



**Forum Nachhaltiger Kakao**  
German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa



Nachhaltigkeits-  
strategie  
für Deutschland

- Leuchtturmprojekt 2016 -



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## Evening Reception

**Moderation:** Wolf Kropp-Büttner, Chairman of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

### OPENING



**Wolf Kropp-Büttner**, Chairman of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), opened the evening event on 3 May 2017 in Berlin and warmly welcomed all participants to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa. He highlighted four main achievements. According to Kropp-Büttner, GISCO has strengthened the international connection and cooperation through attending important events like the World Cocoa Conference in the Dominican Republic and the National Cocoa Days in Côte d'Ivoire. The project PRO-

PLANTEURS is essential for the communication and the good relationship with the Conseil Café Cacao. The award of the ZEIT WISSEN-Prize "Encouraging Sustainability" in the category action confirms GISCO's good work by an independent instance.

### WELCOME

**Gunther Beger**, Head of Directorate-General 1, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), praised the achievements of the initiative and especially of the project PRO-PLANTEURS as exemplary. The share of sustainably produced cocoa in confectionery produced in Germany was 3% in 2011 and rose to 45% in 2016, according to Gunther Beger. This is a "significant improvement".



Mr. Beger referred to the fact that no one can solve the challenges alone and therefore, the active participation of the members is very important. Highest priority should be attached to the realization of all three pillars of sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030. "Because the cocoa farmers are still poor", Mr. Beger said. There must be more action and "the added value of the supply chain has to be brought to the producing country". Therefore, Mr. Beger made a wish that "we achieve another big step together and that we assume more social responsibility!".

### KEY NOTE: COCOA – AN ETHICAL RISK ANALYSIS



**Dr. Christiane Hellar**, associate director of the Hamburger Stiftung für Wirtschaftsethik, gave a presentation on the study "Cocoa – an ethical risk analysis". At first, she introduced ethical risk assessment as the focus of the foundation. Then, she addressed the potential of multi-stakeholder initiatives and pointed out possibilities on how to achieve their full potential. According to Dr. Hellar, the cocoa industry is just right for precompetitive alliances due to its characteristics. These are a strong common interest and a strong willingness to cooperate

among the actors as well as a high level of involvement of the industry and a high number of

corporate projects in the producing countries. Also, the high concentration of power at some stages of the value chain is special.

Dr. Hellar mentioned the membership profile, a close link to on-site problems, the existence of a precompetitive room as well as learning and the exchange of experiences as success factors for multi-stakeholder initiatives. It is necessary to build trust between the stakeholders, to discuss conflicts of interests within and outside the initiative and to develop additional tools. According to Dr. Hellar, there is danger that a too strong agreement regarding the goal can hinder a critical discourse.

Dr. Hellar described two different kind of “collective action” initiatives: the ones, which consists of members with the same position, and those, which have members with divergent positions. The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa belongs to the latter kind of “collective action” initiatives and therefore, it represents a problem-oriented alliance. The different positions of the stakeholders function as a constructive power for change processes and that is why the continuous negotiation process requires self-reflection on motivation and on the initiative’s role over and over again.

The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa is a forerunner in the field of “Collective Action” initiatives.

[Here](#), you can find Dr. Christiane Hellar’s presentation (German).

## Public Annual General Meeting of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

Moderation: Barbara Scherle

### OPENING

**Wolf Kropp-Büttner**, Chairman of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO), opened the annual meeting and welcomed the representatives of the German Federal Government, Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Hermann Onko Aeikens and Gunther Beger, as well as the invited guests and the numerous members. He thanked the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for its hospitality. Especially, the members, who recently joined GISCO, were welcomed warmly by him.

Mr. Kropp-Büttner emphasized that human rights and children’s rights are also a personal concern and that the invited speakers are expected to present clever ideas for the further involvement of GISCO. He regretted that neither Première Dame Mme. Ouattara nor Minister Mme. Mariétou Koné or other Ivorian representatives were able accept the invitation because of the large numbers of activities. They were supposed to talk about the progress in the partner country.

