



RESIST
CORPORATE
PLUNDER!

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

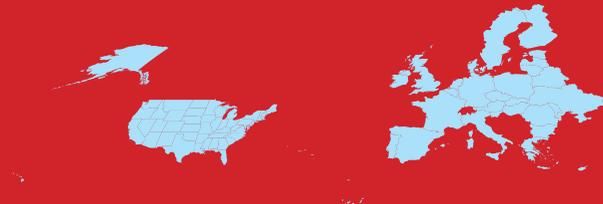
New free trade and investment deals across regions are being negotiated that will have far-reaching implications for people in both the global North and South and for the future of the world economy. These deals often come under the rubric of “partnerships” but they are far from partnership of equals. They are directed by rich industrial countries for the benefit of their transnational corporations (TNCs).

TRANSPACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPPA)



- A massive “free trade” agreement between several Asian and Pacific Rim countries and led by the US
- Part of the US ‘Asia-Pivot’ strategy
- Only 5 chapters are about trade issues, and most are rules on non-trade matters that affect our daily lives including jobs, food, medicines, internet freedom, financial regulation, and more

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE & INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)



- A bilateral free trade agreement between the United States and European Union
- Like TPPA, TTIP’s primary aim is to remove ‘trade irritants’ that restrict the potential profits to be made by TNCs including labour rights, food and safety rules, environmental regulations, digital privacy laws, and banking safeguards

THE TRADE-IN-SERVICES AGREEMENT (TiSA)



- A ‘plurilateral’ agreement between different countries of different income brackets across continents
- Aims to liberalise and lock-in market access for health, social services and education, water service, transportation, communication, finance, among others
- Imposes new restrictions on regulation and create grounds to challenge policies of public interest

FTAs ATTACK OUR DEMOCRACY



The trade agreements are being held in secret, without the benefit of debate. The public has no access to the texts, but corporate advisors and lobbyists do and can read them on their computers in live time as they are negotiated.



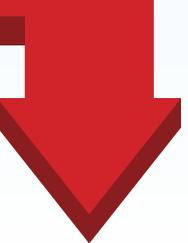
Big foreign corporations and lobby groups will wield undue influence over decision-making on domestic policies as they will have to be notified first and be involved in any new legislation that could impact their operation.



Foreign corporations and investors can now circumvent national laws and courts and directly sue governments through the Investor-State Dispute System (ISDS) to demand taxpayer compensation for health, environmental, financial and other public interest policies viewed as prejudicial to corporations’ “expected future profits”.



While foreign corporations can file a claim in ISDS tribunals, governments and domestic firms cannot.



NO TO CORPORATE TAKEOVER!

\$236 M SALUKA INVESTMENTS

The Netherlands-based investment company Saluka Investments filed and won a \$236m-claim against Czech Republic for not bailing out a private bank in which the Saluka had a stake, in the same way that the government bailed out banks in which the government had a major stake.

