

Terms of Reference

European (ISCO) Working Group on Child Labour

Background

In their Memorandum of Understanding, the national platforms for sustainable cocoa in Europe (in the following: ISCOs) have agreed to bundle efforts for a sustainable cocoa value chain through collaborative action specifically in the following key areas of action which are the sector's main challenges:

- To enhance the transparency in the cocoa value chain and promote the production and consumption of sustainable cocoa;
- To contribute to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families;
- To halt cocoa-related deforestation and promote sustainable reforestation and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries; and
- **To end the worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the cocoa value chain**

The creation of joint Working Groups addressing these main challenges is considered one effective measure to bundle and coordinate efforts. The ISCOs thus agreed to foster peer learning and the exchange of knowledge through the creation of joint Working Groups of experts in different workstreams linked to the main challenges. At the same time, Joint Learning Events will be organized to allow for joint learning at a broader scale.

While each platform has adopted a slightly different goal, which reflects the state of discussions at national level, the solutions that need to be designed to meet these goals are common to all platforms. In recent years, each platform has been developing its own set of definitions, solutions, and roadmaps, and it is now timely to bring it all together to create synergies and scale-up opportunities to take action in producing countries.

Below is a summary of European goals that relate to child labour.

Platform	Main goals	Sub-goals
DISCO	Effective measures and necessary actions contributing to ending all forms of child labour by 2025 are taken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020 DISCO signatories determine their current deployment level for these systems in their supply chain and develop plans towards 100% deployment of prevention, monitoring and remediation systems by 2025; • Private sector partners will work towards scaling up of prevention, monitoring and remediation systems for child labour with specific timebound check points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100% coverage of the cocoa bean volume required to meet the annual Dutch consumption of chocolate and other products with >5% cocoa content by 2023; ○ 50% coverage for the cocoa bean volume required to meet the annual consumption of chocolate and other cocoa products in nearby EU markets by 2022 and 100% in 2025; ○ 50% coverage for the cocoa bean volume required to meet the annual Dutch exports of cocoa and cocoa-based

Platform	Main goals	Sub-goals
		<p>products to other export markets by 2023 and 100% in 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatories will intensify their cooperation with counterpart organisations in the sourcing countries to strengthen the institutional environment and empower local communities aimed at preventing and eradicating child labour.
GISCO	To improve living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and to contribute to a secure living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The abolition of worst forms of child labour in cocoa production. • Enforcing compliance with human rights (implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) and environmental aspects by all actors in the cocoa supply chain and contributing to the discussion on possible regulatory measures at EU level.
SWISSCO Roadmap 2030 (as approved by GAM on 21/09/2021)	Tackling child labour and improving perspectives of the youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members active in producer countries with incidence of child labour in cocoa production are contributing to eliminate the root causes of child labour and therefore child labour and to improve the perspectives of youth. • SWISSCO engages in sustainable cocoa sourcing landscape involving efforts to tackle child labour effectively. • SWISSCO signs and operationalizes cooperation agreements aimed at child labour prevention with local authorities and, where appropriate, with multilateral organizations such as ILO, UNICEF, and development banks.
Beyond Chocolate		The Beyond Chocolate Partnership document comprises several goals and ambitions with respect to eliminating forced labour, extending schooling and ending (the worst forms of) child labor in the cocoa value chain. Even though these goals do not appear explicitly in the 2025 and 2030 commitments, they are an implicit part of the 'living income'-related commitment. Beyond Chocolate partners are also reporting on their actions and progress vis-à-vis this challenge.

Aim of the working group

Note: these objectives will be discussed within the ISCO's existing Working Groups, as well as during the first meeting of the WG, to ensure they reflect WG Members' needs and expectations.

The working group's overall aim is to

- Promote sharing of experiences and knowledge between the ISCOs and other existing platforms, especially in producing countries.
- Support the peer learning and exchange of knowledge within the workstream on child labour and to foster a common understanding of the challenges and the solutions to eliminate all forms of child labour in line with SDG target 8.7.
- Support ISCO signatories/members in achieving their commitments and ambitions related to **the elimination of child labour**.

Proposed activities

The activities of the working group are organized by the following focus areas.

1. Learning and Alignment

Support the cross-country wide learning on the strategies to eliminate child labour in cocoa, including prevention, monitoring and remediation.