According to Mr. Kropp-Büttner, GISCO members have achieved visible sustainability by increasing the share of sustainably produced cocoa in confectionery produced in Germany to 57% in 2016, meaning another increase of 8%. Therefore, he assumed that GISCO members will raise the target from 50% in 2020 to 70%.



Nevertheless, the cocoa price decline by more than one third should not be overlooked. “It questions all our sustainability efforts and the ones of our partners”, Mr. Kropp-Büttner said. Therefore, he really appreciates the initiative to develop solution strategies which VOICE Network and the World Cocoa Foundation initiated and

which was agreed upon at the ICCO session end of April.

The Conseil du Café-Cacao is still a reliable partner for the project PRO-PLANTEURS and hence, nothing should affect the further realization as a multi-stakeholder initiative. The visit of German Development Minister Gerd Müller of a cocoa cooperative in Côte d’Ivoire in March, which is funded and advised by PRO-PLANTEURS, was particularly positive. During a conversation, the Minister promised Première Dame Mme. Ouattara and Mme. Touré-Litsé more German involvement for Côte d’Ivoire and the cocoa sector.

Furthermore, Mr. Kropp-Büttner referred to the involvement of GISCO members who are committed to about 90 projects around the world, 46 of them in West Africa, and thus, reaching more than one



million cocoa farmers. He said that the response to events and panel discussions hosted by GISCO is positive, lastly the [ISM in Cologne in January](#). In the end, he presented an outlook for the coming year which will focus on intensifying the dialogue with experts and political actors, e.g. the new management of the Cocoa Board in Ghana, intensifying the cooperation at international level with the World Cocoa Foundation and the International Cocoa Initiative as well as networking with new partners at a European level. The upcoming World Cocoa Conference in Berlin in April 2018 will be another milestone.

He thanked both Ministries, BMZ and BMEL, which provide substantial support, and the heads of the working groups and their deputies. He then handed over to the moderator, Barbara Scherle.

## WELCOME

Parliamentary State Secretary **Dr. Hermann Onko Aeikens**, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), praised GISCO's development in his welcome speech: "If we become aware of the results, then the initiative is a success story". GISCO has been successful, especially in 2016. "The German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa connects social and ecological responsibility with economic sense", Aeikens said. It brings different stakeholders together, offers a platform for them to talk and to exchange experiences. In particular, the approach to concentrate single activities of the actors and to coordinate these with the producing countries, makes GISCO a truly successful model. Therefore, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa was awarded Leuchtturmprojekt 2016 (Lighthouse Project 2016) of the national Sustainability Strategy by the German government.

Dr. Aeikens confirmed the relevance of the topic of this year's Annual General Meeting: "Securing food supply, protecting climate and human rights, saving resources" – these are "challenges we face today" according to him. They should be "reconciled together". He acknowledged the role of GISCO



and the project PRO-PLANEURS and referred to the corporate responsibility. As a buyer, the food industry is highly responsible for the way how commodities are produced and for production conditions. PRO-PLANTEURS is a perfect example on how especially small and medium-sized enterprises can get involved directly in the producing countries. The project offers the possibility to resume global processes and take advantage of valuable synergies. In addition, the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains could help especially

small and medium-sized enterprises to fulfil their responsibility.

In the end, Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Aeikens called upon joint efforts by economy, politics and society, e.g. for sustainable agricultural commodities, the usage of the OECD guidance and the execution of the project PRO-PLANTEURS. He invited everyone to continue the joint direction towards sustainability along the entire value chain.



**Gunther Beger** emphasized GISCO's achievements in his welcome speech: more than 70 members, covering almost 80% of the German market, a share of sustainable cocoa, which has grown continuously, being awarded Leuchtturmprojekt 2016 (Lighthouse Project 2016) and being honoured with the ZEIT WISSEN-Award. He emphasized the forerunner position of GISCO. According to Mr. Beger, GISCO members have followed a course which should be valid for the overall economy: "Sustainability as the guiding principle of our actions – all over the

world".

