MINUTES OF MEETING

51st SSC Meeting

Time: 1500 - 1700 (MYT)

Date: Thursday, 27th March 2025

Venue: Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/92720072506 Meeting ID: 927 2007 2506   Passcode: 51@SSC

ATTENDEES

Name	Initial	Organisation	
1. Lim Sian Choo (Co-Chair)	LSC	Bumitama Group	Grower (INA) - Substantive
2. Olivier Tichit (Co-Chair)	OT	Musim Mas	P & T – Substantive
3. William Siow	WS	MPOA/IOI	Grower (MY) – Substantive
4. Guillaume Lacaze	GL	L'Oreal	Consumer Goods Manufacturer – Substantive
5. Sander Van den Ende	SvE	SIPEF	Grower (RoW) – Substantive
6. Jenny Walther-Thoss	JWT	WWF Singapore	ENGO – Substantive
1. Yen Hun Sung	HS	RSPO Secretariat	
2. Leena Ghosh	LG	RSPO Secretariat	
3. Jasmine Ho Abdullah	JH	RSPO Secretariat	
4. Suguna A/P Murugan	SM	RSPO Secretariat	
5. Gurvinder Singh	GS	RSPO Secretariat	
6. Maria Papadopoulou	MP	RSPO Secretariat	
7. Liyana Zulkipli	LZ	RSPO Secretariat	
8. Muhammad Shazaley bin Abdullah	SA	RSPO Secretariat	
Absence with apology:			
1. Anne Rosenbarger	AR	WRI	ENGO – Substantive
2. Suzan Cornelissen	SC	CNV	SNGO – Substantive
3. Andrew Aeria	AA	PEMANGKIN	SNGO – Substantive
4. Brian Lariche	BL	Humana	SNGO – Alternate
5. Librian Angraeni	LA	Musim Mas	P & T – Alternate
6. Lee Kian Wei	LKW	United Plantations	Grower (MY) – Alternate

AGENDA

Time	Item	Agenda	PIC
1500 - 1505	1.0	**Opening**	Co-Chairs
	1.1	Acceptance of agenda	
	1.2	RSPO Antitrust Law	
	1.3	RSPO Consensus-Based Decision Making	
	1.4	RSPO Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
1505 - 1515	2.0	**Meeting Dashboard**	Co-Chairs
	2.1	Confirmation of the 50th MoM on 20th February 2025	
	2.2	Action Tracker	
	2.2.1	List of Supplementary/Derivative Documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024	
	2.3	Progress Update WG/TF/SG under SSC	
	2.4	Progress Update of National Interpretation	

1515 - 1545	3.0	**For Endorsement**	
	3.1	ToR for Guidance on Repayment of Recruitment Fees and Related Costs	SM
	3.2	Interim interpretation on tracing beyond refinery in the Supply Chain Certification Standard	HS
1545 – 1625	4.0	**For Update**	
	4.1	Audit Checklist of P&C and ISH Standard 2024	JH
	4.2	Supply Chain Certification Standard Review	MP
	4.3	Independent Review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process	HS/LG
1625 - 1630	5.0	**Any Other Business**	
	5.1	Prisma	
1630		**END**	

DISCUSSION:

No.	Description	Action Points (PIC)
1.0	**Opening**	
1.1	The Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the agenda of the meeting. The agenda was approved.	
1.2	The RSPO Antitrust Law, Consensus-Based Decision Making, and Declaration of Conflict of Interest were read out to the Committee. No comments were received.	
2.0	**Meeting Dashboard**	
2.1	**Confirmation of the 50th MoM on 20th February 2025** The minutes of the meeting were adopted.	
2.2	**Action Trackers** The action tracker of the previous meeting was presented. No other comments were received.	
2.2.1	**List of Supplementary/Derivation Documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024** The Secretariat presented the list of supplementary/derivation documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024. No comments were received.	
2.3	**Progress Update WG/TF/SG under SSC** The progress update for the WG/TF/SG Committee was presented. No comments were received.	
2.4	**Progress Update of National Interpretations of the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard** The progress update for National Interpretations of the 2024 P&C and ISH	

Standard was presented.

