials. I was able to present concerns... to Ms. Meg Kinnear [of ICSID] based on lessons-learned from the workshop and to explain how it could stall the country's democratization process...”

– Doi Ra, Paung Ku, Myanmar

Advancing drug law reform in Myanmar

Throughout 2016, TNI also worked closely with local CSOs as the government considers new approaches on drug policy. TNI supported the Myanmar Opium Farmers' Forum in order to ensure that farmers' voices are heard in local and national debates. In May, 34 opium farmers, representing communities from the key poppy growing areas from Shan, Kayah and Kachin States, came together to discuss key concerns and future plans, and issued a declaration calling for an end to forced eradication and for recognition of traditional uses of opium and customary land tenure rights.

TNI has also supported the emergence of a national Drug Policy Advocacy Group, a discussion platform consisting of local and international NGOs that is advocating for drug policies based on public health, human rights and development. DPAG meets monthly and actively engages in discussions with parliamentary and government officials about drug policy reform options. DPAG also organized several public events that included representatives from drug users and opium farming communities as speakers.

In the second half of the year, TNI, working with the National Drug Users Network Myanmar (NDNM), published a policy briefing, *Found in the Dark*, on the impact of drug law enforcement in Myanmar. The report calls for decriminalization of drug use, harm reduction policies and improvement of services for drug users and was launched in Yangon.

In November, TNI and GIZ organized the 8th Asian Informal Drug Policy Dialogue in Nay Pyi Taw, in cooperation with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC). It was the first time the dialogue took place in Myanmar, and it was attended by representatives from governments, local NGOs and international agencies from the region. Representatives from NDMN, MOFF and DPAG gave presentations at the dialogue. Agenda items included the drug law reform process in Myanmar and the rights of affected communities, including opium farmers and drug users, as well as the links between drugs and conflict and what this means for the peace process.

“For drug policy issues, TNI really is the best source. TNI is the only institution that has been working on this issue for such a long time and it has contributed a lot to this drug-related work in Myanmar.”

– Ye Ni, Editor at Irrawaddy (independent news agency in Myanmar)

People

- Tom Kramer –Project Coordinator, Myanmar
- Pietje Vervest – Economic Justice Programme Coordinator
- Jennifer Franco – Senior Research Associate
- Martin Smith – Senior Research Associate, Myanmar
- Ernestien Jensema – Drugs programme coordinator
- Khu Khu Ju – Land Policy Advisor, Myanmar
- Sai Lone – Drugs Policy Advisor, Myanmar
- Renaud Cachia – Drugs Policy Advisor, Myanmar
- Phwe Phyu – Project Assistant and logistical support, Myanmar
- Hannah Twomey – Research Assistant
- Shadan Mung San Zau – Translation and research, Myanmar

Major publications

- The hidden costs of RCEP and corporate trade deals in Asia
- Found in the Dark
- China’s Engagement in Myanmar: From Malacca Dilemma to Transition Dilemma
- အမျိုးသမီးမပါဘဲ ငြိမ်းချမ်းမှုမရှိနိုင် - မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအတွင်း ကျား/မတန်းတူညီမျှမှု၊ စစ်မက်ပဋိပက္ခနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး
- စတုတ္ထအကြိမ်မြောက် ဘိန်းစိုက်တောင်သူများညီလာခံ သဘောထားထုတ်ပြန်ချက်
- Statement of the 4th Myanmar Opium Farmers’ Forum
- 7th GIZ/TNI Asian Informal Drug Policy Dialogue
- Land confiscations and collective action in Myanmar’s Dawei special economic zone area: implications for rural democratization
- The meaning of land in Myanmar
- No women, no peace: gender equality, conflict and peace in Myanmar

Partners

- Land in Our Hands
- Paung Ku
- Drug Policy Advocacy Group
- Myanmar Opium Farmers’ Forum
- National Drug Users’ Network Myanmar
- Karen Environmental and Social Action Network
- Ethnic Community Development Forum
- Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability
- Metta Development Foundation
- Joint Strategic Team
- Shalom Foundation
- Dawei Development Association
- Farmers’ and Labour Union
- Mong Pan Youth Association
- Pa-O Youth Organization
- Ta-ang Students’ and Youth Union
- The Border Consortium
- Human Rights Foundation of Monland
- Karenni Land Policy Committee
- Lahu Development Network
- Mon Land Policy Committee
- Shan CSO Land Network
- Dawei Development Association
- Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association
- Mae Fah Luang Foundation
- Land Core Group
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

TNI has worked for more than a decade to build a strong countervailing force that reverses privatization and delivers a more democratic, accountable and effective public services that works better for citizens and the environment.

Goal (2016-2020): To advance viable, feasible and progressive proposals on the democratic provision and financing of public goods and services.

Goals for 2015	Results in 2015 to which TNI contributed
Establish a 'decentralized think tank' on New Politics to boost the development of and enable exchange on desirable, viable and achievable alternatives to neoliberal capitalism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Latin American regional permanent working group was consolidated for the project launching call for research proposals on struggles over the public sphere that attracted 334 proposals. TNI co-published a new book <i>Public enterprises in Latin America</i>, which explores how states can develop desirable and viable state enterprises in different sectors.
A strong international alliance for energy democracy (ED) is built, strengthening national campaigns, building collective knowledge production and helping shift a corporate fossil-fuel energy infrastructure towards a renewable community energy system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNI hosted and helped launch the Energy Democracy Alliance with a gathering of key activists and the establishment of a new website as a collective resource centre and an email list. TNI co-organized a six-week online peer-learning course on energy democracy bringing together almost 100 practitioners, academics and activists.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State water companies in Lagos (Nigeria) and Ghana undertake reform processes based on genuine dialogues with citizens and workers. In Colombia, public budget is allocated to community water systems through public-community partnerships. Water provision is successfully remunicipalized in Jakarta and the new public system makes significant progress in securing access to water and environmental protection. The Citizens Bill on water rights and sustainable resource management is successfully adopted in Mexico. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Nigeria, our partner Environmental Rights Action (ERA) successfully presented its policy alternatives to privatization of the state water company in Lagos, with an event and report that engaged the local state governor. The UN special rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation argued for citizens' participation in developing policies. The campaign against Jakarta's water privatization and for re-municipalization however reached an impasse despite two courts' decisions in favour of citizen-led proposals due to a lack of political will and corporate lobbying.
Proposals for a comprehensive progressive and democratic transformation of the EU is widely debated and embraced by not only the European United Left but by the Greens and Social Democrats MPs, MEPs and other policy institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report, <i>Privatizing industry in Europe</i>, was published with considerable media coverage. The report provided new analysis on how legal and financial corporations benefited from privatization in Europe. TNI Board President Susan George actively engaged on behalf of TNI in new networks such as Democracy in Europe (DiEM), Plan B and AlterSummit that are seeking to build forces for a more just democratic European Union.

Project in numbers

- Six publications
- 105 participants from 34 countries signed up to online peer-learning course on energy democracy (40 participated regularly)
- 4,907 people attended activities organized by project
- 334 proposals received for TNI co-sponsored research project on theme of publicness

Energy Democracy network

In 2016, TNI helped launch an exciting new international network on energy democracy, connecting a growing movement of cities, communities and activists working to set up democratically accountable, equitable, renewable energy utilities. TNI hosted an international workshop in February that brought together 38 activists, including researchers, campaigners and practitioners, to develop a joint body of research and help establish the network. The first major joint effort of the network was the production of a briefing and a video, introducing the concept of 'energy democracy', based on interviews with its leading participants. This was launched and disseminated prior to the UN climate talks (COP 22) in Morocco. A website for the network was also set-up: <http://energy-democracy.net/>

TNI then teamed up with Platform London to offer a 6-week online peer learning course in October and November which attracted 90 people from 36 countries, of which an average of 40 people participated consistently. This included key people in nascent Energy Democracy network, as well as others active in energy policy worldwide. The course produced original materials, such as presentations and video interviews and enabled important learning and exchange through its online discussion forums and a Facebook group. TNI staff and fellows served as tutors and facilitators. The course is now archived as a permanent learning resource along with a database of exemplary cases of energy democracy.

