

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ACTION DAY

October 12

Jobs erased,
farmers displaced.

Environment polluted,
democracy diluted.

**NAFTA has now been in effect
for 15 years—15 years too many.**

Replace the Failed NAFTA Model



People throughout the Americas, including a proven majority of U.S. citizens, reject the destructive model of the North America Free Trade Agreement. Yet, it continues to profit the few at the expense of the many. On October 12—Indigenous Peoples Day—social movements across the hemisphere will launch coordinated eye-catching actions to call for this failed model to be replaced with trade that actually benefits the majority.

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October 12: International Trade Action Day

Replace the Failed NAFTA Model

We have now endured 15 years of a trade model that has stagnated wages at home and decimated livelihoods abroad. For the last decade and a half, the North American Free Trade Agreement and its offspring (CAFTA and the Peru free trade agreement) have consistently padded the pockets of a few while eroding workers' negotiating power, consumers' protections, and family farmers' ability to make ends meet.

We are now the majority. Most people reject models that fail most people. In Mexico, where only 10% of the population have seen a higher standard of living since NAFTA, marches and lobbying efforts have amplified a growing demand to overhaul the agreement. In the U.S., where 56% of the population wants NAFTA renegotiation, over 100 Congressional representatives recently introduced the TRADE Act—a bill that would revamp the existing agreements.

We'd like our "change" now. During his campaign, President Obama promised, "One of the first things I'll do as president will be to call the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of Mexico and work with them to fix NAFTA." By contrast, when President Obama went to Mexico in August to meet with these two leaders, he stated, "Given the weakened state of the U.S., Mexican and Canadian economies, this is not the time to reopen the NAFTA treaty for negotiations." He missed the point: the very economic and financial deregulation policies enshrined in NAFTA have contributed to the present crisis. The economic crisis does not overshadow, but accentuates the need to replace NAFTA.

Now is the time for action. October 12 is for some the day that Columbus "discovered" this hemisphere. But for many in this hemisphere, October 12 marked the beginning of over 500 years of foreign domination, cultural destruction, and systematic exploitation—a history that the NAFTA model perpetuates. Social movements across the hemisphere have declared this October 12 "International Trade Action Day." On this day, hundreds of groups in over a dozen countries will launch coordinated eye-catching actions to call for the failed NAFTA model to be repealed and replaced. Join us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are three ways to plug in to Trade Action Day. If interested in any of these, please contact your regional organizer (witnessforpeace.org/staff#RO). All relevant materials can be found in this packet or online at:

witnessforpeace.org/october12

- 1. Host a Corn-Based Movie Night** in the weeks prior to October 12. This is a chance for you and some guests to watch the Roots of Migration video over a tasty corn-based dish (or do a roots-of-migration reader's theater), discuss local migration or trade concerns, and create paper corn-cobs to be used in public actions on the 12th. **Materials online:** *Roots of Migration video, discussion questions, factsheet, reader's theater activity, stencils/instructions for crafting paper corn*
- 2. Dramatize the NAFTA model through corn-based street theater.** People across the country will gather the week of Oct. 12 in public parks and outside of congressional offices to take part in a simple play that illuminates how NAFTA facilitates corn dumping and forces migration (using those paper corn cobs). Get a few friends and do some awareness-raising that's actually fun. **Materials online:** *Roots of Migration Tableau, street theater play, and sign/banner suggestions*
- 3. Demonstrate for a new, justice-oriented trade model.** Groups across the hemisphere are organizing rallies for the week of October 12 to call for NAFTA's replacement. You can join an existing demonstration (contact your regional organizer for a current list—witnessforpeace.org/staff#RO), or join with others to plan a "Replace NAFTA" rally in your community. The more participating cities/towns, the merrier. **Materials online:** *sign/banner suggestions*