

Memorandum of Understanding

between *(in alphabetic order)*

Beyond Chocolate
IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
Arthur van Schendelstraat 500
3511 MH Utrecht
The Netherlands

German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)
Berlin Office
c/o Representation of the Deutsche
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Reichpietschufer 20
10785 Berlin, Germany

and

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO)
Münzgraben 6
3011 Bern, Switzerland

- hereinafter referred to as 'the Partners' –

relating to the

**Collaborative Partnership between the European Initiatives for Sustainable
Cocoa**

- hereinafter referred to as 'the Partnership' -

1. OBJECT AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This agreement aims to define the objectives, the Partners and the activities of the Partnership.

This agreement does not constitute any binding agreements or entail legal obligations for the Partners, neither jointly nor severally.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The objectives of the Partnership are the following (list not being exhaustive):

1. To bundle efforts for a sustainable cocoa value chain through collaborative action specifically in the following key areas of action which are the sectors main challenges:
 - To enhance the transparency in the cocoa value chain and promote the production and consumption of sustainable cocoa;
 - To contribute to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families;
 - To halt cocoa-related deforestation and promote sustainable reforestation and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries; and
 - To end the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in the cocoa value chain.
2. To coordinate and align activities on the operational level and among the working groups of the individual platforms;
3. To streamline the communication and engagement with multi-national companies with membership in more than one initiative; and
4. To harmonize the monitoring and evaluation systems of the individual platforms.

The list of common objectives can be considered the common denominator of the platforms. Each platform is free to pursue more ambitious goals beyond these.

3. THE PARTNERS *(IN ALPHABETIC ORDER)*

3.1 Beyond Chocolate

Beyond Chocolate is the Partnership for a sustainable Belgian chocolate industry. Partners in the initiative are working to end deforestation, stimulate education for future generations and provide a living income for cocoa growers.

The Partnership was signed by nearly 50 stakeholders from the chocolate industry, public sector, NGO's, retail sector, universities, trade unions, impact investors, labels and member organizations labels.

Signatories of the Beyond Chocolate Partnership commit to:

By 2025:

All chocolate produced and/or sold in Belgium shall comply with a relevant certification standard and/or shall be manufactured from cocoa-based products covered by a corporate sustainability scheme.

"Beyond Chocolate" partners shall comply with applicable agreements between governments and companies in the regions included in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

By 2030:

Cocoa growers will earn at least a living income.

Deforestation due to cocoa growing for the Belgian chocolate sector has ended.

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative was appointed by the Belgian Ministry for Development Cooperation to coordinate investments, independently monitor progress, measure traceable impacts and communicate transparently on the partners' mobilisation and results.

Find [here](#) more information on Beyond Chocolate.

3.2 German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) is a joint initiative of the Federal Government, represented by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the German sweets and confectionary industry, the German retail grocery trade, and civil society. Jointly, the multi-stakeholder initiative aims to

- improve living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and to contribute to a secure living;
- conserve and protect natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries;
- increase cultivation and commercialization of sustainably produced cocoa.

To achieve these objectives, the members of GISCO closely liaise with the governments of cocoa producing countries. The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa was founded in June 2012 and has been a registered association since April 2014. Currently, GISCO has more than 70 members. Based on a new holistic definition of sustainable cocoa in 2019 GISCO developed 12 specific goals. They include, among others, the contribution to a living income, to combat deforestation, to call for compliance with human rights (implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) and environmental aspects by all actors in the cocoa supply chain and that the entire cocoa in cocoa-containing end products sold in Germany should come from sustainable cultivation in the long term.

Find here GISCO's [full list of goals](#) as well as GISCO's [definition of sustainable cocoa](#) and [monitoring results](#).

3.3 Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

The Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to promote sustainability in the cocoa sector. The association was founded in January 2018 and brings together the actors of the Swiss cocoa sector: The Association of Swiss Chocolate Manufacturers (CHOCOSUISSE), cocoa traders, food retailers, the federal government – represented by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), non-profit organizations and research institutions. Based on its definition for Sustainable Cocoa, the members of SWISSCO are committed to promote

- decent living conditions for cocoa farmers and their families;
- climate mitigation and adaptation and protect the natural resources;
- an economically viable and transparent cocoa value chain.

The goal is to source at least 80% of all cocoa-based products imported into Switzerland from a sustainable production system by 2025 and to make a measurable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals by implementing the Principles for Sustainable Cocoa by 2030.

The Cocoa Platform counts more than 60 members which are committed to share the responsibility, sign up to common goals, implement joint projects, exchange experience and monitor efforts using an internationally harmonized system. To achieve these goals, the cocoa platform engages in dialogue with the governments of producing countries and in collaboration with like-minded international initiatives.

Find here SWISSCO's [full list of goals](#) as well as SWISSCO's [monitoring system](#).

4. ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Partnership are specifically related to the key areas of action described in article 2 and include the following:

1. Exchange of information and knowledge;
2. Harmonization of monitoring systems and processes
3. Alignment of the working groups of the individual platforms and assurance of mutual participation;
4. Organization of joint events and activities;

5. Complementary exchange and collaboration with producing country governments according to the national focus of each individual platform;
6. Joint interaction with or support of selected multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives;
7. Coordination of communication and engagement with multinational companies;
8. Support and strengthening of SMEs.

Additional activities will be developed in the course of the implementation of this MoU.

5. SIGNATURES

The authorized representatives of the Partners hereby sign three originals of this agreement, on the day, month and year stated below:

Beyond Chocolate

DocuSigned by:
Joost Oorthuizen
45E6D23F56ED418...

Joost Oorthuizen,
Director General IDH

DocuSigned by:
Philippe de Selliers
4366213EDB/A9480...

Philippe de Selliers,
Steering Committee
Chairman, witness to the
below signatures

Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao e.V. /
German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa
(GISCO)

DocuSigned by:
Wolf Kropp-Büttner
3850208188A644F...

Wolf Kropp-Büttner,
Board Chair

DocuSigned by:
Florian Schütze
0A83D5DED325474...

Florian Schütze,
Vice-president

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa
(SWISSCO)

DocuSigned by:
Ernst A. Brugger
2EA270A02247404...

Ernst A. Brugger
President

DocuSigned by:
Urs Furrer
790E8FFD515041E...

Urs Furrer
Board Member

03-07-2020 | 14:50 CEST

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Date