TNI has also engaged with policy-makers to promote energy democracy best practice, including with city officials in Cadiz, Pamplona and Barcelona in Spain, the Labour Party and Green Party in the UK, and the Scottish National Party.

Supporting Lagos in fight for a democratic public water system

Nigeria's largest city has long suffered from a chronic water crisis with less than 10 per cent of households with connections and fewer than 30 per cent having access to community standpipes. The World Bank's proposals of private-sector partnerships and privatization have done little to resolve the situation. Working closely with local partner, Environmental Rights Action in Nigeria and other international partners, TNI produced a roadmap for the city on how to develop an accountable, efficient public water utility. The report drew on more than a decade of TNI research of best-practice worldwide and was launched in October in Lagos to over 140 activists, academics, media and policy-makers.

The report received widespread favourable media coverage, with one media commentator calling the report "a tour de force... well researched and brilliantly rendered". As a result the Lagos State government is studying the report. A coalition of diverse social organizations including trade unions, health groups, women's organizations, anti-corruption leaders and community activists have joined together to back the roadmap.

"We have however, made it clear that we will assist the government in developing real solutions that truly address people's access to water from the prism of human rights. We have also said that those solutions cannot be found in corporate management of public goods, but in collective investment in water infrastructure and democratic decision-making that prioritises the human right to water above profits".

– Deputy Executive Director, Frontline civil society group, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN), Akinbode Oluwafemi

Building public partnerships

TNI continued to work closely with long-term partners in Indonesia and Latin America. In Indonesia, TNI helped initiate research into the impact of the Jakarta Bay project that seeks to prevent further sinking of the city through the construction of dams and 17 artificial islands, funded by Dutch money and using Dutch dredging firms. The islands will be used largely for shopping malls and tourist purposes, while many thousands of people will lose their homes. TNI has supported Indonesians researching the adverse impacts of the project on coastal and fishing communities, and is advocating a participatory model of development for Jakarta Bay.

In Latin America, TNI continues to support the Public Community Partnerships in Americas (PAPC) network which supports community water management projects across the region. In September, PAPC brought 200 people together from community water organizations, public utilities and trade unions from Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, El Salvador, Bolivia and Honduras to share experiences and learning in Medellin, Colombia. One of the leading organizations in the network, the National Network of Community Aqueducts of Colombia is subsequently working on a popular initiative bill which seeks to legally protect community water management in the country.

TNI also promotes these ideas at the UN level, as an active member of UN Habitat's Global Water Operators Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA). In 2016, TNI coordinated input from water justice organizations for GWOPA's submission to the UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda that acknowledged the rise in alternatives to privatization in water services.

Launch of 'Privatizing industry in Europe'

Building on its reputation as a critical analyst of the economic crisis in the EU, TNI released a new report *Privatizing industry in Europe* that examined nine high-profile privatization deals across Europe and showed that a small coterie of legal, financial and accountancy firms, many based in the UK, were reaping huge profits from the crisis-prompted privatizations, at times fuelling corruption and rarely improving quality of services.

The report received headline coverage in *Publico* in Spain and *Efemerida ton Sintakton* in Greece as well as in *Vice*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Open Democracy* and other outlets. The report has been used by social movements in Spain resisting the privatization of the airport authority, AENA and trade unions opposing privatization in Cali, Colombia.

New Politics

In 2016, TNI initiated New Politics, a think-tank project, to encourage exchange of ideas and experiences of activists and academics involved in critical reflections on progressive politics and movements and to share experiences and ideas on alternatives to neoliberalism. The first international workshop was held in February with the participation of 27 activist-scholars from around the world.

A decentralized network with strong nodes in Latin America, South Africa and Europe was established, which produced a report of the meeting and commissioned a series of think pieces syndicated with media outlets, *La Diaria* (Uruguay), *Red Pepper* (UK) and *Amandla* (South Africa). The outputs and research from *New Politics* are feeding into a book 'A new politics from the left' written by TNI Fellow Hilary Wainwright, to be published in 2017.

In May, TNI launched a call for papers on struggles for public control together with the Latin America Social Sciences Council (CLACSO). More than 330 proposals were received and 10 researchers eventually given small grants to carry out research that will be jointly published in 2017. TNI staff evaluated the proposals and will be involved in accompanying the research. In November, TNI co-published a book, *Estado, empresas públicas y desarrollo*, which examined the experience and lessons of state-owned companies throughout Latin America and included an opening chapter by TNI Fellow Daniel Chavez.

People

- Satoko Kishimoto –Project Coordinator
- Dr. Daniel Chavez – Senior Project Officer/Fellow
- Edgardo Lander – Fellow
- Hilary Wainwright – Fellow
- Sol Trumbo Vila – Project Officer
- Lavinia Steinfort – Programme Assistant
- Akinbode Oluwafemi – Research Associate
- Nina Aichberger – Research Associate

Publications

- Lagos water crisis: Alternative roadmap for the water sector
- Estado, empresas públicas y desarrollo
- Dynamo/New Politics newspaper (Spanish)
- The New Politics Research Agenda Workshop Report (also in Spanish)
- Towards energy democracy report (also in Spanish)
- The privatizing industry in Europe (also in Spanish)
- Making public in a privatized world: the struggle for essential services

- Reinvigorating the public sector: the case of food security, small-scale farmers, trade, and intellectual property rules
- The open source city as the transnational democratic future (also in Spanish)
- Remunicipalization: a practical guide for communities and policy-makers (also in Spanish)

Partners and networks

Global

- Reclaiming Public Water Network
- Municipal Services Project
- Public Services International
- International Citizen Debt Audit Network

Americas

- Plataforma de Acuerdos Públicos Comunitarios de Las Américas
- Censat Agua Viva (Colombia)
- Queens University (Canada)
- University of Mexico
- University of Costa Rica
- University of the Republic (Uruguay)
- ANTEL (Uruguay)
- Blue Planet Project (Canada)
- Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (USA)
- Havens Center for Social Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)
- Institute for Latin American Studies of the University of Buenos Aires

Africa

- University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
- Environmental Rights Action (ERA) / Friends of the Earth Nigeria
- Alternative Information & Development Centre (AIDC) (South Africa)

Asia

- Amrta Institute (Indonesia)
- Focus on the Global South (Asia)
- Korean Government Employees Union (KGEU)

Europe

- Corporate Europe Observatory (Belgium)
- Public Services International Research Unit (UK)
- European Public Service Unions (EPSU)
- European Water Movement
- Multinational Observatory (France)
- Ingeniería Sin Fronteras CATALUÑA (ISF)
- Aqua Publica Europea (European Association of Public Water Operators)
- Forum Italiano dei Movimenti per l'Acqua (Italy)
- SOSte to NERO (S.O.S. Water) (Greece)
- Institute for Political Ecology (Croatia)
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Brussels office
- Platform London (UK)
- Switched on London (UK)
- Global Justice Now (UK)
- Tax Justice Network Netherlands (NL)
- transform! network (Europe)
- Alter Summit (Europe)

TRADE & INVESTMENT

In 2016, TNI's work with others to expose the unjust protection mechanisms for investors almost brought about the collapse of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). TNI also helped organize training of civil society leaders in Latin America and Asia so that they are better equipped to push for a just trade and investment policy in their regions. The challenge now is to ensure that promised reforms are not just cosmetic, but start to shift the balance so that the public interest comes above investor rights.

Goal (2016–2020): To establish the principle that the public interest and integrity of national judicial systems should not be undermined by trade and investment rules, particularly investment disputes.

