**Trade and Investment Agreements and Health**

**Sustainable Food System inclusions in International Investment Agreements Study**

**Concept note and Agenda**

**Date:** June 14, 2024 13:00-15:00

**Venue:** UN City, Copenhagen

**Background**

Trade and Investment Agreements (TIAs) are an important component of economic policy. However, policy coherence between trade, environment and health has proved challenging; for example, industry actors have used such agreements to dispute environmental and health policy measures in critical areas, including environmental laws and tobacco control. Recognising these risks, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World Health Organization (WHO) have recommended that environmental and health safeguards be built into TIAs. However, their adoption has been limited and inconsistent, reflecting limited engagement by the environment and health sectors and a lack of knowledge regarding best practice safeguards.

The ‘International Investment Agreements and Health’ (Health-IIA) project aims to support the adoption of TIAs that have greater potential to protect public health. and support a transition to sustainable food systems. The European Union (EU) has been a leader globally in the adoption of environmental and health safeguards, and there is an opportunity for environment, health and trade policy communities to learn from experience to date to address challenges including non-communicable diseases, planetary health and sustainable development.

The proposed seminar will provide a forum to disseminate the outputs of the Health-IIA project to date and discuss findings from two case studies highly relevant to the EU. The event will also provide an opportunity to showcase EU innovation to support policy coherence, share learnings from successes and develop a dialogue on emerging issues and challenges, and ways forward.

**Objectives:**

* Sharing the findings and raising awareness about the issues investigated by the Health-IIA project, validate findings and receive feedback.
* Encouraging a dialogue among sectors and disciplines to identify lessons and opportunities to adopt TIAs that can support environmental and health imperatives besides promoting sustainable economic development.