

MINUTES OF MEETING

Market Development Standing Committee

Time : 2100 - 2230 (MYT)

Date : Tuesday, 19th January 2021

Venue : Zoom Conference Call

Attendees:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Eddy Esselink	EE	MVO	Co-Chair, P/T - Substantive
Anite Neville	AN	Golden Agri-Resources	Co-Chair, Grower (IN) - Substantive
Caroline Westerik	CW	AAK	Processor / Trader
Franka Lakeman	FL	Ahold Delhaize	Retailer - Alternate
Harjinder Kler	HK	HUTAN	Environmental NGO - Substantive
Jonathan Escolar	JE	The Body Shop	CGM, Substantive
Lee Kuan Yee	LKY	KLK Berhad.	Grower (MY) - Substantive
Sharyn Sufyan	SS	Wild Asia	Social NGO -
Beverly Postma	BP	RSPO Secretariat	
Cameron Plese	CP	RSPO Secretariat	
Dan Strechay	DS	RSPO Secretariat	
Emir Bustami	EB	RSPO Secretariat	
Inke Van Der Sluijs	IVDS	RSPO Secretariat	
Kamal Prakash Seth	KPS	RSPO Secretariat	
Monisha Mohandas	MM	RSPO Secretariat	
Nefissa Sahnoun	NS	RSPO Secretariat	

Absent with apologies:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Jose Montenegro	JM	Agrocaribe	Growers (RoW) - Substantive
Julian Walker-Palin	JWP	Retailers Palm Oil Group	Retailers, Substantive
Bakhtiar Talhah	BT	RSPO Secretariat	
Cheri Woo	CW	RSPO Secretariat	
Francisco Naranjo	FN	RSPO Secretariat	

Agenda:

Item	Topic
1	Antitrust Reading Statement
2	Acceptance of November Minutes of Meeting
3	Secretariat Updates
4	Updates from Outreach WG and Supply Chain Traceability WG
5	Discussion on “No Palm Oil” Labelling and claims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Rule 1.4 RSPO Code of Conduct wording feedback into a final board statement for Nov 12 BoG Meeting
6	U.S. Customs and Border Protection withhold release orders and U.S. Congressional update
7	Secretariat COP26 Campaign - Task Force Request
8	AOB

DISCUSSION:

No.	Description	Action Points (PIC)
1.0	Antitrust Reading Statement	
	<p>The Chair welcomes members of the MDSC to the meeting and reminds the members of the following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All MDSC members will have to abide by the RSPO Antitrust law - MDSC follows a consensus-based decision making as outlined in the ToR - Members have to declare Conflict of Interest (Col) under any items and excuse themselves to remain objective to the discussion. 	
2.0	Acceptance of November Minutes of Meeting	
	<p>Adjustments to the Minutes To amend “MCC” or Market Communication & Claims in the previous minutes of the meeting.</p>	To be revised and circulated to Members
3.0	Secretariat Updates	

<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>RT Series The RT Series begins next week (end of January 2021), focusing on two main issues i.e. Human Rights and the Grievance System. This will be carried out on a monthly basis, highlighting the latest issues and the hottest topics.</p> <p>AP article on Child Labour The article was pushed back from its original publish date of 3rd Dec 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporters of the article linked it to Girl Scouts selling cookies. - This has caused several Girl Scouts Associations to temporarily boycott the selling of cookies. <p>As selling cookies is a big part of American Girl Scout culture, it was suggested that now is a good opportunity for RSPO to begin engagement and collaborate with the Girl Scouts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSPO is already working with the Girl Scouts Associations to get them to understand the RSPO Standard on Child Labour. - RSPO assisted them in creating educational materials for their troops. <p>The child labour story will be closely monitored by the Secretariat as France may use it in another article on Eco-labels, with a potentially negative tone.</p>	
<p>4.0 Updates from Outreach WG and Supply Chain Traceability WG</p>		
<p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Supply Chain Traceability WG The previous meeting was held in November 2020 and the working group agreed to split the Communication & Claims work into 2 documents: Certification and Trademark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formatted and revised the document on an offline version due to accessibility issues - Waiting for the second round of comment (Thursday, 21/01/2021) from Outreach WG Members - One of the important aspects is the Code of Conduct edits by MDSC's recommendation - The process will take place in the coming months and these two documents will be editable - The next meeting will discuss the market transformation efforts in the Big Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - India, China, Malaysia, and Indonesia <p>Outreach WG The previous meeting was held in December 2020 and currently working on a proposal to change the way actual production and uptake data will be reported on the website. This proposal will be presented to the MDSC once it is agreed upon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Credits: to get a better understanding of how to 	<p>More updates on the next MDSC meeting</p> <p>More updates on the next MDSC meeting</p>