Goals for 2015	Results in 2015 to which TNI contributed
Governments in the South/EU start to question their investment agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poland decided to terminate all BITs, India launched a new model BIT and announced termination of all its BITs, while Brazil and Iran started to sign investment agreements that departed from the traditional model. CETA almost collapses, TTIP stalls.
The inclusion of investment protection in the EU-led bilateral FTAs is challenged by media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buzzfeed published a long investigative report using TNI resources and support. TNI critiques were also published in The Guardian, Publico, Euractiv, Le Monde, Politico, Agence Europe, euobserver, La Diaria, and Dutch media incl. Volkskrant, NRC, NU.nl, NOS; El Universal and Reforma on EU-Mexico agreement, Interaksyon; PhilStar and MB on Philippines.
Policy-makers in EU and South speak critically about the dangers of investment arbitration and see the need for reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many policy-makers around the world spoke critically of ISDS including Greens and members of EPP, S&D (European Parliament). UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples produced a report that focused on negative impact of IIAs/ISDS on indigenous people's rights.
Opinion makers, including lawyers, join their voices to the growing critique of IIAs/ISDS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 101 law professors from 24 European countries signed letter of critique of Investment Court System (ICS). Prominent investment lawyer Philippe Pinsolle admitted: "In fairness, one must recognize that arbitration was designed to resolve one-on-one commercial disputes arising from contracts", he said. "It has been transplanted to treaty cases, where far more systematic issues are at stake and the transplant has essentially failed, or so it is perceived." Germany's largest association of judges and public prosecutors questioned the EU's rebranding of ISDS as a 'court system'. The European Association of Judges expressed reservations about competence and judicial standards of Commission' ICS proposal.
CSOs in Asia (ASEAN + India) and Latin America increase awareness of the dangers of IIAs and ISDS and capacity to engage their own governments and media on the investment protection agenda and are able to propose alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TNI workshops in Kuala Lumpur, Myanmar and Manila with 50 participants (November) provided training for 201+ key leaders. National coalition was formed in India of 70 organizations. Coalitions boosted in Philippines and Indonesia. Launch of Argentinian assembly and relaunch of network of social movements in Latin America against 'free trade (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay).
Dutch government indicates willingness to review their model BITs and renegotiate their old ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutch government announced intention to produce a new model BIT, halt all negotiations and review all current Dutch BITs. Dutch CSOs, including TNI, were invited to a consultation about the new model BIT.
MEPs and policy-makers in EU and the South accept that ICS does not address the key flaws of ISDS system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad number of MEPs as well as some MPs from southern governments came out criticising ISDS. In the case of CETA, many MEPs have also criticized ICS.

Project in numbers

- 652 people participate in 11 TNI co-organized events
- 8,000 march against CETA in Netherlands
- 14 briefings/reports
- *Unmasked* report reaches 462,000 twitter accounts

Why this issue matters

International trade is worth \$10 million a minute – 25 times bigger than aid flows – but who benefits depends on how trade and investment rules are written. More than 2,670 international investment agreements are already in force and many more are being negotiated. Multinational companies have a huge influence over negotiations, so most of these agreements grant corporations special privileges and impunity for human rights and environmental violations and roll back state regulations that protect people and the environment. The costs are felt by people whose jobs are outsourced, whose land and resources are ‘grabbed’, whose environment is destroyed and whose fundamental democratic rights are signed away in favour of corporate freedom.

“The year 2016 must be considered a real “annus horribilis” for the EU’s investment law and arbitration policy.”

– European Federation of Investment Law Arbitrators

ISDS illegitimacy almost sinks CETA

TNI has supported movements opposing unjust trade agreements since the 1990s – particularly focusing on the injustice of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement Mechanism (ISDS) that allows corporations to sue states for regulations that protect the public interest. TNI’s research, prominent publications such as *Profiting from injustice*, education and training, media outreach and coalition-building efforts have succeeded in turning this hitherto unknown system into “the most toxic acronym in Europe” (in the words of Cecilia Malmström, EU’s Trade Commissioner). In 2016, ISDS illegitimacy grew to such an extent that it almost brought down the EU-Canada Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

CETA was expected to be signed without controversy, but legally had to be ratified by all member state parliaments. This enabled critical public debate and led to serious opposition within several parliaments, most notably Belgium’s Walloon parliament that forced a delay in the official signing of the agreement. TNI helped organize a 8,000 strong demonstration against CETA (and TTIP) in Amsterdam on 22 October, and was involved in a series of lobby meetings with Dutch parliamentarians to support the resistance by the Wallonian regional government.

With the agreement at serious risk of collapse, the European Commission was forced onto the defensive, battling to defend its largely cosmetic reforms to ISDS, known as the Investment Court System (ICS). Although the agreement was eventually signed, the battle is far from over as CETA will only come into full effect once ratified by all of EU’s 28 parliaments. The Belgian government also committed to asking the European Court of Justice to examine the compatibility of ICS with EU law.

Bilateral investment treaties unravel

The near collapse of CETA was mirrored by the unravelling of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in many regions of the world. Within Europe, during 2016, Romania, Italy, the Czech Republic and Denmark initiated termination of BITs between EU member states. India meanwhile announced termination of all BITs that came up for renewal. The criticism of ISDS has also been at the heart of rising popular and political resistance to the proposed EU-US trade agreement, TTIP, which has now been suspended.

The success in derailing an extreme pro-corporate trade agenda can be seen in the despondency of corporate investment lawyers. Prominent investment lawyer Philippe Pinsolle says defending investment arbitration in its current form is now “a lost battle”. The pro-arbitration lobby EFILA complained publicly that the EC trade and investment agenda has stalled: “In sum, it must be concluded that the transfer of the FDI competence to the EU has not yielded any results since the beginning. After 6 years no single trade deal has been fully signed, ratified and entered into force.”

“There is a pressing need for systematic reform of the international investment agreements (IIAs) regime to bring it in line with today’s sustainable development imperative. Today the question is not whether or not to reform, but about the what, how and extent of such reform.”

– UNCTAD

Arguing for real not cosmetic reforms to ISDS

TNI’s research has contributed towards the European Commission’s admission of flaws and injustices in the current investment agenda, but as yet has not led to any proposals for effective reform. Rather the EC has embraced minor reforms that leave the fundamentals of the system intact, and used this to legitimize investor-state dispute settlement and pushed it through in new negotiations. In April, together with four European and Canadian NGOs, TNI published *Investment court system – put to the test* that exposed the cosmetic nature of the EC’s reforms by showing how five of the most controversial historic ISDS arbitration cases could still be launched under the Investment Court System (ICS).

The criticism was echoed by Germany’s largest association of judges and public prosecutors as well as the European Association of Judges. The former remarked that “Neither the proposed procedure for the appointment of judges of the ICS nor their position meet the international requirements for the independence of courts.”

The challenge for TNI and others is now to push the European Union to embrace a new trade and investment agenda that is socially just and no longer allows corporations to sue states for measures that protect the public interest.

Struggles against ISDS spread in the South

With the EU-US TTIP negotiation suspended, the EU has been moving aggressively to open up trade and investment agreements with the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Mexico. There are also drives within Asia and Oceania for a trade deal called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). TNI in 2016 therefore invested resources in building the collective knowledge and capacity of civil society leaders in these regions so that they can engage in analysing the agreements and hold their governments to account. These trainings and knowledge-sharing events are critical for democracy as most trade agreements habitually exclude civil society participation due to their technical complexity.

In July, TNI co-hosted a workshop on RCEP in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and also in Mongolia where 100 people attended workshops during the Asia-Europe Summit. TNI was one of the key organizers of the parallel Asia-Europe Peoples’ Forum in which more than 500 Mongolians and 250 international guests came together to analyse and strategize on how to advance climate justice and confront land and resource grabbing. TNI presented a study at the conference that examined how transnational companies were undermining the Mongolian government’s attempts to regulate its mining sector with investment claims at international arbitration courts.