The topic of the annual general meeting – human rights and children's rights, is much influenced by the social responsibility taken over by GISCO. Protecting children against abusive forms of child labour and exploitation is a fundamental right. But abusive forms of child labour are still "a sad reality in many countries and unfortunately, in the cocoa sector as well", Mr. Beger said. 1.15 million children are still exposed to abusive and dangerous child labour in Côte d'Ivoire, also at cocoa plantations. Almost 60% of Germany's raw cocoa comes from Côte d'Ivoire, making it the most important supplier. Therefore, the implementation of human rights in global supply chains is an important issue

for the German Federal Government and the Federal Cabinet adopted the action plan on business and human rights in December 2016. The duty to care regarding human rights should be implemented by companies; but they are not able to end child labour in the cocoa sector on their own. According to Mr. Beger, the governments of the partner countries have a key role in this regard. He praised the involvement of the Côte d'Ivoire and especially of Première Dame Mme. Dominique Ouattara.

The cocoa price decline at the beginning of this year further worsened the situation of the cocoa farmers. A lot of cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire do not earn more than 50 Cent per day and per family member. This amount is below the international poverty line of 1.90 USD a day as defined by the World Bank, according to Mr. Beger. Although the project PRO-PLANTEURS has made some visible progress during the last year and reached 12,600 farmers through a development plan for 17 cooperatives, 3,700 farmers through schooling, and 1,640 farmers through trainings for improved nutrition, that alone is not enough yet. Even certified cocoa doesn't mean that the income generated from that is sufficient for a decent living. The price decline at the cocoa world market aggravates the situation. For him, a solution is to move more stages of the cocoa value chain to the producing countries, Mr. Beger said. He sees big potential "in involved and innovative companies like GISCO members". He wants to move forward with that kind of companies. According to Mr. Beger, the BMZ plans a new project in Côte d'Ivoire which Minister Müller confirmed during his visit. There is a need for more involvement in the developing countries, trade is a main cornerstone of the Marshall Plan.

## **SPEECH: WCF – THE GLOBAL INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COCOA SECTOR**

**Gaël Lescornec, Partnership Development – Europe, World Cocoa Foundation**



**Gaël Lescornec**, in charge of Partnership Development in Europe at the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), presented the manifold challenges in cocoa sector to start with. Among others, these are aging trees, lack of access to pesticides, fertilizer and equipment. Also, there is a lack of knowledge about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Children have no or limited access to basic education and child labour is common. The lack of empowerment of women and limited attractiveness of cocoa for young farmers are further challenges.

According to Mrs. Lescornec, industry efforts are not sufficient to overcome a lot of these challenges. The World Cocoa Foundation unites stakeholders from industry and public partners in order to pool resources and to support joint learning. There are three clear goals: (1) Improve cocoa farmers' livelihoods and fight poverty. (2) Integrative growth: The WCF provides cocoa farmers with planting material and training on plant diseases and diversification in order to increase productivity of the plantations and the professionalization of the cocoa farmers. Additionally, the farmers got access to financing. (3) Face ongoing deforestation and climate change: The WCF, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and the Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit (ISU) joint forces with industrial companies in the Cocoa & Forest Initiative to end deforestation in the cocoa sector in collaboration with the governments of the producing countries Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The concept will be introduced at the World Climate Conference (COP 23) in Bonn in November. Then, Mrs. Lescornec showed WCF's future efforts in the field of climate change. She said that CocoaAction should be expanded from the two pillars "productivity" and "community development" at present to the third pillar "climate adaptation".

In the end, Mrs. Lescornec gave an overview of the collaboration between WCF and GISCO. The cooperation is very important, especially in Côte d'Ivoire. GISCO and WCF are bound by their shared interest. Both initiatives benefit from their knowledge sharing, especially in the field of monitoring and evaluation.

[Here](#), you can find Gaël Lescornec's presentation.

