

**Standards Committee
Minutes
Meeting 100: February 25, 2022
Teleconference meeting**

SC members: Martin Boon, Jos Harmsen, Martin de la Harpe, Richard Kwarteng, Gustavo Lopez, Marike de Peña, Iresha Sanjeevanie (Chair), Emilie Sarrazin

Observers: Fairtrade International and FLOCERT staff members have permanent observer status

Other Observers: We do not display the full names of observers and contributing observers to comply with 'The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)¹'. If you need additional information about the observers or contributing observers of this meeting, please contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

Disclaimer:

The Fairtrade International Standards Committee (SC) aims to reach consensus, but decisions may not always reflect the opinions of all people.

The section to introduce the topic (background information) has been written by the Standards & Pricing and may not have been discussed by the SC in full. Sections listing action points are an outcome of discussions of the SC but are not part of the decisions made.

Abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CoE	Centre of Excellence
COSP	Cost of Sustainable Production
EC	Exceptions Committee
FET	Fairtrade Executive Team
FI	Fairtrade International
FMP	Fairtrade Minimum Price
FOB	Free on Board
FP	Fairtrade Premium
FSI	Fairtrade Sourcing Ingredient
FT	Fairtrade
FBW	Fairtrade Base Wage
GPM	Global Product Manager
GPPP	Global Products, Programs & Policy
HL	Hired Labour
HML	Hazardous Materials List
HREDD	Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence
IDH	The Sustainable Trade Initiative

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>



LI	Living Income
LIRP	Living Income Reference Price
LW	Living Wage
O2B	Offer to Business
PM	Project Manager
PN	Producer Networks
RAP	Requirements for Assurance Providers
S&P	Standards and Pricing Unit
SC	Standards Committee
SPM	Senior Project Manager
SPO	Small-scale Producer Organizations
ToR	Terms of Reference

100 SC Meeting Celebration

To celebrate the 100th meeting of the Standards Committee, the S&P Unit organized a special meeting before the regular session.

This celebration was attended by several former and current SC members, colleagues from NFOs, PNs, FI board, and friends.

During the programme, former members of the SC and the S&P unit reflected on the most relevant achievements, challenges, and main changes the Committee experienced through the years; they also shared their fondest memories. The Global CEO also took the floor and congratulated the SC members and remarked on the role of the SC in the System. She highlighted how the SC is a space where all parts (PNs, Workers, Traders, NFOs) engage in dialogue bringing their voices, knowledge, and expertise. Finally, she talked about the current situation and the need of Fairtrade members for standard setting.

As part of the programme, the current SC chairs and the S&P Director looked into the future of Fairtrade Standards from Producer, Trader, and technical standards' development perspective. The Chair pointed out that producers need standards that are relevant, practical to the products, and the context of their production, standards that are easy to understand and help them decide whether they have both the capacity and inclination to comply in the long term. If complied with, standards should help them access more markets, resulting in optimized sales and profits, shared equitably among the links of the supply chain. Further, the vice Chair as Trader's representative indicated that Traders should remain involved in future consultations to improve standards since the context and realism of the market is very important. Moreover, he emphasized that standards should make trading practices transparent. Finally, the S&P Director indicated her outlook for the future of Fairtrade standards' setting processes: A strong, fact based development process building on technical expertise across the Fairtrade system and outside; and a transparent, balanced, and inclusive consultation, negotiation, and decision making process on the proposals.

At the end of the celebration, everyone made a toast for the SC enjoying their favourite Fairtrade Product.

[Click here](#) if you would like to see the celebration video and programme.

Regular Meeting

Item 1 – Opening

The Chair officially opened the meeting.

Agenda: The Agenda was approved by the SC members and ground rules were read.

Declaration of conflict of interests: No conflict of interest was identified.

Item 2 – Cocoa Standard Review

The SC was updated on the timeline and status of the project in general, moreover, it was updated on the following topics:

- HREDD
- Deforestation Risk
- African Regional Standard

The PM presented a general update of the project and the results of the first phase of consultation, a project team member also presented a brief update on the African Regional Standard.