- 8 National Interpretations (NI) have been formally initiated in 6 countries (Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Thailand and Guatemala). 3 of the NI Task Forces (TF) have started meetings while the others are still finalising the TF composition and Terms of Reference (ToR).

The Committee commented that:

- The Co-chair of the Malaysia (MY) NITF would like to inform the SSC that the NITF members have not signed the Code of Conduct as there are some clarifications needed, and they are in the process of writing a clarification letter to the RSPO Secretariat.
- The Secretariat confirmed that all the requirements for the MYNI TF have been met. As such, the Secretariat is only required to inform the SSC, unless there are any requirements that have not been met, in which case endorsement from the SSC will be necessary. Both Indonesia and Malaysia NITF can proceed since they have met the necessary requirements. There may be an issue with the Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands (PNG&SI) NITF, as they are lacking downstream representatives. The Secretariat is currently working with SD Guthrie to engage consumer goods manufacturers or retailer members to join the NITF.
- The Secretariat is anticipating an increase in NITFs from countries in Africa and Latin America in April and May as the socialization roadshows begin. There may be around 23 NITFs for P&C and 6 for ISH. The funding provided to the NITFs has now become increasingly difficult to manage, with an estimated total of RM1.2 million across this and the next financial year. The Secretariat will raise this to the Board of Governors (BoG) for budgeting in FY26.
- The Committee reminded that it is important to be wise in allocating the funds and remain mindful of the potential insufficiency of funding. There have also been reports of RSPO members not being represented in the NITF discussion, and the Secretariat should take note of this.
- The Secretariat explained that an initial funding of USD 6,000 was allocated for NIs this year. The second tranche will be released in the next financial year, based on the progress of the NIs as well as the justification and expected expenditure. Currently, the funding for the NIs is coming directly from the Standards department's operational budget, which takes up a significant portion. There are ongoing discussions within the Secretariat Finance team, and the matter will also be raised with the Finance Committee to determine whether this funding should be allocated under the organizational budget instead.
- Regarding the composition of the NITF, the Secretariat clarified that non-
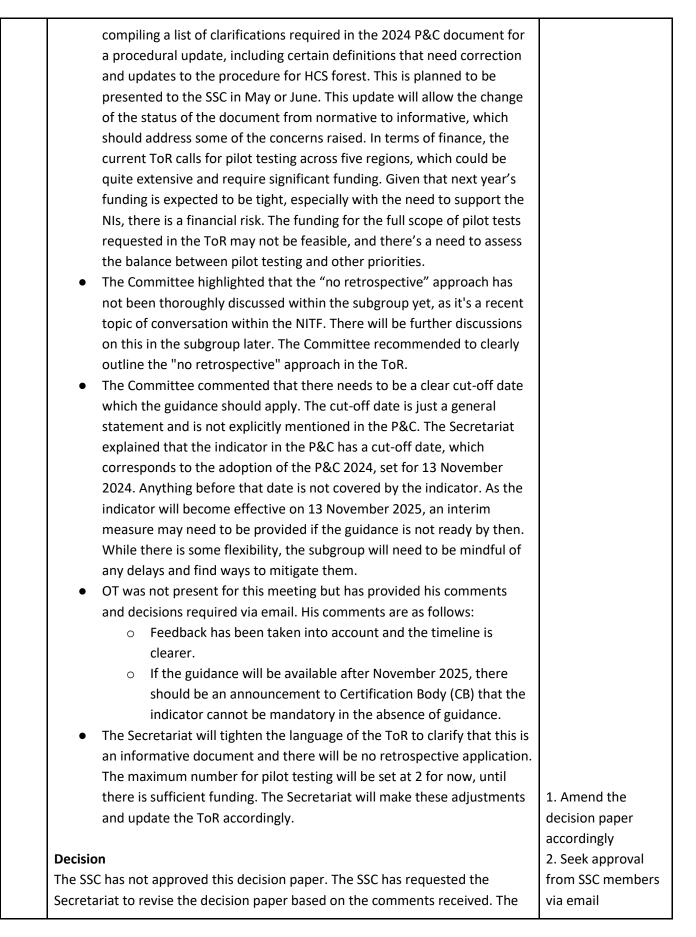
members can be part of the NI, but there must be at least one RSPO member from each membership category within the NITF. If there is no RSPO member available in a specific country, SSC's endorsement will be required. In the past, non-members were included in NITFs due to their expertise in content. For the PNG&SI NITF, several technical experts who are non-RSPO members have been invited, along with representatives from UNDP and the government.