	<p>introduce a policy to phase out or encourage Members to switch from Credits to Mass Balance / Segregated</p>	
<p>5.0 Discussion on “No Palm Oil” Labelling and Claims</p>		
	<p>No Palm Oil Labelling There were two versions of the No Palm Oil-Palm Free Claims that were presented for further comments from the Committee Members.</p> <p>The CEO explained why there should not be any further amendments to the RSPO CoC as agreed by the Board of Governors as the wording of the Code makes it difficult for the RSPO Secretariat to arbitrate on the alleged violations. The CEO suggested the MDSC have another attempt at the topic with the objective of simplifying if a violation has occurred or not; what breaches the spirit of the law and make it abundantly clear if a company has crossed the line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The BoG will have to accept the recommendation before presenting it in the General Assembly - The issue is the companies that use “no palm oil” labelling in their products are claiming it due to health benefits but no proof or validation of the point and contradicting what is posted on social media. - A Committee Member raised an issue regarding the emotional connection/response from consumers to this issue and how it is a missed opportunity. - Committee Members agreed on taking a proactive step to guide marketeers on what can and cannot be claimed with the oil-palm free claims. - A potential problem would be the India Market as soy is an upcoming crop in the country and there would be no tool to address this issue if there are similar claims. - The Committee to regroup and agree on the language/wording used taking into account the various opinions and points from the Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must improve the level of communication around sustainable palm oil as the positive choice - It is imperative that we educate member companies, marketing team, and branding team to understand why using no palm oil is damaging to the interest of sustainably produced palm oil - The BoG is looking forward to a recommendation in the next BoG Meeting. 	<p>MDSC to reconvene and continue the discussion.</p> <p>Secretariat to revert with a more detailed proposal of the Communications Plan on how to communicate this issue in addition to the CoC change Secretariat to create the voting poll by next week</p>

6.0 Update on U.S. Situation		
	<p>Two members have now been issued U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) Withhold Release Orders (WROs) since September 2020. No evidence has been provided to the RSPO Secretariat, despite repeated attempts of clarification. The CBP refuses to engage with U.S.-based Secretariat staff, unlike WRO investigations in the past.</p> <p>Potential for new U.S. legislation to be similar to the EU and UK's due diligence regulations is currently under discussion</p>	<p>The Secretariat will have a meeting with CBP and start to repair relationships with the new administration.</p> <p>To be discussed in the OEWG</p>
7.0 Secretariat COP26 Campaign - Task Force Request		
	<p>The Road To COP26 Purpose of this campaign is to be proactive in educating the market, stakeholders, and influencers as to what sustainable palm oil is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current plan is working towards two main events. First being the Potential West meeting in Singapore in May and the second being COP26 in Glasgow. - Intends to set up a TF (with the permission of MDSC) to work on this campaign proposal. - Aims to also recruit marketing and communication people from MDSC member organisations, reporting to MDSC. <p>Decision: MDSC Members agree to the formation of the TF, with Anita Neville nominated to lead the TF.</p>	<p>TF Head to select members and form the TF.</p>
8.0 AOB		
	<p>Next confirmed meeting dates: April 19, July 28, October 18.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May add more meetings if the committee feels it is necessary. 	

Meeting ended at 2249.

ANNEX:

In alphabetical order:

CoC - Code of Conduct

OEWG - Outreach and Engagement Working Group

TF - Task Force

ToR - Terms of Reference

USCBP - United States Customs and Border Patrol

WG - Working Group

WRO - Withhold Release Orders