In November, TNI co-organized training in Manila attended by 45 representatives of social movements, NGOs and trade unions from Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Thailand, as well as India and Korea. A virtual workshop on Free trade Agreements and ISDS held in Latin America, with the academic support of two universities, was joined by 500 participants. The participatory trainings have been widely praised by participants. Doi Ra, from Myanmar organization Paung Ku says the training enabled her to actively participate in a consultation with World Bank officials.

The training also helped kick-start key regional campaigns. In Myanmar, for example, over 150 civil society organizations signed a letter calling for a postponement of the EU–Myanmar Investment Treaty until the European Court of Justice makes its decision on ICS. When EU negotiators held

consultations in December during the fourth round of negotiations with Myanmar, they were forced to debate well-prepared informed civil society representatives. In Indonesia, 12 civil society organizations ran public events and lobbied officials during negotiations for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), explaining to the public what investment protection means for ordinary people – its impact on living wages, land distribution, access to free, accessible medicines, public healthcare and education.

TNI also accompanied a delegation from the Philippines in May during the first round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Brussels, enabling Filipino movement representatives to engage with MEPs, the European Commission and the media on the potential impacts of an EU-Philippines FTA.

“Not long after the [TNI] workshop, I had the opportunity to attend consultation meetings with the Secretary General of ICSID [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes - World Bank] and representatives from the European Commission. The workshop prepared me well for those kinds of meetings – through the role play sessions, case studies and reference materials. I was able to present concerns... to Ms. Meg Kinnear [of ICSID] based on lessons learnt from the workshop and to explain how it could stall the country's democratization process...”

– Doi Ra, Paung Ku , Myanmar

High quality research and media outreach

TNI continued its record of producing high-quality research and publications, including research that showed how ISDS constrains regulation of mining, undermines tax justice and weakens food safety regulations. TNI also evaluated the negative impacts that ISDS and free trade agreements have had in Colombia, Mexico and Mongolia.

This research has made us a highly trusted source within the media. We gave considerable advice and support, for example to an 18-month investigative research project by BuzzFeed which resulted in four long-read articles. TNI staff similarly posted op-eds in *The Guardian* (UK), *Agence Europe*, *El Universal* and *Reforma* (Mexico), *Tercera Informacion* (Spain) and others.

People

- Cecilia Olivet – Trade and Investment Project Coordinator
- Pietje Vervest – Economic Justice Programme Coordinator
- Luciana Ghiotto – Research Associate, Argentina
- Benny Kuruvilla – Research Associate, India
- Lavinia Steinfert – Programme Assistant
- Roeline Knottnerus – Research Associate
- Niels Jongerius – Dutch Advocacy Officer

Volunteers/Interns

- Luuk Schmitz

Major publications

- The hidden costs of RCEP and corporate trade deals in Asia
- Repercussions in Colombia of the free trade agreement with the European Union after three years of implementation
- Making sense of CETA (2nd Edition)
- CETA – Trading away democracy (2016 version)
- Food safety, agriculture and regulatory cooperation in the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- Mongolia's experience with investment treaties and arbitration cases
- Unmasked: corporate rights in the renewed Mexico-EU FTA
- Signing away sovereignty: how investment agreements threaten regulation of the mining industry in The Philippines

- Proposal to expand investors' rights for all intra-EU investment will be the next nail in the coffin of European integration
- Investment court system put to the test
- The expected impact of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement
- Oil corporations vs climate: The Keystone XL Case
- The zombie ISDS
- Taxes on trial

Partners

International

- Friends of the Earth International

Europe

- Seattle to Brussels network
- Aitec, France
- ATTAC France
- Attac Austria
- Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD), Belgium
- 11.11.11, Belgium
- Friends of the Earth Europe, Belgium
- Corporate Europe Observatory, Belgium
- Fairwatch, Italy
- France America Latina, France
- Institute of Global Responsibility, Poland
- Milieudéfense, Netherlands
- Oficina Internacional de los Derechos Humanos Acción Colombia (OIDHACO), Belgium
- Powershift, Germany
- Re-Common, Italy
- Stop TTIP – Italy campaign
- Vedegylet Egyesület, Hungary
- Both ENDS, Netherlands
- SOMO, Netherlands
- FNV, Netherlands
- WEMOS, Netherlands
- Foodwatch, Netherlands
- Dutch Dairyman Board, Netherlands
- Nederlandse Akkerbouw Bond
- ASEED, Netherlands
- Vrijsschrift, Netherlands
- Platform Authentieke Journalistiek, Netherlands
- Platform ABC, Netherlands
- Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
- Traidcraft, UK
- War on Want, UK
- Global Justice Now, UK
- Rosa Luxembourg Foundation Brussels office, Belgium
- Afrika Kontakt, Denmark
- Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, Germany

Americas

- Jubileo Sur Americas
- Grupo Carta de Belem
- Confederation Sindical de las Americas
- The Democracy Center, Bolivia
- CENSAT Agua Viva /Friends of the Earth, Colombia
- Colectivo de Abogados "José Alvear Restrepo" (CAJAR), Colombia
- Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (CINEP), Colombia
- Escuela Nacional Sindical, Colombia
- Ecuador Decide, Ecuador

- Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), United States
- Redes/Friends of the Earth, Uruguay
- ATTAC Argentina
- CLACSO
- Campaign Mexico better off without TPP
- Campaign Chile better off without TPP
- Campaign Argentina better off without FTAs
- Coalition “Jornada Continental por Democracia y Contra Neoliberalismo”
- Council of Canadians, Canada

Asia

- EU-ASEAN FTA network, South East Asia
- Focus on the Global South, Philippines, Thailand and India
- Alyansa Tigil Mina, Philippines
- Indonesia for Global Justice, Indonesia
- Paung Ku, Myanmar
- Kesan, Myanmar
- Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability
- Monitoring Sustainability of Globalization, Malaysia
- IDEALS, Philippines
- SENTRO, Philippines
- Forum Against FTAs, India

WAR & PACIFICATION

TNI has an emerging area of work on war and pacification, expressed in the militarization of borders, the shrinking space for social movements, and the growing dominance of security strategies for addressing social and ecological crises. This is not yet a project, but is a dynamic and increasingly important part of TNI's work as the use of violence is integral to the extension of corporate power as well as strategies to control migrants and social movements.

Border Wars

In July, TNI and the Dutch Campaign Against the Arms Trade hit the news headlines when we released a report, *Border wars*, that showed how the top sellers of arms to the Middle East were also the major winners of EU border contracts. In other words, the same companies helping to fuel the conflicts creating refugees were now being paid to militarize the borders to keep them out.

The report received extensive media coverage, particularly in Spain and Italy, and was shared thousands of times. Telesur produced a video on the report that was viewed by more than 20,000, with journalist Anthony Loewenstein calling it “vastly important research”.

Dutch and Spanish MPs also referred to the research. The massive interest in the report meant that researcher Mark Akkerman was kept very busy speaking at a series of meetings throughout 2016. An update of the report was released in December, and a series of reports exploring different dimensions of border militarization is planned for the coming years.

‘Shrinking Space’

In October, TNI brought together activists, lawyers and academics in Berlin to debate the idea of ‘shrinking space’, in particular to ask whose space was shrinking and why. The concept of ‘shrinking space’ has become very popular particularly among big international NGOs, but TNI sought to re-politicize the concept by understanding the underlying causes, focusing on the political movements that are most affected by growing repression, and to turn a critical spotlight on constraints on activism taking place in Europe and the US. Twenty-five people attended the workshop from Latin America, India, South Africa, the US, and Eastern and Western Europe.

The workshop produced a video and also provided insight for a joint paper *On shrinking space* (which was released to great acclaim in early 2017). The Berlin meeting initiated a Shrinking Space project at TNI that is producing a series of critical papers on issues that have not received sufficient attention. It is also conducting face to face interviews with people on the frontlines, those directly affected by shrinking space.