- The Committee commented that Hargy Oil Palms was not informed that the Secretariat has been in conversation with SD Guthrie. It was recommended to involve Hargy as they had been leading the NI process previously. A list of interested members to join the NITF has also been sent to the Secretariat.

- The Secretariat clarified that the discussion took place with SD Guthrie as they are the initiating members. It was an initial discussion regarding the composition of the NITF and before the ToR and TF were finalised. There is currently a gap in downstream representation, and SD Guthrie indicated they would reach out to Nestlé directly. The Secretariat has also contacted the BoG member representing retailers to see if any retailers would be interested in joining. The Secretariat has received the list of interested members and this has been communicated to SD Guthrie. While SD Guthrie is the initiating member, they are not necessarily required to lead or chair the NI, as that is something that will be discussed within the NITF members at the kick-off meeting.

- The Committee suggested using the Institute of National Affairs, an independent think tank, who had offered to take on this role to chair the PNG & SI NI discussion.

- The Committee emphasised that the importance of NIs cannot be underestimated as they are crucial for the development of other relevant documents over the next five years. The participation of NGO members is also encouraged.

3.0	**For Endorsement**	
3.1	**ToR for Guidance on Repayment of Recruitment Fees and Related Costs** The Secretariat presented the decision paper on the ToR for Guidance on Repayment of Recruitment Fees and Related Costs. • In the previous SSC meeting, the Secretariat received comments for the ToR on the clarification for the roles and responsibilities, timeline and pilot testing of the guidance. This has been clarified in the revised ToR that the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) will be leading the development of this guidance through the Labour Subgroup. Once the subgroup has finalised the guidance, it will be submitted back to the HRWG and then presented to SSC for endorsement.	

- The aim of the pilot testing was further clarified namely to check on the applicability and ease of implementation of the guidance document. This pilot test will be conducted between a 30 to 60 days time frame. The timeline was also revised with the publication now targeted in May 2026. The public consultation will take place in September to October 2025, and the pilot testing will be in December 2025 to January 2026.

The Committee commented:
- The Committee suggested to include in the ToR that the guidance is intended to be informative as they seem to be incorrectly labelled as normative in the 2024 P&C and annexes. The Committee also highlighted that companies that have done the repayment should not be subjected to retrospective audit regardless of the methodology used at the time. This is because, at the time of the repayment, there was no established methodology to reference, and any review of repayments made before 2024 should not be required. Doing so would unfairly penalise the companies for acting proactively.
- The Secretariat explained that the guidance was initially intended to be a procedure, as the indicator included a procedural note stating that the HRWG would be developing a procedure. However, after the multistakeholder consultations, the caveat was removed from the procedural note and it was agreed by the Labour Subgroup that it would be a guidance document. It is an informative document and there is no expectation for any Unit of Certification (UoC) that has already conducted repayment to follow it. The document serves as a reference for members who have already implemented repayment, helping them identify any additional gaps they may wish to address as well as provides guidance to those who have not yet started the repayment process.
- The Committee recommended having a separate point added under the objectives and deliverables on the calculation of acceptable recruitment costs. There needs to be a framework that defines what costs are acceptable to include. The current ToR is more focused on determining how to repay the costs, but there should be an agreement on what constitutes those costs in the first place. Many of these costs, such as visa applications and agency fees in the countries of recruitment, need to be addressed.
- The Secretariat explains that if the ToR is not finalised, the working group won't be able to begin the discussions. The HRWG needs to have a clear ToR to provide direction to develop the guidance. The points raised by the Committee have already been discussed within the Labour Subgroup. The document was initially labelled as normative in the 2024 P&C and will be updated to be informative. The Secretariat has been