The PM revised the timelines and presented an overview of topics of the first phase of consultation. Consultation participants mainly welcomed and supported the proposals. Relevant comments were received that will be considered when drafting final proposals for decision.

Update on HREDD: HREDD in the coffee standard is in progress, the SPO HREDD guidelines are almost finalized and proposals for cocoa were already aligned with these guidelines. The SPO HREDD guidelines are being developed to be a manual for producers to implement HREDD process; the first version has been already shared with some SPOs. The Cocoa proposals on HREDD are very close to what the SPO HREDD guidelines present.

SC members welcomed the approach that the team is taking with regards to HREDD, as the guidelines for SPOs are a relevant tool that will support SPOs to implement HREDD processes. The SC asked that Fairtrade shall keep focusing on financing of the implementation.

Update on deforestation risk: The GPM reminded the scope of the upcoming EU regulation re deforestation and highlighted that Fairtrade does not comply yet while some other VSS do. He explained that it is key for Fairtrade to be aligned with the EU regulation to make sure that Fairtrade certified cocoa and coffee POs are well supported and can keep selling to EU markets.

Deforestation requirements were already consulted upon and received very well in Africa. For LAC these requirements will be adapted and consulted upon in phase 2 of the consultation. Costs for POs to implement geolocation can be significant, traceability at the first level of the cooperative is very likely to be mandatory; Assurance is to be strengthened as well.

Update on the African Regional Standard: Good collaboration among Fairtrade members regarding the operational guidelines. Once ARS is approved and published, there will be guidelines for implementation. There are different timelines re implementation of ARS for Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. Living Income differentials to be implemented, Fairtrade would consider them and the risk that they imply.

Fairtrade standards have to be aligned with ARS in a way that makes sure that Fairtrade certified farmers are compliant with the ARS. There is still room for more advocacy to be done.

Item 3 – Cocoa Standard Review - Second phase of consultation

In this section, relevant topics for the second round of consultation were presented.

The representative of the newly created CoE Climate and Environment explains that with regards to Climate & Environment Fairtrade has the firm objective to integrate stronger requirements into the standards, as is also laid out in the current Fairtrade Strategy. Several studies confirm this is urgently needed to ensure that Fairtrade has a comprehensive and holistic approach to sustainability.

There is work in progress on a policy paper called 'Sustainable Agriculture under Fairtrade Terms'. The SC is interested to receive it, learn about it and to discuss implications for standard setting once it is ready.

The presenter also mentioned existing external environment initiatives that have evolved recently – supply chain law, green deal, and other regulations. In the cocoa standard review, the implementation of some of the changes will have to be reflected. In cocoa and coffee, agroforestry is one of the agroecological ways forward aiming to implement sustainable production and climate change adaptation.

Research on agronomy (agro-ecology), climate change and biodiversity was undertaken; a researcher was appointed and worked with CLAC, FTA and FI to recommend Fairtrade's future approach regarding the promotion of agronomy requirements.

The researcher presented the objectives of the research, moreover, she presented 5 production models for the introduction of specific agronomic requirements, and finally recommendations for implementation.

The Cocoa project team is analysing ways to incorporate some of the recommendations within the standard and some others outside of the standard; identified practices could be further considered as core or development criteria.

The SC members, project team members and researcher discussed different questions, concerns, and implications of the study. Among the topics of the discussion, one was on how to encourage farmers to adopt the recommendations in their practices and evaluate the capacity of the producers to comply with requirements.

In the final part of the meeting, the PM presented the topics that will be part of the second phase of consultation:

- Management systems
- Workers
- Reducing cost escalation
- Addressing specific trade situation in Ghana

- Distribution and use of premium – regional focus for ARS/ West Africa

Next Steps:

- Continue to prepare the synopsis of the results of consultation Phase 1
- Prepare topics for decision by the SC in March 2022
- Continue to prepare topics for the consultation Phase 2

Next meeting date and closing

- The next meeting will take place on March 23 and 24 at 13:30 (CET)

The meeting was formally closed.