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'A solution to the cotton problem cannot wait'

Statement by 79 developing countries in response to continued subsidies for US cotton farmers

Every year the EU and the US dish out billions of dollars in subsidies to their cotton farmers. They drive down the price of cotton on the world market - leaving millions of African farmers unable to get a fair price and struggling to scrape a living.

It's time to put an end to this injustice. It's time for them to nip these illegal, damaging and unfair subsidies in the bud!

Cotton on to the facts

- 15 million people in Africa depend on cotton
- Cotton has lost half its value in 30 years
- Cutting EU and US subsidies would result in an extra \$250 million a year for African farmers

Got time to do more? Please sign our petition to the US Ambassador at:
www.traidcraft.co.uk/cottonpetition

Find out more at www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaign and www.fairtrade.org.uk/cotton



For best results for African cotton farmers, put an end to US cotton subsidies. Do not hang out to dry.



Dear Mr Davey,

As the World Trade Organisation gears up for another Ministerial in December, please help to ensure that a fair deal is reached on cotton. Over 15 million people in Africa depend on cotton for their survival. But they are being denied a fair deal because of US subsidies which distort the world price.

After 10 years of stalling by the US and protracted negotiations at the WTO, poor cotton farmers have waited long enough.

I know that you are concerned about this issue and urge you and the UK government to take positive action. Please:

- Push for an agreed EU position that any WTO deal in December must address cotton subsidies
- Ask the US to announce their intention to comply with the WTO's previous cotton ruling and use the Farm Bill to further cut subsidies in line with African countries' proposals
- Build support amongst EU partners for the end of unfair European cotton subsidies.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Please
attach a
stamp

Rt Hon Edward Davey MP
Minister for Employment
Relations, Consumer and
Postal Affairs
Department for Business,
Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET



The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is a forum for agreeing international trade rules. Ten years ago its members committed to negotiate a series of deals that would help the world's poor. Ten years on and the world's poor are still waiting.

Millions of cotton farmers in Africa are paying the price of this deplorable inaction. Unable to get a fair deal for their cotton because of unfair US and EU subsidies they face a daily struggle to survive.

Traidcraft and the Fairtrade Foundation are campaigning to end this.

The WTO is meeting again in December. And the US Farm Bill which sets cotton subsidies is currently being renegotiated. President Obama and the US cotton industry have recently made statements that reform of subsidies is a real possibility. This is a huge opportunity for change.

We're calling on the UK government to speak up for cotton justice and use its influence to help deliver the deal the world's poorest cotton farmers deserve.

Please send the postcard opposite to Edward Davey MP, the UK government minister responsible for WTO issues.

Keep in touch

- Yes, I've sent the attached card to Edward Davey**
- Please send me campaign updates by post**
You'll receive quick and effective actions like this card 3 times a year
- Please send me campaign updates by email**
You'll receive an email action every 2-3 months

Please send me more copies of this card

You can also order more cards online at www.traidcraft.org.uk/campaign or by calling 0191 497 3981

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