compiling a list of clarifications required in the 2024 P&C document for a procedural update, including certain definitions that need correction and updates to the procedure for HCS forest. This is planned to be presented to the SSC in May or June. This update will allow the change of the status of the document from normative to informative, which should address some of the concerns raised. In terms of finance, the current ToR calls for pilot testing across five regions, which could be quite extensive and require significant funding. Given that next year's funding is expected to be tight, especially with the need to support the NIs, there is a financial risk. The funding for the full scope of pilot tests requested in the ToR may not be feasible, and there's a need to assess the balance between pilot testing and other priorities.

● The Committee highlighted that the "no retrospective" approach has not been thoroughly discussed within the subgroup yet, as it's a recent topic of conversation within the NITF. There will be further discussions on this in the subgroup later. The Committee recommended to clearly outline the "no retrospective" approach in the ToR.

● The Committee commented that there needs to be a clear cut-off date which the guidance should apply. The cut-off date is just a general statement and is not explicitly mentioned in the P&C. The Secretariat explained that the indicator in the P&C has a cut-off date, which corresponds to the adoption of the P&C 2024, set for 13 November 2024. Anything before that date is not covered by the indicator. As the indicator will become effective on 13 November 2025, an interim measure may need to be provided if the guidance is not ready by then. While there is some flexibility, the subgroup will need to be mindful of any delays and find ways to mitigate them.

● OT was not present for this meeting but has provided his comments and decisions required via email. His comments are as follows:
  o Feedback has been taken into account and the timeline is clearer.
  o If the guidance will be available after November 2025, there should be an announcement to Certification Body (CB) that the indicator cannot be mandatory in the absence of guidance.

● The Secretariat will tighten the language of the ToR to clarify that this is an informative document and there will be no retrospective application. The maximum number for pilot testing will be set at 2 for now, until there is sufficient funding. The Secretariat will make these adjustments and update the ToR accordingly.

Decision

The SSC has not approved this decision paper. The SSC has requested the Secretariat to revise the decision paper based on the comments received. The

1. Amend the decision paper accordingly
2. Seek approval from SSC members via email

	Secretariat will amend the decision paper accordingly and seek the SSC's endorsement via email.		**Action by:** **Secretariat**
3.2	**Interim interpretation on tracing beyond refinery in the Supply Chain Certification Standard** The Secretariat presented the decision paper on the interim interpretation on tracing beyond refinery in the Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS). - According to clause 5.7.2 of the 2020 SCCS, only certified mills are able to perform the Shipping Announcement function while refineries, crushers and traders are only able to perform the Trace function. If a refinery or an oleochemicals processor uses the Announcement function, this could risk non-compliance (NC) during audits. The Trade and Traceability modules in prisma were developed in line with this interpretation. - However, the Announcement function had been enabled in PalmTrace for refineries, traders and all other midstream and downstream supply chain actors to perform based on member requests without full consultation with the RSPO Secretariat. - In the post launch period of prisma, the Secretariat discovered that there are currently 312 known ex-refinery SCC-certified sites who have active stock balances enabled through the use of the Shipping Announcement or Announcement function in PalmTrace. Some of these sites belong to prominent RSPO members. - The Secretariat is seeking SSC's approval to issue an interim interpretation to expand the requirements for 5.7.2 (e) to allow post-refinery Trace Announcements when RSPO certified palm products are sold with RSPO claims to the midstream and downstream supply chain actor in prisma, on an optional basis. - The Trace Announcement will function similarly to a Shipping Announcement or Announcement. In a Trace Announcement, the certified volume will also be transferred to the next buyer, so that the next buyer will be able to make conversions and continue making Trace Announcements to the next actor in the supply chain to maintain traceability. This function is also in line with requirements of the EUDR. - This function has already been developed in prisma but is currently disabled due to a lack of clarity on clause 5.7.2 and the risk of NCs issued during SCC audits. - The interim clarification would append two additional sentences to clause 5.7.2 (e) of the SCCS 2020: "e) Trace: Shall be carried out by the final refineries and traders when RSPO certified products are sold as RSPO certified to RSPO certified actors in the supply chain beyond the refinery. The volume shall be traced within three months after physical delivery.		