Foster learning through exchange with and involvement of experts and practitioners from governments, civil society, or academia in cocoa producing countries by regularly inviting them to the working group meetings and/or member events.

Strengthen the coordination with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and multilateral development banks and other relevant stakeholders given the complexity of the challenge to eliminate child labour, requiring a variety of measures focused on education, social welfare, improvement of income and overall framework conditions.

1.1 Common definitions

Create ownership and common understanding of definitions, building on already existing definitions identified by the ISCOs and latest developments (e.g. EU definitions of some key terms).

1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Strengthen the harmonization of monitoring and reporting tools to allow for a consistent measuring of progress in the efforts to eliminate child labour and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of CLMRS and other tools.

Support harmonization efforts with other monitoring systems outside of the European platforms in the scope of the Alliance 8.7.

1.3 Compliance

Support companies and other ISCO members in addressing the root causes of child labour as complementary to DD regulations.

Provide guidance to companies on how to implement due diligence (DD) regulations concerning child labour in the cocoa sector.

2. Action for Impact at Scale

Sharing of experiences in the promotion of pilot innovative approaches, such as targeted performance-based financing schemes (e.g. social impact bonds) to strengthen the education and development prospects of children and young people.

Sharing of experiences in the piloting of holistic approaches based on national and landscape approaches to tackle the problem of child labour, ultimately relying on the local governance structure.

Cooperate with and support local governments in addressing the root causes of child labour.

Create a conducive environment for enabling Public-Private Partnerships and the leveraging of impact finance to allow the scaling up of successful pilot projects.

Organization

- The working group shall consist of a representative group of members from all four ISCOs, with a balanced representation of all sectors (private sector, public sector, research, NGOs), with an indicative number of experts per platform.
- **Experts from producing countries are invited to actively participate in contributing with input and shaping the outcomes.**
- The participation in the WG requires a certain level of expertise on the topic of child labour.
- The WG is **co-lead by two experts with acknowledged expertise**, representing different stakeholder perspectives.
- One national platform (in this case SWISSCO) will be serving as the secretariat of the WG and ensures a proper coordination with the other national platforms.
- The WG will also work closely with the other ISCO relevant WGs (e.g. Monitoring), as well as with thematic mirror groups on national level to ensure synergies and complementarity of efforts. Some recommendations coming out of the discussions may have to be reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee / Board of the national platforms.
- Estimated time to be invested for participation in this working group is for two to three meetings per year (duration abt. 3 hours each) plus consultation of tools and documents.
- **Task forces** may be set up on specific topics, to ensure that the work progresses swiftly.
- Besides, **regular learning events and workshops** (at least two ISCO events across all challenges per year) will be open to all interested members of all four platforms to foster peer learning and the exchange of knowledge. Non-experts are invited to attend these learning events.

Next steps

Date	Event/Activity
March 31, 2022 10 – 12 CET	1 st WG Child Labour Meeting
July, 07 2022 10 – 12 CET	2 nd WG Child Labour Meeting
September 01, 2022 10 – 16 CET	ISCOConference - Learning Event
November 03, 2022 10 – 12 CET	3 rd WG Child Labour Meeting

Member Organizations of the Working Group

ISCO Members

Alfred Ritter

Association of the German Confectionary Industry (BDSI)

Baronie / Chocolat Alprose

Barry Callebaut

BDSI

BUZA

CARE Nederland
Cargill
Chocolats Halba
Cocoasource
Cooko GmbH
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Dr. Bronner
Envirium Life Sciences
ETH Zürich
Fairtrade / Max Havelaar
Farmstrong Foundation
German Federal Ministry for Food & Agriculture (BMEL)
INKOTA Netzwerk
International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)
Lindt
Natra
Nestlé
Nexus Management
RVO
Solidaridad Network
Starbucks
Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
UNICEF Netherlands
UNICEF Switzerland

ISCO Partners & Others

Action Against Child Exploitation (ACE)
Association des PCA des coopératives de café cacao
CAPA COOP-CA
CSO Platform for ISCOs
Child Labour Unit Ghana
Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child
GIZ Côte d'Ivoire
ICI Côte d'Ivoire
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Pro-Planteurs / GISCO
SEND-Ghana



UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire

UNICEF Ghana