## KEYNOTE SPEECHES: Strategies for the improvement of the living conditions of cocoa farmers – human rights and children’s rights

The keynote speeches by Nick Weatherill, Executive Director at International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), Telse Badil, Project Manager of the Program PRO-Enfant, and Richa Mittal, Director Research & Innovation, Fair Labor Association (FLA), looked at different aspects of the main topic “Strategies for the improvement of the living conditions of cocoa farmers – human rights and children’s rights”. The presentations and the market of information were followed by a lively discussion and debate about especially important questions of details by participants.

### Nick Weatherill, Executive Director, International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)



**Nick Weatherill**, Executive Director of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), focused on the strategies for tackling child labour, which has increased significantly since 2008. Two thirds of working children around the world (101 million out of 168 million children) are found in the agricultural sector, 2.1 million of them in West Africa. According to Mr. Weatherill, there are several causes for child labour in the cocoa sector. Cocoa is a labour-intensive crop and the income of the cocoa farmer families is low. Additionally, poor social infrastructure and high poverty exist in

the producing countries. Children from neighbouring countries, e.g. Burkina Faso, are trafficked to the cocoa plantations in Côte d’Ivoire. Child labour is not unique to the cocoa sector but plays a role in agriculture in West Africa in general, Mr. Weatherill said. Child labour is a symptom of an unsustainable cocoa supply chain. It increased in the cocoa sector in Côte d’Ivoire by 21% from 2008/2009 to 2013/2014. The increase must be valued related to the fact that cocoa production in this region rose by 40% during that time. There is an increase in absolute numbers but in relation to the entire cocoa production in West Africa abusive forms of child labour have decreased. However, it is beyond question that additional measures must be taken to end child labour. In this regard, there have been different voluntary principles and legally enforceable obligations in the past years, e.g. in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire. There is a tendency towards binding regulations, according to Mr. Weatherill. This can be seen as a progress in tackling child labour.

The International Cocoa Initiative’s goal is to improve protection for one million children in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana by 2020. The five years strategy for tackling child labour comprises three approaches: (1) responsible supply chain management, (2) child-centred community development, and (3) sharing knowledge and experiences as well as capacity building for training cocoa farmers. ICI has established the “Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System” to achieve responsible supply chain management. Part of it is awareness-raising about child labour of the communities and monitoring and reporting cases of child labour. Out of 39,950 children monitored to-date, 6,138 (17%) are found to be involved in hazardous child labour. Carrying heavy loads occurs most frequently (92%). All identified children were followed-up and, where necessary, benefited from remediation assistance, Mr. Weatherill said.

In regards to community development, ICI offers awareness raising and training about child labour and develops individual action plans in cooperation with the communities. The “community action plans” comprise prevention measures as well as measures to identify and tackle child labour. As a result, there has been a visible increase in children newly enrolled in school. The prevention and response measures reduced child labour by 20-40% through strengthening the protective environment over three years. 63% of identified cases have been no longer in hazardous child labour since the start of the measures three years ago.

[Here](#), you can find Nick Weatherill’s presentation.

The audience’s questions especially addressed the cocoa price decline and its impact on child labour. Mr. Weatherill confirmed that the cocoa price decline is a high risk. He said that ICI adapts its strategy to the new circumstances. Furthermore, he laid emphasis on the importance to think beyond the problems in cocoa production because cocoa farmers are also exposed to the rules of the international market.



### **Telse Badil, Project Manager, Program PRO-Enfant, Burkina Faso (KfW/GIZ)**



**Telse Badil**, Project Manager of the Program PRO-Enfant, introduced the situation in Burkina Faso. Over half its citizens are below the age of 18 and as such are considered children. Only one in fourth older than 15 is able to read and write (26.6%). Almost half its citizens live below the poverty line (46.4). These conditions reinforce the problem of child labour, Mrs. Badil said. Four out of every ten children (41%) between 5 to 17 years old play an active role in supporting themselves or their family. They work in gold mining, at cotton plantations, cafés and restaurants

in Burkina Faso. But a lot of children also work at cocoa plantations in neighbouring counties.