- o Trace Announcement will transfer the volume to the next supply chain actor, for further conversion and/or traceability. Trace Announcement will trigger the generation of traceability information with a unique traceability number.
  - o Trace Document shall be carried out by the final refineries and traders when RSPO certified products are sold as RSPO certified to non RSPO certified actors in the supply chain beyond the refinery. The volume shall be traced within three months after physical delivery. Trace Document will trigger the generation of a trace document with a unique traceability number. Trace Document can be done in a consolidated way."
- This interim clarification shall be in force until the SCCS is revised. A directive will be sent to the SCCS Review Task Force (currently underway) to address this interpretation risk in the revised standard.

The Committee highlighted:
- The Committee commented that in PalmTrace, non-members were allowed to trace buyers or receive certain information. While this practice wasn't explicitly mentioned in the SCCS, it had been ongoing. However, the practice was completely stopped and changed with the introduction of prisma, causing difficulties for trading. Is this addressed in the decision paper?
- The Secretariat clarified that the issue of non-members is separate, as there are ongoing discussions at the BoG level regarding how non-members should be treated, specifically, on whether non-members should be allowed to contribute information into traceability and trade. While this is related, it is not part of this decision paper. This decision paper focuses specifically on downstream traceability for members. Currently the standard is unclear and didn't specify certain practices, but the practice was implemented without informing the Secretariat. As a result, the Secretariat is in a situation of balancing what everyone is accustomed to, with practices that aren't explicitly outlined in the standard, which could potentially lead to NC.
- The Committee raised a question whether this decision paper could address the related issues altogether. The Committee also highlighted that the standard is a general guideline and it is not explicitly stated that the practice is wrong. The implementation and practices should not be changed overnight. Any changes should go through proper consultation and be included in the standard or its revisions and then communicated to everyone. This needs to be managed carefully.
- The Secretariat explained that the issue of non-members tracing could be included in this decision paper. There have been NCs issued in Europe, with certain CBs and auditors interpreting the standard's clause

differently, which has led to the issuance of NCs. Therefore, it's important to resolve this confusion and provide clear guidance moving forward.

- The Committee recommended having some form of consultation or communication to ensure that everyone understands what is happening as this is a significant change that impacts many people. The Secretariat responded that a communication message has already been prepared, but approval is needed before moving forward with the communication. The Secretariat also explained that the Trace Announcement is an optional module in the standard. As prisma was developed according to the standard's requirements, the Trace Announcement function has already been built into prisma. However, it is currently disabled due to the lack of clarity between the standard and PalmTrace. A formal decision is needed to enable this function, which will allow current practices to continue.
- OT has provided his comments and decisions via email below:
  - Cannot endorse the document as it is. Disagree with interpretation in Background. Issue is between 5.7.2.c and 5.7.2.e overlapping for some transactions and both including "shall". Recommendation introduces a risk of confusion between Trace Announcement and Announcement, leading to further issues at audits. If 'Trace' is used for 'Announcement' and 'document', then 'Announcement' should be disabled altogether? Note that 'Trace Announcements' do not require confirmation (5.7.2.d), which is useful.
  - Need to add requirement to be able to announce 'inputs' as well as 'outputs' from the refinery i.e. allowing CPO to be allowed for Trace Announcement. There is a need to sometimes manage stocks or allow for group-level management of positions.
- The Secretariat will amend the decision paper based on the comments raised and include tracing for non-members. The revised decision paper will be circulated via email to all SSC members for decision.

Decision
The SSC has not approved this decision paper. The SSC has requested the Secretariat to amend the decision paper according to the comments raised during the meeting. The Secretariat will amend the decision paper accordingly and seek the SSC's endorsement via email.