\$1.9 B VATTENFALL

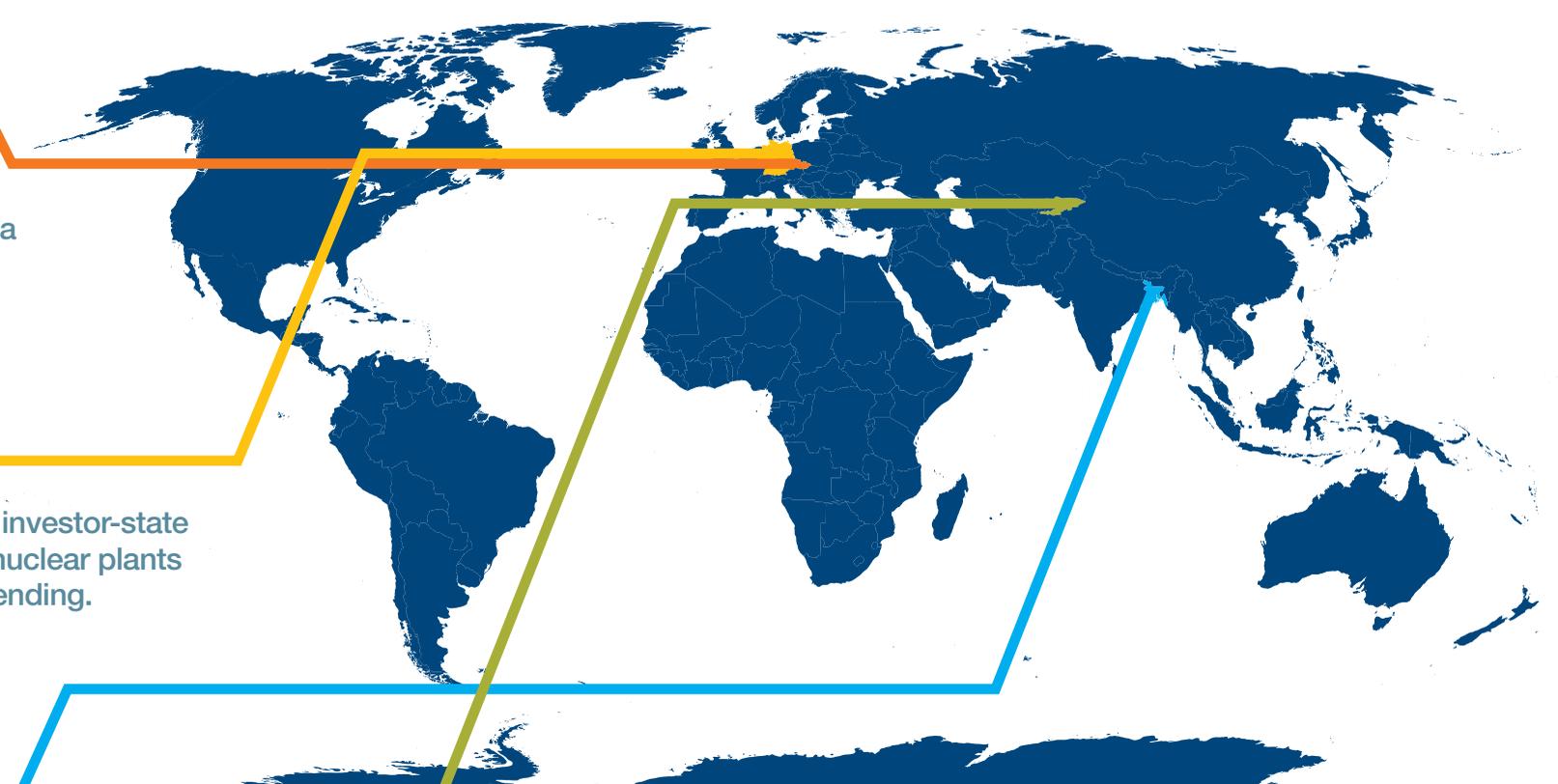
In 2009, the Swedish energy firm Vattenfall launched a \$1.9b investor-state claim against Germany's decision to speed the phaseout of nuclear plants in the aftermath of the Fukushima tragedy. The case is still pending.

\$6 M Saipem

In 2005, the Bangladeshi government was ordered to pay the Italian-based oil company Saipem-Petrobangla \$6M after the project to build a natural pipeline was significantly delayed because of strong public opposition.

\$16.5 M MANAS BANK

When the government of Kyrgyzstan seized the Manas Bank in 2010 owing to a money laundering suit and bid rigging, the Latvian corporation countered by filing a \$16.5 M investor suit in an international dispute panel.



FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY!



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Download our campaign materials and disseminate them among your network.



Add your voice to the growing resistance and sign our online petition against TPPA, TTIP, and TiSA. Visit our website www.peoplesresist.net for more information.