Secure and dispossessed

TNI's book, *The Secure and the Dispossessed: How the Military and Corporations are shaping a climate-changed world*, published in December 2015, continued to have ripple effects throughout 2016. The issue the book raised of the dangers of the militarization of climate change was embraced by the International Peace Bureau and included in their plans for their centennial conference held in Berlin in October, to which TNI was invited to speak. Friends of the Earth International and Pax Christi also used the book as a key resource material at their major long-term planning meetings in 2016.

Co-editor Nick Buxton was meanwhile invited to speak about the book at a series of public meetings on the West Coast of the US in Davis, Sacramento and Santa Cruz, and also carried out interviews with several radio stations in California, New York and Washington State.

Wars and the arms trade

TNI Fellow Phyllis Bennis continued to be a frequently called-on analyst and commentator on Middle East politics and US foreign policy for major US news outlets, asked to share her perspectives on the war in Syria, US military involvement in Iraq, and ISIS.

In June, TNI also co-produced a report, *Tax evasion and weapon production* that showed how 30 of the top 100 arms companies have holding structures in the Netherlands for tax evasion purposes. The report became a key resource for Niet in mijn naam, the umbrella platform for Dutch anti-war protests, and was also welcomed by Socialist parliamentarians.

People

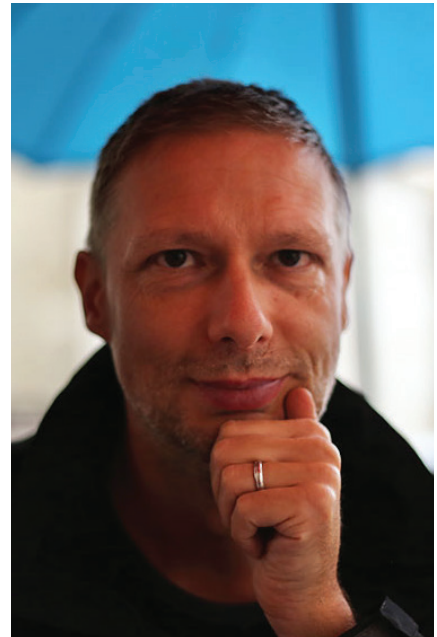
- Ben Hayes – TNI fellow
- Nick Buxton – Editor/Researcher
- Frank Barat – ‘Shrinking Space’ Coordinator
- Phyllis Bennis – Fellow
- Achin Vanaik – Fellow
- Arun Kundnani – Research Associate

DR. THOMAS MAROIS

Senior Lecturer in Development studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the UK

I take a critical approach to Development Studies, looking at finance and development, with a particular focus on public banks. I am increasingly focused on investigating existing public sector services and cooperative alternatives to neoliberalism.

Back in 2014, I was introduced to TNI's Municipal Services Project. I attended a conference with the Municipal Services Project in Cape Town where I met people from TNI. I gave a talk about Public Banks. From there I was invited to the next TNI Fellows' Meeting to talk about public banking.



If I were to describe TNI with just one word I would choose 'uplifting'. I find I have plenty of connections, both ideologically and morally, in our mutual concerns for justice and meaningful alternatives. I found TNI very welcoming and generous with their time and support. Their connections and networks around the world, especially in Latin America and Africa, have been invaluable. This has impacted in a positive way my research and dissemination opportunities. TNI takes a practical and inspiring approach to meaningful alternatives.

Working with TNI in general – not only the scholars but the Fellows, interns and permanent staff – I really appreciate that everyone seems to be on equal terms. Conversations are open for everyone to contribute to. There's a real lack of hierarchy.

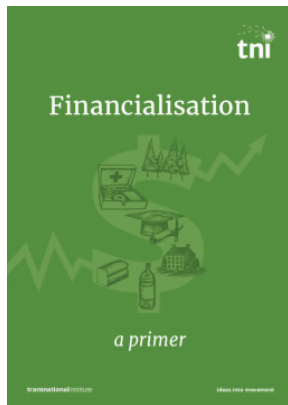
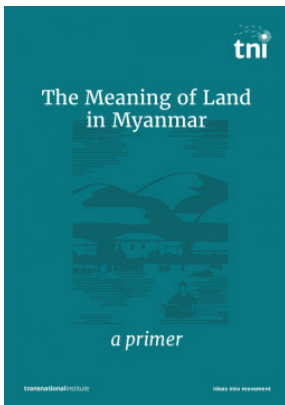
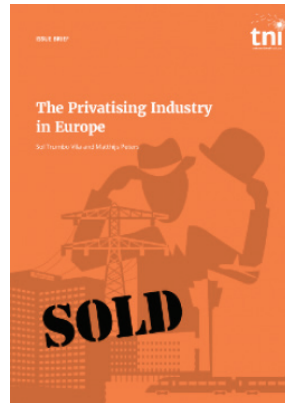
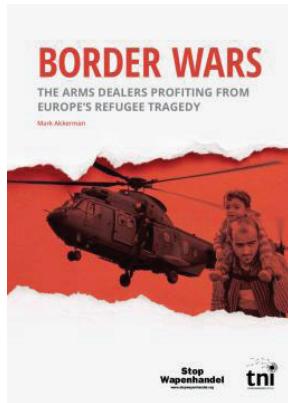
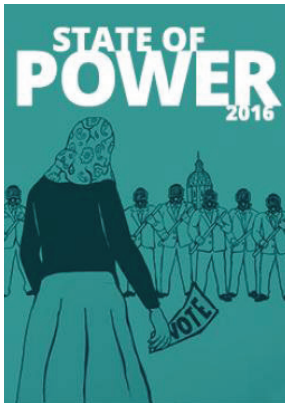
In my own research trajectory I found myself moving away from looking mainly at a critique of finance and development and broadening my focus to proposing real alternatives, in part because of the perspectives I was exposed to through TNI.

I think TNI can play a role in developing meaningful alternatives for a sustainable, just, climate-friendly future, with social movements at the center.

"If I were to describe TNI with just one word I would choose 'uplifting'. I find I have plenty of connections, both ideologically and morally, in our mutual concerns for justice and meaningful alternatives. TNI takes a practical and inspiring approach to meaningful alternatives. This has impacted in a positive way my research and dissemination opportunities."

PUBLICATIONS

Most popular publications in 2016



PEOPLE

FELLOWS

PROF. ACHIN VANAİK

Professor of International Relations and Global Politics, Delhi University

Achin Vanaik continued to be active in the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP), India and in the Indian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (INCACBI). He also contributes to the Society for Marxist Studies (SMS) which has held two week long residential schools --on in the north in the Summer and one in the south in the winter for post-graduate students and social activists.

Chapters written by Achin came out in two books in 2016: "The Future Trajectory of BRICS" in Patrick Bond and Ana Garcia (eds.) BRICS: An Anti-Capitalist Critique and "Nationalism:Its Power and Limits" in R. Azad,J. Nair, M. Singh, M.S. Roy (eds.) What the Nation Really Needs to Know :The JNU Nationalism Lectures.

This lecture series was held in the open air in 'Freedom Square' in the Jawaharlal Nehru University in response to the new Modi-led government's effort to promote through its newly appointed Vice chancellor of JNU, an intolerant, muscular and exclusivist understanding of nationalism in keeping with the ruling party's declared ideology of 'Hindutva' (the supposedly essentialist Hindu-ness of Indian nationalism). This mean the new University Administration would tolerate no serious criticism of the government's policies in Kashmir to the extent that some JNU students were charged with "sedition" for holding a meeting to discuss the Indian policy on Kashmir. This sparked resistance by teachers and students including an open-air lecture series where invited speakers spoke on various aspects and understandings of nationalism and matters concerning democratic rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q49lhXapHw>

DR. BEN HAYES

Independent researcher and consultant on security policies and civil liberties

Ben Hayes spent the majority of 2016 working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, drafting their Operational Guidelines for the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR. In 2015, the organization became the first UN agency to adopt a data protection policy. Ben had previously conducted data protection impact assessments of UNHCR's refugee assistance programmes in Jordan and Lebanon, and also helped produce an interim data protection toolkit for UNHCR's field operations.