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1. Amend the decision paper accordingly
2. Seek approval from SSC members via email
Action by: Secretariat

4.0	**For Update**	
4.1	**Audit Checklist** The Secretariat provided an update on the progress of the Audit Checklist for the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard. ● The Audit Checklist was previously proposed to be attached to the 2024 Certification System document but it has now been decided that it will be a standalone informative document, similar to what it was for the 2018 P&C and 2019 ISH Standard. The primary reason for detaching the document is because of the feedback received indicating concerns about the distinction between the Certification System document, which is normative, and the audit checklist, which is informative. Even if it was clearly stated that the audit checklist is informative, there are concerns that it could still cause confusion. ● There are consultations planned for the audit checklist as recommended by the SSC. Consultations will take place in Asia, tentatively planned in April while consultations for Latin America and Africa are planned to be conducted in May. The consultations will involve the growers and CBs. The target date of the completion of the audit checklist will be in June 2025. The Committee commented that: ● Was the format of the audit checklist endorsed in the previous SSC meeting? What is the progress of the content? ● In the previous SSC meeting, the format of the audit checklist was presented for discussion, not for endorsement, so it has not yet been officially endorsed. The format was agreed upon, and the Secretariat is currently populating it with the content. There will be an updated Annex 5 and Annex 3, which is the informative guidance for the P&C. This is completely separated from the audit checklist, which will undergo its own stakeholder consultation process.	
4.2	**Supply Chain Certification Standard Review** The Secretariat provided an update on the Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS) Review. ● The SSC has approved an 18-month timeline for the SCCS review from the previous SSC meeting. The SCCS Review was initiated in February 2025, to comply with the ISEAL Code, along with a survey to collect public feedback on the current SCCS. ● The survey was carried out from 10 February to 2 March 2025 as an initial public consultation. There were 408 submissions received from 57 countries. Out of the 408 submissions:	

- o 66% of the respondents are Ordinary Members, and 24% are Associate Members.
  - o The top 3 countries that responded are from Germany, Japan and the United States.
  - o 29% of the respondents are from Consumer Goods Manufacturers, 25% from Palm Oil Processors & Traders and 22% from Supply Chain Associate.
  - o 72% of the respondents have RSPO supply chain certified sites; 49% from single site, 19% from single site and 4% from group certification.
- The SSC has approved the ToR for the establishment of SCCS Review in the previous SSC meeting. The ToR was endorsed by the BoG on 11 March.
- The call for expression of interest for TF and observers was announced on 19 March on the RSPO website. 5 applications have been received so far.
- The next step is to have a kick-off meeting once the TF is formed, following with a physical meeting in May.

The Committee commented:
- The Committee asked about the status of the applicants for the TF and whether an email had been sent out for the call for expressions of interest. The Secretariat explained that the email has been prepared and is scheduled to go out on 2 April 2025. For now, the announcement has only been made on the website. So far, there have been five official submissions, with a few others expressing interest indirectly through email. Interested parties can already reach out to the Secretariat directly to join the TF.
- The Committee recommended including the new Green Claims directive which was expected to be finalised by the end of June or July, in the SCCS Review ToR. They expressed concern that if the RSPO standard is not aligned with the Green Claims directive, RSPO certification may no longer be valid for green claims. This is an important issue, especially for European users, as it concerns European companies wishing to communicate RSPO certification on their packaging. While the necessary requirements are generally covered, there is a possibility that only certain approved standards will be accepted for such claims. ISEAL is actively involved in discussions to ensure that all ISEAL-approved standards align with the directive, though this has not yet been finalized.
- The Secretariat explained that while the issue is not explicitly mentioned in the ToR, it is included in the survey under the section on regulatory relevance and market requirements. The ToR mentioned