Apart from the poverty of the families, Mrs. Badil quoted a cultural background as reasons for child labour. Specifically, child labour is not considered as violation of children's right in West Africa. But the consequences of child labour are devastating. Working children do not have access to education and professional training and experience sexual exploitations and violence. The German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the KfW Group joint forces in the programme "Protecting children and promoting their rights" to tackle the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking in Burkina Faso.

There is a set of measures, among them setting up child protection networks at the decentralised level, awareness raising and education as well as school scholarships and funding of income-generating activities, especially for women. A KfW Group fund promotes these public information and awareness-raising campaigns about children's rights. The programme supports municipalities, develops action plans to tackle child labour and trafficking, sets up social services and provides funds for social welfare to finance child protection programmes. Additionally, the programme agrees on rules of conduct with the farmers. The "Code de Bonne Conduite" is not about prohibiting child labour in general; children are often dependent on their working income. It is rather about providing children with appropriate work. If cotton farmers employ children, they are not allowed to let them work ten to twelve hours. Work must be in line with their physical abilities and should not affect school attendance, Mrs. Badil explained. Also, an adequate payment must be ensured.

9,000 children and adolescents have received a school scholarship so far, 300 adolescents completed a two to three-year professional training and practise a craft now. According to Mrs. Badil, 6,500 women have directly or indirectly benefited from the income-generating activities of the fund. In addition to setting up child protection networks, 44 employees on-site received professional training and the programme trained and consulted 400 key persons at decentralised level.

[Here](#), you can find Telse Badil's presentation (German).

The subsequent round of questions focused on the management of the fund which is used to finance the programme's measures. Telse Badil explained that the fund is managed locally by the Ecobank on-site.

### **Richa Mittal, Director Research & Innovation, Fair Labor Association (FLA)**



**Richa Mittal**, Director Research & Innovation at the Fair Labor Association (FLA), dealt with compliance with children's rights in regard to child labour. Children's rights are not just about child labour, she said. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) consists of 41 articles, adjudicating children the basic right to nutrition, shelter, care, medical services and education. Article 32 is about the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous. The Fair Labor Association is committed to

protect children's rights which relate to child labour. FLA attaches great importance to monitoring because it allows to document the reasons for abusive forms of child labour as well. The association monitors parts of the supply chain of Nestlé and Olam, 1,400 firms in total, regarding child labour.

Additionally, their internal management system is reviewed to reveal gaps in data collection and processing. It is also important to check which mechanisms work in the case of abusive child labour, and whether the mechanisms are effective and adequate. Possible solution strategies are assessed by a social impact assessment. FLA works collaborates with 1,771 families and develops suitable solutions on the basis of one-on-one interviews, group discussions, and surveys.

Another important aspect of FLA's work to fight abusive forms of child labour is research. The Fair Labor Association collects data with the help of one-on-one and group interviews, monitoring the situation on-site and household surveys. One of these household surveys was conducted in 2015 with 799 cocoa producers in three cooperatives based in Niablé, Divo and Bangolo in collaboration with the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa. According to the survey, 70% of them are affected by poverty, and 16.5% of the school-age children are out of school. Apart from poverty, missing birth certificates foster abusive forms of child labour. Children can only be enrolled and attend school without birth certificate until they are ten years old.

Great importance is attached to working with women. Women are the main care takers of the children with their income in Côte d'Ivoire. However, in a survey run by Nestlé, 98% of women reported that their income is too low to afford a decent living for their families. Mittal emphasised that economic empowerment of women is the principal determinant to tackle abusive forms of child labour. Therefore, the Fair Labour Association initiated the "Gender Dialogue Project" in collaboration with Nestlé. The aim is to strengthen women's role in the communities. In addition, 500 women are training in diversification to increase their income permanently. The empowerment of women to tackle child labour has not reached its full potential, further measures must follow. According to Richa Mittal, the actors of the supply chain are obligated to get involved.

[Here](#), you can find Richa Mittal's presentation.

