

# A New Vision for the Cocoa Sector

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## A New Vision

1. *“Business as usual in the cocoa sector is no longer an option. We have to break the mould.”* Dr. Jean-Marc Anga, Executive Director of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), in the keynote speech opening the fourth World Cocoa Conference in Berlin, April 2018.
2. Since the first World Cocoa Conference and the drafting of the Global Cocoa Agenda in November 2012, sector-wide efforts have proliferated to improve the lives of farmers, communities and the environment. However, these have not been enough to achieve significant impact at scale.
3. Too many cocoa farmers are still living in poverty. Deforestation, child labour, gender inequality, human rights violations and many other challenges are a daily reality in the cocoa sector.
4. We affirm that the cocoa sector will not be sustainable if farmers are not able to earn a living income.
5. A sustainable cocoa sector is a collective responsibility, and we should work together to achieve this ambitious goal. Areas should be identified for increased non-competitive collaboration, at local, national and global level, avoiding a proliferation of efforts that lack coordination.
6. We recognise the urgency and scale of the challenges facing all of us. Our solutions will need to be equal to the size of the problem.
7. While acknowledging the commitments of the cocoa sector to achieve sustainability, it is time to review the means by which these have been measured and enforced, recognising that voluntary compliance has not led to sufficient impact.
8. Many of our challenges are not specifically cocoa-based, but are part of broader issues affecting rural communities. As such, holistic approaches, including effective governance, must be envisaged and implemented, where cocoa can operate as a driver for rural development.
9. Without farmers, there is no cocoa. All actors should work together to create an enabling environment to professionalise cocoa farming.
10. Recognising cocoa farming as a business sector, farmer organization(s) should be stronger, and farmers should be encouraged to self-organise. This should include appropriate policies at national level.

11. Acknowledging the role of agricultural commodity development, including the cocoa sector, logging and bush fires as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and recognising the strong contribution the cocoa sector can make in the restoration of forests and resilient landscapes, we commit to work together as a whole cocoa supply chain to end deforestation and promote forest protection and restoration.
12. Child labour does not have a place in a sustainable value chain. As such, we commit to increasing efforts, efficiency and cooperation, aiming to eradicate it from the cocoa sector.
13. In order to achieve true sector-wide sustainability, a new vision is needed.

## Recommendations

### Sustainable Production

14. All actors in the sector should develop and implement policies that enable cocoa farmers to make a living income<sup>1</sup>.
15. All actors in the sector should foster policies and activities to strengthen the position and the rights of women.
16. Relevant actors should create and increase products and services that improve access to credit and finance, also for small-scale farmers.
17. Producing governments and sector-wide initiatives should implement and enforce policies and practices that ensure environmental protection, including anti-deforestation and reforestation measures, soil protection, and agroforestry systems.
18. Relevant governments should allow for protection of farmers against any market power imbalances, including exploring options for robust international competition laws that promote fair trade for both farmers and consumers.
19. All sectors should increase efforts, efficiency and cooperation to eradicate child labour.

### Sustainable Industry

20. Supply chain traceability should be recognised as a necessity for a sustainable value chain. Efforts must be undertaken to ensure that this does not lead to

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<sup>1</sup> *Living income is the net income a household would need to earn to enable all members of the household to afford a decent standard of living. Elements of a decent standard of living include: food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events. Definition by the Community of Practice on Living Income.*

additional costs and other burdens being transferred to the farmers without sufficient remuneration.

21. Sector sustainability efforts should be transparent and publicly accountable in both efforts and impacts, including through appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

### **Sustainable Consumption**

22. Engage the sector in dynamic activities to stimulate cocoa consumption in origin and emerging countries.
23. Complying with SPS requirements in the cocoa sector is in the interest of both consumers and producers alike. It is essential to ensure that the necessary assistance (technical, financial or otherwise) is provided to enable producers to comply with these requirements.

### **Sustainable Management**

24. Producing governments to coordinate national and regional cocoa policies, specifically being mindful of the impact this can have on cocoa prices.
25. Producing governments should strengthen National Cocoa Development Plans (NCDPs); including a strengthening of infrastructure, extension services, farm diversification, tenure security, etc, making efforts to ensure a transparent, inclusive and participatory approach in the development and implement of the NCDPs.
26. Producing country governments are called upon to carry out a reliable inventory of cocoa tree stocks.
27. All actors in the sector are called upon to strengthen human rights due diligence across the supply chain, including potential regulatory measures.
28. Public and private sector are encouraged to stimulate scientific research & development into sustainable production, consumption and innovative processing.
29. Governments of producing and consuming nations are called upon to re-evaluate the effectiveness and transparency of their investments in the cocoa sector.
30. The entire cocoa sector, including industry, governments of consuming nations, producing nations, international donors, and other relevant institutions, are called upon to increase their investments in the improvement of the cocoa sector.

## **Annexes:**

Summaries of the four tracks.