	that the TF will refer to the survey analysis to guide their discussions and what will be included in the standards.	
4.3	**Independent Review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process** The Secretariat provided an update on the independent review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process. ● The ToR of the independent review for the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process was approved by the SSC in January 2025. The call for expression of interest was sent out on 21 February 2025 and the submission is now closed. ● 3 proposals have been received: ○ Solbert Consulting - Victoria Solbert, an independent consultant based in the US. She led the standards revision process for Fair Trade and was involved in the revision of the ISEAL Combined Code. ○ Singapore Agri-Food Innovation Lab (SAIL), Nanyang Technological University – An affiliate member of RSPO, is an incubation technological innovations lab that's looking at traceability as part of innovations in the agri-food space. ○ Peterson Solutions ● The Secretariat is currently reviewing and evaluating the substance of the proposals. The cost of proposals received may require a Tender Committee to be formed and decide on which proposal to move forward with. ● The Secretariat will provide an update to the SSC on the outcome of the evaluation in April or May and kick start the independent review process. The Committee raised question: ● Are we still on schedule for the review? The Secretariat confirmed that the review is still on track and hoped to finalize the internal contracting as soon as possible. There will be a BoG retreat in June and the Secretariat would like the selected consultant to meet the BoG members in person to begin gathering necessary feedback. ● The Committee also inquired about the funding. The Secretariat explained that some funds have been reallocated from other budget codes, but as the project will span across two financial years, the remaining budget can be allocated in FY26.	
5.0	**Any Other Business**	
5.1	**Prisma issues** There was a request from the previous SSC meeting to have a discussion on prisma at the next meeting. The Secretariat acknowledged that there are issues	

with prisma, some of which involve clarifications between the standard and the practices that may have been enabled, which could contradict the standard. However not all issues are related to the standard. If the issues are more on operational and assurance, the Strategy and Digital Transformation (SDT) team and Certification team will need to address them.

The Committee commented:
- When a practice changes due to the system and not the result of a standard revision, this change should be implemented carefully. It needs to go through the proper consultation and not done abruptly, and members should be fully aware of the change.
- The Committee mentioned that several meetings have been held between Malaysian growers, Indonesian growers, and the Rest of the World with the Assurance Team regarding the liability disclosure. The outcome of the meeting is that there should not be a requirement for resubmission. If there are discrepancies in the liability disclosure, the member should simply be asked to provide the missing information. There should be no need to resubmit the entire disclosure based on the current format, especially if the original submission was done long ago. The focus should be on closing the gaps where information is lacking.
- The Committee highlighted that the Secretariat should first focus on getting the usual business, particularly trading, in order before moving on to other issues. There are significant challenges for this, such as the administrative burden of announcing deliveries for each truck when there are multiple trucks going out, which used to be handled per contract. This change, while potentially stemming from a better interpretation, may not be as practical as the previous approach. Many growers are struggling to adjust to this. The Committee also recommended setting up a separate working group to address and resolve the trading issues, ensuring that the process is streamlined and that growers can continue doing business as usual.
- The Secretariat explained that the Assurance team has been working on a new timeline and engagement plan to address the disclosure issue and other issues. The current focus of prisma is on the core aspects, namely trade and traceability, which directly impact members' business operations.
- The Secretariat provided an update on trading, noting that the latest data from prisma shows that trading in March has returned to normal levels and even exceeded them. The decrease in February appears to have been offset by an increase in announcements and shipments in March, helping to resolve the issues experienced in February. While there is still variability in the data, it seems that things have normalized and are trending above past historical levels. The priority now is to

continue monitoring this trend and provide an update to the BoG in June. The development process and rollout for the remainder of the year have been adjusted to allow space for focusing on resolving the issues in trade and traceability.

- The Committee emphasized the importance of reflecting on the purpose of prisma. Was prisma meant to replace traceability, or is it intended to assist in the audit function? Is it simply gathering data, or is it supposed to provide a solution for our members? If prisma is causing more problems rather than helping, then there may be fundamental issues in how it was built. The Secretariat explained that the reasoning behind prisma was to address the challenges RSPO was facing with data and systems. The previous system wasn't supporting the standard or RSPO in a way that would provide a better source of income.

- The Committee acknowledged the value of prisma, and the prisma team has been responsive and proactive in addressing issues. The Committee suggested that rather than just continuing to address individual issues, the team could work on identifying the root causes by collaborating with a few growers to pinpoint the underlying issues. This approach would help reduce the number of issues and address the problems at their source.