In addition Ben continued to promote TNI's 2015 book *The Secure and the Dispossessed*, which he co-edited, at events in the UK and Europe. He also convened TNI's "Shrinking Space" workshop, which brought together activists from around the world to Berlin to help the Transnational Institute unpack and think critically about the discourse around the "closing space" for civil society. Ben also co-authored a highly acclaimed "framing paper"

on shrinking space that was produced as a result of the workshop proceedings.

DR. DANIEL CHAVEZ

Research Fellow, Coordinator of TNI's New Politics Project

In 2016, Daniel Chavez organized three major conferences, which led to the creation and development of two TNI-initiated international networks and a new research programme.

In February, Daniel convened a international seminar in Amsterdam attended by researchers and activists from 15 countries. The aim was to jointly draft the research agenda of the New Politics Platform, which gives continuity to the New Politics Project that Daniel and Hilary Wainwright had jointly coordinated in previous years.

The second network that Daniel contributed to launch in 2016 was the Energy Democracy Collective. Daniel organized an international workshop in Amsterdam in February, in cooperation with Global Justice Now, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Brussels Office, Platform London, Switched on London, Berlin Energy Roundtable, the Alternative Information and Development Centre, Public Services

International, and the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy initiative. The main outcome was a new space for working together on research, advocacy and training activities. In this context, Daniel produced a series of publications and a video documentary on energy democracy, and contributed to an online course on the same subject.

Daniel also worked with the Latin American Council for Social Sciences (CLACSO) and an academic unit of the University of Buenos Aires (IEALC) to develop a new regional initiative aimed at supporting young researchers interested in producing relevant and useful knowledge for social movements and popular organizations.

The first open call for proposals on the theme of “struggles around the meaning of ‘publicness’ in Latin America and the Caribbean” had an outstanding success, with the reception of 334 applications from across Latin America, of which 13 received financial support to carry out the research projects. The programme will be expanded in coming years to other regions of the South.

DR. DAVID FIG

Independent researcher, Chair of the Board of Biowatch South Africa, Honorary Research Associate in the Chair of Bio-Economics at the University of Cape Town and in the Society, Work and Development Institute in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

During 2016, David Fig participated in a number of initiatives aimed at developing energy democracy in South Africa, including promotion of renewable energy and resistance to new nuclear reactors, fracking, and corruption of the state electricity utility. He was invited by the Free University of Berlin to contribute a chapter to a new book on nuclear waste. A further book chapter on nuclear procurement was prepared for a volume on climate change in the series on Democratic Marxism published by the Wits University Press, Johannesburg.

He was invited as a guest of the Green ID organization in Hanoi to be part of an international delegation to address the parliamentary science committee and the Vietnamese Union of Scientists. As a result of this and related initiatives, Vietnam’s congress soon afterwards voted to end the country’s nuclear programme.

David was also invited to be part of a global working group on the theme of “Beyond Development”, organized by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. He attended initial meetings of the group in Brussels.

He continued to work with a number of African civil society initiatives on extractivism and on food sovereignty, representing Biowatch, which tabled evidence before the Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague. He participated in the People’s Permanent Tribunal for Southern Africa, which met in Swaziland, where communities gave evidence implicating transnational corporations, mainly in the mining sector, in human rights and environmental violations. This tribunal was linked to TNI’s work on the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and End the Impunity of TNCs.

PROF. EDGARDO LANDER

Professor of Social Sciences at the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas

Edgardo Lander actively participates in TNI’s New Politics project, writing critical analyses of the Venezuelan political situation that have been translated and widely circulated in Spanish, English, French and German.

Within Venezuela, he is part of the Citizens Platform in Defense of the Constitution, a political collective trying to defend the Bolivarian Constitution of 1999 under severe attacks by both by an increasingly authoritarian government and the right wing opposition. He is also active in the struggle against the Orinoco Mining Arch, a government project to open up 122,000 square kilometers of richly biodiverse territories to transnational corporations for large scale open pit mining in violation of the constitution and the main environmental, labor and indigenous peoples rights’ laws.

He continues to be active in the Latin American Permanent Working Group on Alternatives to Development for the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and is also a Member of the Political Ecology Working Group for the Latin American Social Science Council.

DR. HILARY WAINWRIGHT

Editor of Red Pepper magazine, UK

Hilary Wainwright's work in 2016 focused on two themes: first continuing her previous work on the solidarity economy and the commons and their convergence and influence with new thinking in trade unions and second, reporting, analysing and engaging with the latest developments in a new politics from the left.

As part of her solidarity economy/commons work, for example, she presented papers on the political economy of creativity and solidarity at the First European Forum of the Social Solidarity Economy in Brussels in January and the International Sociological Association in Vienna April 2016. The papers drew on a chapter that she had contributed to a book, *The Solidarity Economy Alternative: Emerging Theory and Practice* (edited by Vishwas Satgar and Michelle Williams), published in 2015. She also gave a lecture at the 11th Global Labour University in South Africa on 'A Just Transition and the Role of Labour' as well as contributed to two conferences on the commons and co-operative economy organized by Barcelona en Comu, the citizens platform now running the municipality of Barcelona.

In her work on New Politics, Hilary has supported TNI's development of New Politics Platform and worked on a short book on *A New Politics from the Left* for Polity Press to be published in February 2018. She also wrote an essay entitled 'Forging a Social Knowledge: Transformative Collaboration between Radical Left Governments, State Workers and the Solidarity Economy' in the book, *From the Streets to the State; Changing the World through Taking Power* (edited by Paul Gray, State University of New York Press).

Hilary engaged with new politics directly through the Momentum citizens initiative linked to the Labour Party in the UK and especially its educational cultural off shoot *The World Transformed (TWT)*, contributing to its festival in 2016 and writing for a special issue of *Red Pepper* jointly edited with TWT. She has appeared on BBC 2's *Daily Politics Show* and *Sky News* commenting on Jeremy Corbyn and the movement that developed in support of him. She has also provided occasional advice for the Greek minister of economy Euclid Tsakalotos, alongside the late Robin Murray, advising on how to save public assets in the face of strong pressures from the Troika to privatize. She has worked closely with ex-Syriza associates of TNI who are now working on solidarity economy initiatives.

PROFESSOR JUN BORRAS

Professor in Rural Development at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Peasant Studies (JPS)

Jun Borrás has been a long-term leading collaborator and guide for TNI's work on agrarian and environmental justice and summed up his approach brilliantly in his Professorial Inaugural Lecture on 14 April 2016: *Land politics, agrarian movements & scholar-activism*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz00v89uVMY>

Working with TNI and the Initiative on Critical Agrarian Studies, he jointly organized two major international conferences in 2016. The first, *Global governance/politics, climate justice & agrarian/social justice: linkages and challenges*, held in February in The Hague was attended by around 400 international participants. The second in November was on

Agro-extractivism inside and outside BRICS: agrarian change and development trajectories, and held in China Agricultural University, Beijing, China, attended by more 200 participants, 80 of whom were from outside China.

The latter conference was the fourth in a research project called BICAS which TNI is a partner, that examines the role of BRICS countries in land grabbing. In addition, Jun also leads the MOSAIC project that explores the links between climate mitigation policies and land grabbing in Cambodia and Myanmar.

Jun published a book in 2016, co-authored with Marc Edelman, *Political Dynamics of Transnational Agrarian Movements*, (Halifax: Fernwood) part of a small book series 'little books, big ideas' that is co-organized by TNI and published in 10 language editions. He also was one of the lead authors

in a study requested by the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights entitled Land grabbing and human rights: The involvement of European corporate and financial entities in land grabbing outside the European Union in which TNI provided supporting research.