### **Introduction of the short film "Women's voices from Côte d'Ivoire"**



The new [GISCO short film](#) "Women's voices from Côte d'Ivoire" gives an insight into the situation of women working as cocoa farmers, their hopes and their future visions. The money that they earn from producing cocoa, is spent mainly for their families. Thus, some women are able to afford professional training for their children, others are not. They would like to expand their cocoa plantations to earn a higher income but they are unable to invest. If they bring their kids along to the fields, they also do it to teach them how to grow

cocoa.

### **Look back and forward – PRO-PLANTEURS**



**Sonia Lehmann**, German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, gave an overview of the project PRO-PLANTEURS. The project runs over a period of five years (06/2015 – 05/2020) and is financed one-third each by the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, the Federal Government of Germany and the Conseil du Café-Cacao (CCC). The objective is to improve the families' livelihoods in the project regions and to preserve natural resources. With PRO-PLANTEURS, the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa aims to reach out to 20,000 cocoa-producing family-owned businesses and farmer organizations,

especially women and young cocoa farmers. The project activities are divided into four areas, which have different partners and address different target groups. For the first component "Strengthening Farmer Organizations" the implementing partner TechnoServe has developed individual action plans for the cooperatives. This measure is supported through training on cooperative management. Further accompanying measures are planned. As of now, 17 farmer organizations have been trained. Others are in the selection process. A study on "Access to financing" is currently conducted, first results shall be available in June 2017.

The second component "Producing Sustainable Cocoa" comprises the execution of 176 farmer field schools on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). 3,681 cocoa farmers have participated in the trainings



so far. There are more farmers, especially female cocoa farmers, to follow. Furthermore, 33 demonstration and training areas were set up and 320,000 seedlings of the optimized cocoa strain “Mercedes” were distributed to the farmers.

In the third component “Improving Nutrition through Diversification” 42 specially trained consultants (“Animatrices Rurales”) link communities and cocoa farmer families. 1,640 women and men participated in 164 events on diversification and improving nutrition. In addition, there are five pilot projects with women’s organizations to increase their income, e.g. through improved cultivation of manioc and vegetables, processing attiéké (staple food prepared from fermented manioc pulp) as well as chicken farming and eggs production for the local market.

The fourth component “Promoting joint learning” entails a concept to foster exchanges and joint learning. According to Mrs. Lehmann, 100 farmers exchanged their views and experiences on sustainable cocoa production during the CocoaDays in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in September 2016. Another 22 farmers participated in the meeting of the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) in October 2016.

Sonia Lehmann mentioned the integration of more farmers into PRO-PLANTEURS through selecting and addressing other cooperatives as a pending task. As of now, 12,410 cocoa farmers take part in PRO-PLANTEURS. The project will concentrate more on training cooperatives and farmers and on promoting women’s organizations. In this regard, GISCO strives for a partnership with WCF. Furthermore, collaborations with universities are planned in order to do research on possibilities to improve nutrition.

[Here](#), you can find Sonia Lehmann’s presentation (German).

## Look back and forward – German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa



**Beate Weiskopf**, Executive Secretary, German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, introduced GISCO’s strategic development and gave an idea about the future. The strategy is based on GISCO’s overall aim. The three main objectives are (1) Improving the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families and contributing to a secure living, (2) Conserving and protecting natural resources and biodiversity in cocoa producing countries and (3) Increasing cultivation and commercialization of sustainably produced cocoa. They are complimented by ten sub-goals. One of them is tackling

abusive forms of child labour. GISCO’s strategy to reach its goals consists of three pillars: (1) Joint impact and strong result orientation on-site and entering partnerships. The project PRO-PLANTEURS and the collaboration with GISCO members in the producing countries are to be mentioned in this regard, according to Mrs. Weiskopf. (2) Dialogue und service: This includes membership service, communication and extension of local partnerships. (3) The third pillar is jointly driving the increase of sustainable cocoa in Germany forward and making it visible.

Monitoring draws on different levels. Defined key performance indicators (KPIs) are essential for that. The project PRO-PLANTEURS has its own monitoring system. The indicators of PRO-PLANTEURS are aligned with the ones of the national cocoa strategy of Côte d’Ivoire and with the strategy CocoaAction of the World Cocoa Foundation.

