

Press Release

Extraordinary General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa adopts individual commitments to ensure the livelihoods of cocoa farming households

Initiative members agree on creating individual commitments to achieve living incomes for cocoa farmers and adapt selected common goals for more sustainability in the cocoa sector.

Berlin, 23.06.2023 – The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa expressed their commitment to increased accountability and transparency in the cocoa sector during their Extraordinary General Assembly on June 23, 2023. Through their decision to publish **individual commitments, known as roadmaps, to achieve living incomes by the end of 2024**, and the **adaptation of certain common goals** for promoting sustainability in the cocoa sector, the Initiative members clearly demonstrate their commitment to advance sustainability in the cocoa industry in the coming years. At the same time, all Initiative members commit to developing joint strategies to attain living incomes for cocoa farming households.

By creating individual Living Income Roadmaps, the Initiative members pledge to publicly disclose and make transparent their contributions towards achieving living incomes for cocoa farming households in their supply chains. The roadmaps include commitments such as increasing the incomes of a certain number of households, ensuring a specific producer price and higher premiums, or implementing specific programs to achieve higher incomes. The Federal Cartel Office currently sees no further need for investigation regarding the publication of the Living Income Roadmaps. The planned practice of disclosing individual commitments shall not allow any conclusions to be drawn about specific paid producer prices. The feedback from the Federal Cartel Office confirms that there are currently no signs of anticompetitive effects.

The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa adopted adjustments to the following common goals:

- Goal 1: GISCO members are jointly committed to constantly improving the income situation of cocoa farming households in the producing countries, so

that all households can earn a living income. We are jointly committed to enable at least 90% of households, whose main occupation is cocoa cultivation and who supply members of German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa with cocoa that is sold or processed in Germany (1), to earn a living income by 2030. Together we develop strategies to achieve this goal.

- Goal 6: GISCO members are jointly committed to abolishing prohibited child labour (3), forced labour, slavery and human trafficking in cocoa production.
- Goal 8: GISCO members are jointly committed to ensuring that corporate members (4) of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa implement human Rights (5) and environmental due diligence in their cocoa supply chains by the end of 2025.
- Goal 11: GISCO members are jointly committed to ensuring that, by 2025, at least 95 % of cocoa in the cocoa-containing end products sold by our producing members in Germany is certified in line with sustainability standards (7) or comes from sustainability programmes that are independently verified (8).

Board Election

Representatives from civil society, industry, trade, and the Federal Government elected a new executive board. The board members are Sebastian Lesch (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Dr. Artur Ickstadt (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture), Dr. Torben Erbrath (Federal Association of the German Confectionery Industry e.V.), Christian Mieles (Federal Association of the German Food Retailers e.V.), Florian Schütze (Schwarz Group), and Evelyn Bahn (INKOTA-network e.V.). Dr. Torben Erbrath will assume the role of treasurer.

The updated goals of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa can be found [here](#). More information on the antitrust review of the individual roadmaps can be found [here](#).



The members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa voted in favor of developing their individual Living Income Roadmaps and adapting selected individual goals at this year's Extraordinary General Meeting. © Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao

About the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

The association 'German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa' is a joint initiative of the German Federal Government, civil society, industry, and trade, bringing together relevant stakeholders from Germany with those from cocoa-producing countries and international initiatives.

The Initiative's goal is to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers, preserve and sustainably manage natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa-producing countries, and increase the share of sustainably produced cocoa. The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa currently has 76 members and is open to further interested parties.

Media Contact:

Ms. Annalena Podzun
Mobile: +49 152 90026303
E-Mail: annalena.podzun@giz.de

Secretariat of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

c/o Repräsentanz der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Geschäftsführerin Beate Weiskopf | Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5; 65760 Eschborn
T +49 6196 79-1462 | info@kakaoforum.de | www.kakaoforum.de