

Press Release

4th World Cocoa Conference in Berlin

Business as usual is no longer an option – the new vision of the cocoa sector is introduced in the Berlin Declaration

Berlin, April 30, 2018 – Will the breakthrough for a sustainable cocoa sector be manifested with Berlin? In the Berlin Declaration, the final declaration of the 4th World Cocoa Conference, the delegates formulated a clear message: There will only be a sustainable cocoa sector if cocoa farmers are able to earn a living income. It is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders and they should work together to achieve this goal.

There is an urgent need for the goal-oriented collaboration of the actors involved at local, but also at national and international level. In Germany, it already takes place with the help of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO). The German Federal Government, represented by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the German confectionery industry, the German retail grocery trade and civil society joined forces in GISCO with the aim to achieve a sustainable cocoa sector. At the World Cocoa Conference, this multi-stakeholder was repeatedly mentioned as an example. GISCO members contributed their experiences and views in numerous presentations and in the discussions of the working groups in preparation for the final declaration.

The call for a living income is certainly the most important result of this 4th World Cocoa Conference. The around 1,500 participants from 65 countries, including the responsible ministers from seven producing countries, also agreed that the solution approaches will need to be equal to the size of the problem. The challenges are urgent and all stakeholders face them, according to Jean-Marc Anga, Executive Director of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO).

Other areas of action, which have been included in the final declaration and which are also in line with the objectives of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, are: preventing child labour, empowering women, professionalizing farmer organizations, stopping deforestation, creating transparency along the

page 1 of 4

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supply chain and prompting appropriate measures by the governments of the producing and consuming countries.

In her opening speech to the 4th World Cocoa Conference, Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, addressed the self-imposed responsibility of the Federal Government for sustainability: “We want to support initiatives for sustainable supply chains. We also agreed on that in the coalition agreement”, Klöckner said. The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa is a flagship project for sustainability. The minister said about the term sustainability: “We need a clear regulation of what sustainable cocoa is”. And further: “Certified cocoa must be free from child labour”.

Dr Maria Flachsbarth, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, said in her speech on the final day of the 4th World Cocoa Conference that she is impressed by the results and the ambitious goals: “The conference was a key step towards a sustainable cocoa sector thanks to the adoption of the Berlin Declaration. Business as usual is no longer an option.” Flachsbarth mentioned the project PRO-PLANTEURS as an example for projects that are already supported by both the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL): “We support smallholders to become entrepreneurs in the project PRO-PLANTEURS which is jointly implemented by the German government, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa and the Ivorian government.”

Wolf Kropp-Büttner, GISCO Chairman, referred to the need for mergers. He said: “The German actors alone have too little influence to achieve the necessary changes in the sector. We must network at international level.” The World Cocoa Conference formed an important basis for this. “I am confident that we have taken a good step forward”, Kropp-Büttner said. “Sustainability is a process. The GISCO members accompany and shape it.”

The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa works already closely together with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) at international level on topics such as forest conservation and empowerment of women. At the beginning of the year, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa. In Berlin, existing relationships were further strengthened and new contacts were made with other partners: “We want to play our part to



ensure that the world cocoa agenda is lived and that the claims of the Berlin Declaration are implemented in concrete terms”, Chairman Kropp-Büttner said.

Link to Berlin Declaration: <https://www.icco.org/about-us/icco-news/387-berlin-declaration-of-the-fourth-world-cocoa-conference.html>

Captions:



Julia Klöckner, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, opened the 4th World Cocoa Conference in Berlin. She emphasized the commitment of the German government for sustainable supply chains and sustainable cocoa cultivation. Around 1,500 participants from 65 countries, including the responsible ministers from seven producing countries, discussed “A new vision for the cocoa sector”.



The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa and its members actively participated in the discussion of a new vision for the cocoa sector at the 4th World Cocoa Conference in Berlin. *(From right)* Dr. Torben Erbrath (Association of the German Confectionery Industry), Evelyn Bahn (Inkota Netzwerk), Andreas Ronken (Ritter Sport), with Carolina Aguilar (Lutheran World Relief) *(second from right)*, discussed the possibilities of consumers to support sustainable cocoa cultivation. This is one of the four subject areas for which recommendations for action were included in the Berlin Declaration.

Pictures: German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa / B. Pritzkuleit



Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

About the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

The association 'German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa' is a joint initiative of the German government, civil society, industry and trade and brings together relevant actors from Germany with those from the producing countries and international initiatives. The aim of GISCO is to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers, to conserve natural resources and biodiversity in the growing countries and to increase the proportion of sustainably produced cocoa. The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa has over 70 members and is open to other interested parties.

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