PHYLISS BENNIS

Director of the New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

Phyllis Bennis' New Internationalism project reflects the Inside/Outside strategy that TNI's sister institute, Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) has long identified as central to changing the world. Her work in 2016 built on some important victories in 2015. Most important was the defense of the Iran nuclear deal, which in early 2016 remained under threat from Congressional and Israeli opponents; the powerful movement to defend the deal, that took shape quickly and held throughout 2015, remained intact and Phyllis continued to make that a key part of her outreach work.

Phyllis also spent much of 2016 working with leaders and activists in the US and global peace movements, providing resources (speaking tours, talking points, books, articles) for movement activists and the broader public, working to broaden understanding of the increasingly complex set of wars being waged in Syria, and the need for non-military solutions. She continued working to try to rebuild the still weakened and relatively paralyzed anti-war movements, focusing on a commitment to challenge the militarization of US foreign policy while working to defend those earlier rare victories of diplomacy over war. It included working – less successfully so far – to replace the failed “arm , train and bomb” US strategy in Iraq and Syria with strategies based on diplomacy, building ceasefires, arms embargoes and more.

Phyllis spent a great deal of time on the road, doing university and community-based presentations often based on her latest book, *Understanding ISIS & the New Global War on Terror*. Later in the year she worked with activists from the Movement for Black Lives, who had been involved in drafting the “Divest from Militarism” section of the BLM's Policy Platform, to recruit and fund Meena Jagannath of Dream Defenders to join Phyllis at the Berlin international peace conference organized by the International Peace Bureau.

ASSOCIATES

- Dr. Boris Kagarlitsky
- Dr. Joel Rocamora
- Dr. Kees Biekart
- Myriam Vander Stichele
- Dot Keet
- Dr. Gonzalo Berrón
- Dr. Godfried van Benthem van den Berg (Netherlands)
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- Jenny Franco (Netherlands/USA)
- Benny Kuruvilla (India)

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- Kristian Gotthelf Schmidt Andersen (Denmark/Netherlands)
- Julia Tziampiri (Greece/Netherlands)
- Donald de Groen (Netherlands)
- Christine Lewis Carroll (Spain)

FINANCES

INCOME OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

	<i>in Euros</i>
2016	4,936,827
2015	3,744,609
2014	3,523,687
2013	2,875,511
2012	3,116,525

HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY

	<i>amount</i>	<i>percentage</i>
Personnel	1,392,225	28%
Building	150,491	3%
Activities	2,696,042	55%
Office	129,417	3%
Outreach	522,919	11%
	4,891,094	100%

WHAT PROJECTS OUR MONEY IS SPENT ON

	<i>amount</i>	<i>percentage</i>
Drugs policy	449,918	13%
Trade & Investment	967,010	19%
Corporate Power	634,743	13%
Myanmar	746,475	15%
Public sector alternatives	513,514	11%
Agrarian & environmental Justice	1,331,183	29%
	4,642,843	100%

BALANCE SHEET AS PER DECEMBER 31ST 2016

	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
	EUR	EUR
ASSETS		
Fixed assets		
Building (1)	1,815,200	1,862,553
Office equipment (2)	7,769	2,321
	1,822,969	1,864,873
Receivables		
Prefinancing Partners pending deliverables	255,750	216,357
Accounts receivable	32,192	16,152
Grants (3)	-	204,857
Other receivables (4)	81,868	31,825
Prepayments	61,755	76,534
	431,565	545,724
Cash		
Petty cash <i>note A</i>	3,244	1,286
ASN Bank	1,886,976	2,441,932
ABN-Amro Bank	569,552	153,793
Triodos Bank	35,877	30,648
Paypal	12,707	12,428
Accounts in foreign currencies (6)	816,230	154,793
	3,324,586	2,794,879
Total assets	5,579,121	5,205,477
LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Balance previous years	941,246	875,407
Balance previous years	103,955	65,839
Result current year	1,045,202	941,246
Provisions		
Building restoration (7)	19,088	549
	19,088	549
Long term liabilities		
Triodos Bank, mortgage (8) <i>note C & D</i>	1,492,792	1,500,517
Current liabilities		
Triodos Bank, redemption due in 2017	7,726	7,726
Grants (9)	2,422,071	1,258,281
Accounts payable	163,233	133,065
Liabilities to Partners <i>note B</i>	54,641	57,867
Wage withholding tax <i>note P</i>	116,296	22,163
Provision vacationpay/holidays	106,480	115,144
Security on rent	10,032	10,758
Other current liabilities (10)	141,561	1,158,161
	3,022,040	2,763,165
Total liabilities	5,579,121	5,205,477

Explanatory Notes to the Balance Sheet

A. All the liquidities are per 31/12/2016 on cash accounts and directly available when needed. B. Liabilities to partners derive from contracts with partners, inclusive of those under grants from the European Union.

EU - 'Making EU investment Policy work for Sustainable Development', DCI-NSAED 2012/279-800: Total liability for the 10 partners

EU - 'Spotlight on the global food-climate-land nexus - Mobilizing European Support for sustainable management of natural resources and Fair, Green and Global Alliance: Total liability for the 7 partners is € 20.500 over the period 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2019

C. Triodos Bank, mortgage 21.21.49.342, due in 2025 (1 January)

Interest rate fixed at 3,05% until 01-01-2019

Principal amount was 1.600.000; interest-only (under conditions of redemption without penalty possible)

20 years maturity

D. Triodos Bank, mortgage 21.21.49.237, due in 2025 (1 January)

Interest rate fixed at 3,05% until 01-01-2019

Principal amount was 150.000

Current annual redemption 7.726 (adjusted in 2011)

20 years maturity

P. While in 2015 the wage withholding tax was tax to be paid over December 2015, in 2016 the amount is higher because the tax to be paid is for both November and December, and also because TNI paid an end-of-year bonus to the staff, in line with CAO Welzijn (Collective Wage Agreement for the Welfare Sector) and because the number of staff increased.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016

	<i>real</i> 2016 EUR	<i>budget</i> 2016 EUR	<i>real</i> 2015 EUR
INCOME			
Received grants	4,623,634	3,421,929	3,516,816
Rent	133,321	133,000	129,653
Exchange losses/gains	18,888	-	92-
Interest	8,374	6,000	11,051
Other	81,540	-	87,180
TOTAL INCOME	4,865,757	3,560,929	3,744,609
EXPENDITURE			
Administration and fundraising			
Personnel cost	323,899	352,691	83,462
Building expenses	150,491	174,482	161,565
Travel and accommodation	1,301	5,000	5,016
Office and communication	79,620	86,825	85,871
	555,311	618,998	335,914
Research and activities			
Activity costs	2,480,065	1,357,981	2,002,446
Personnel costs	1,068,325	1,106,947	798,667
Research Fees	139,677	60,000	59,560
Publication and outreach	513,014	280,000	381,105
Web/Publications	9,905	9,975	11,638
Office and communication	53,727	75,000	118,468
Organizational Cost	-	22,000	
	4,264,713	2,911,903	3,371,885
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,820,024	3,530,901	3,707,79
BALANCE	45,733	30,028	36,809
EXTRAORDINARY INCOME	58,222	-	29,029
RESULT 2016	103,955	30,028	65,839

GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2016

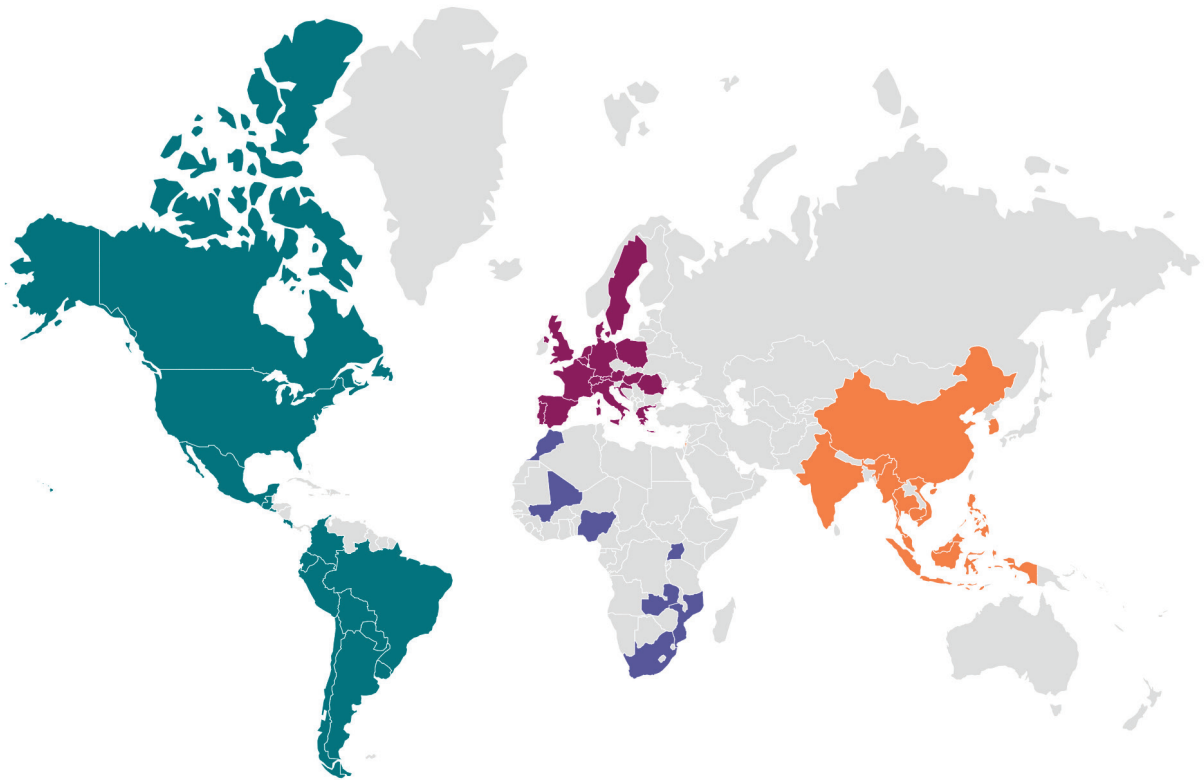
Donor	Project duration	Project title	TNI role	No. partners where consortium	Goal	Amount received in 2016 (EURO)
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1/1/16-31/12/20	Fair, Green & Global	Partner	6	Ensure improved corporate conduct advances social justice, decent work and environmental sustainability; trade and investment advances socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development; and financial systems, tax regimes and public financing practices advance socially just, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development,	1,850,301
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1/12/14-31/12/16	Support NGO preparation for 2016 UNGASS on Drugs	Sole	0	Support NGO preparation for 2016 UNGASS on Drugs	0
Referendum Committee Netherlands	22/1/16-19/5/16	Ukraine Referendum	Sole	0	Campaign for No vote in EU-Ukraine Association Agreement referendum in Netherlands	32,096
European Union	7/2/15-6/2/18	EYD2015: Spotlight on the global food-land-climate nexus	Lead	16	Mobilize European support for sustainable management of natural resources and the human right to food	1,232,034 (*)
European Union	1/2/13-31/1/16	Making EU Investment Policy work for Sustainable Development	Lead	12	EU investment policy is coherent with development policy and contributes to the achievement of MDGs, sustainable development, and the realization of human rights in developing countries,	29,825 (*)
Funders for Fair Trade	1/6/16-31/5/17	S2B	Grant holder for network	0	Support coordination of the Seattle-to-Brussels network (32 members across Europe)	81,457
Funders for Fair Trade	1/4/15-31/3/16	S2B	Grant holder for network	0	Support coordination of the Seattle-to-Brussels network (32 members across Europe)	0
Funders for Fair Trade	1/6/15-30/6/16	TTIP Alarm	Grant holder for network		Netherlands campaign on TTIP/CETA	60,000
Funders for Fair Trade	1/7/16-30/6/17	Dutch TTIP Alarm Campaign	Grant holder for network	0	Netherlands campaign on TTIP/CETA	27,596
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	9/10/15-17/2/16	Rural Development	Sole	0	Organization of 7 th Asian policy dialogue, Cambodia	30,717
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	5/10/16-21/3/17	Rural Development	Lead	0	Organization of 8 th Asian policy dialogue and workshop on alternative development, Myanmar	20,968
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	1/11/15-31/10/16	Global Partnership Drugs Policy & Development	Sole	0	To bring development and public health-oriented approaches of international drug policy to the attention of the UN Member States	98,898
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	15/11/16-15/5/18	Global Partnership Drugs Policy & Development	Sole	0	Implementation of the outcomes of UNGASS 2016, the preparations for the global review in 2019-2020, and harmonizing drug policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights obligations	18,023
Open Society Initiative for Europe	1/1/16-31/12/16	Countering Corporate Power: towards better lobby regulation & transparency in The Netherlands	Lead	5	To contribute to a pan-European aim to achieve a high quality, legally-binding EU lobby register or a dramatically improved EU lobby register	45,086
Foundation to Promote Open Society (New York)	1/7/14-30/6/16	Drugs & Democracy	Lead	0	Core support to TNI programme	190,829
Foundation to Promote Open Society (New York)	1/10/16-30/9/18	Drugs & Democracy	Lead	0	Core support to TNI programme	82,363
Foundation to Promote Open Society (New York)	1/10/15-30/6/16	Global Farmers' Organization Forum	Lead	0	To organize a Global Farmers' Forum in 2016	59,805
Foundation Open Society Institute (Switzerland)	1/1/16-31/7/17	Drugs Policy Advocacy Group	Grant holder for network	8	Capacity building on drugs policy advocacy in Myanmar	36,690
Foundation Open Society Institute (Switzerland)	5/10/15-4/3/16	Latin American Drug Policy Fellowship	Lead	0	Support two week training programme for Latin Americans	6,653
Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)	1/8/14-31/5/17	Addressing Ethnic Conflict in Myanmar	Lead	0	Support ethnic civil society organizations in addressing ethnic conflict in Myanmar, and in making the current peace process more inclusive	499,593

Swiss Development Cooperation	1/12/15-31/5/17	Addressing Ethnic Conflict in Myanmar	Lead	0	Promote ethnic land rights in Myanmar	203,539
International Development Research Centre (Canada)	1/10/14-30/9/17	Bottom-up accountability initiatives in large-scale land acquisitions	Participating institution. Sub-contract via lead organization FIAN International	8	To deepen the work of African organizations involved in negotiating the Tenure Guidelines	0
Rockefeller Brothers Foundations	2/6/14-31/8/15	Work on trade and investment	Sole	0	To strengthen capacity of CSO's in the Global South to understand and evaluate global rules on investment and to support CSO's to engage governments seeking to reform investment rules and to communicate the need to reform global rules on investment to the broader public,	1,153
NWO/Dfid	3/6/14-3/6/18	MOSAIC	Partner-disbursed via the lead organization Institute for Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam	10	To understand the interplay between climate mitigation policies, land grabbing, and conflict or cooperation in Myanmar and Cambodia, and derive relevant insights from other countries; contribute to grassroots and civil society partners' development interventions to promote socially just and inclusive mitigation strategies and land policies and practices; build capacity to address, through strategic collective action, conflicts associated with climate mitigation and land grabbing	15,832
TOTAL						4,623,458

*These grants include consortium partners' share of the budget

WORKING TRANSNATIONALLY

For a full list of our partners visit <http://annual2016.tni.org>



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The Transnational Institute (TNI) is an international research and advocacy institute committed to building a just, democratic and sustainable planet. For more than 40 years, TNI has served as a unique nexus between social movements, engaged scholars and policy-makers.

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