- The Committee highlighted two main issues: one is ensuring the system functions as intended, and the other is assessing whether the system actually caters to real-world situations that may have been overlooked. The system was developed closely in line with the SCCS, but it might not have fully accounted for the practical deviations seen in PalmTrace, where the system had been more flexible and accommodating to the realities of the supply chain. These deviations may not have been considered when developing the new system.

- The Committee recommended creating a sounding board which includes growers and P&Ts, who can help ensure a smooth and clear transition of data across the supply chain. This group could provide insights and feedback to address any gaps in the system and ensure it better meets the needs of the real-world operations of growers and the broader supply chain. As the challenges with the system arise in different phases of development, the sounding board can provide ongoing support throughout the development process, ensuring the system continues to evolve and improve. The Committee also suggested having expert users to help identify what makes sense within the system and what doesn't. These users could pinpoint recurring issues and work with the prisma team to find solutions together.

- The Secretariat explained that the prisma team is committed and open to feedback in improving the system as the ultimate goal is for the system to be used optimally by all members. Some of the development

	hiccups were exacerbated by the need to rush prisma's development in less than 12 months, particularly to meet the EUDR deadline. As a result, certain scenarios may not have been fully considered. ● The Secretariat also stated that the pace of phase 2 modules has slowed down, with some developments moved to 2026. The current primary focus for phase 2 is PalmGHG version 5, which is in development with a targeted release in June or July. The other focus is the audit module. The approach to the audit module has been revised as the team is now focusing on developing the audit module for P&C 2024 rather than 2018. Internal user acceptance testing for the audit module is targeted for August, with a trial period planned from September to October. During this period, mock audits with CBs and growers will be conducted to trial the beta system and address any remaining issues before the module goes live in November when the standard becomes effective. The team is learning from the rushed timeline that led to prisma's initial rollout and is adapting by taking a more measured approach for future modules, with more thorough pilot testing periods to resolve any glitches before they go live.	
5.2	**Report on the Delinking Commercial Relationships between RSPO-accredited Certification Bodies and Auditees** The Committee highlighted that LKW has provided comments regarding the report on the Delinking Commercial Relationships between RSPO-accredited Certification Bodies and Auditees. Will the comment be considered? The Secretariat clarified that the report was commissioned by the Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) and falls under their purview. It was sent to the SSC for comments and feedback, and any feedback from the SSC should be sent back to the ASC for their consideration. The Secretariat will send the comments to ASC.	Send the comment to ASC **Action by: Secretariat**
5.3	**Certification Body (CB) Interpretation Workshop** The Committee expressed concerns about the different interpretations from different auditors. There seems to be a lack of consistency in how these interpretations are being applied in practice as the auditors were informed of certain interpretations during the CB workshop. The growers and NGOs both emphasized the need for alignment between the CB, ASI, RSPO Secretariat, and other stakeholders (including growers and NGOs) on audit interpretations. There should not be conflicting interpretations or NCs issued on the ground based on what was conveyed in the CB workshop.	

The Secretariat explained that there is a 5-year work plan in place between ASI and RSPO to address the interpretation risks that have been observed across the system. The idea is to reset the interpretation forum, starting with a clean slate for the 2024 Standards. This will lead to more alignment between ASI, RSPO, growers, and CBs moving forward. There may also be a need to improve the training syllabus for auditors and the development of a learning management system to reduce interpretation risks.

The Committee also commented that there should be healthy discussions between CBs, growers, NGOs, and other users to ensure a consistent interpretation. The Committee questioned why the CB workshop is not accessible to all stakeholders, raising concerns about a lack of transparency in the process. The Committee proposed that growers could potentially be allowed to observe these workshops.

The Committee inquired whether the old CB forum would be archived, as some might still be relevant for criteria that were not changed, or even criteria that were changed. The Secretariat responded that the intention is to archive the old content and migrate those that are still relevant to a new interpretation forum and database for the 2024 Standards.

The Committee emphasised the importance of having either the minutes from the CB workshops or attending the workshop as observers to gain insight into the discussions. The Committee fully supports the idea for a risk-based approach to auditing which is crucial for improving the depth and meaningfulness of audits.

MEETING ENDED AT 1655 MYT