Six strategic fields of actions were agreed upon at the annual strategy meeting of the Executive Board in September 2016: (1) More impact on-site through PRO-PLANTEURS and the members’ projects, (2) Joint efforts with other initiatives – especially with the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), and (3) Expanding expertise. Therefore, the focus of the Annual General Meeting was “Abusive forms of child labour” and the last event at the ISM, an international business and communication platform for suppliers and large wholesalers of the confectionery industry, dealt with “Cocoa Farming and Forest Conservation in West Africa”. (4) Communicate results more effectively, and (5) Make use of the World Cocoa Conference in Germany in 2018 to implement the strategy and to communicate about GISCO are also strategic fields. GISCO will be actively involved in the preparation of the upcoming World Cocoa Conference in Berlin. (6) Adjusting goal number seven: The initial goal was already reached in 2016.

Beate Weiskopf stated that GISCO members implement 91 projects in 32 cocoa producing countries, including the GISCO project PRO-PLANTEURS. The main region is West Africa with 47 projects,

especially Côte d'Ivoire with 26 projects. The projects reach more than 1.3 million cocoa producers and their families around the world and primarily serve to increase income.

GISCO can call it a success to function as a role model for other multi-stakeholder processes, e.g. for the Swiss counterpart which is in the founding process. Furthermore, the visibility of GISCO both at national level and in Côte d'Ivoire is good, Mrs. Weiskopf emphasised.

She mentioned a stronger integration of the members and a more intense exchange among them as challenges. Also, a discussion on "beyond certification" must take place: Sustainability is often put on a level with certification. But this is not sufficient to achieve a more sustainable supply chain. GISCO's strategy must be further developed, based on a clear vision, where GISCO sees itself in five years.

[Here](#), you can find Beate Weiskopf's presentation (German).

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## MARKET OF INFORMATION

Participants had the opportunity to discuss the lectures of the day as well as other issues in detail with the speakers at the market of information. Among other things, it should be questions how to make use of approaches and experiences for GISCO's work. For this purpose, five separate information stands were set up which were run by the speakers and supported by the GISCO office.

➤ Work and strategies of the **World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)**



*The main topic of the WCF's information stand was the cocoa price decline. Diversifying income was discussed as a possible solution. Due to anti-trust provisions industrial companies are not allowed to discuss the price situation. Accordingly, it is very difficult to develop a joint strategy. Hence, the participants suggested that a panel of different experts shall develop problem-solving approaches.*

➤ Work and strategies of **International Cocoa Initiative (ICI)**

*This stand focused on possible sanctions for child labour. The participants reached the conclusion that sanctions would only displace the problem but would not solve it. Cross-sectorial solutions should be found instead. Child labour is not an isolated problem of the cocoa sector. A comprehensive approach is needed to combat child labour effectively.*



➤ Approaches and achievements of the **children's fund PRO-Enfant in Burkina Faso**



*Participants discussed the legal frameworks of child labour and the difference between child labour and abusive child labour at the PRO-Enfant's stand. Both in Germany and in Côte d'Ivoire adolescents are allowed to work in accordance with their age. The work should not influence the school attendance. The established social service was seen as a possible approach for the work of GISCO.*



➤ Work and strategies of the **Fair Labor Association (FLA)**

*This stand looked at the questions whether children without birth certificate are discriminated or not. These children can only attend school up to age ten. Additionally, the cooperation between FLA and GISCO was discussed. All participants agreed that there is potential to intensify the collaboration.*



➤ Achievements and objectives of **PRO-PLANTEURS**



*The main interest of the stand of the GISCO project PRO-PLANTEURS was also the cocoa price decline. It was discussed how PRO-PLANTEURS can support the farmers. Diversification of income was seen as a possible solution.*

## CLOSING WORD

GISCO Chairman **Wolf Kropp-Büttner** closed the public part of this annual general meeting and thanked all those present for their active participation. He said, that there was a lively discussion again this year. GISCO will follow up on the discussion in collaboration with its partners.

*The program of the annual general meeting, as well as the PowerPoint presentations of the speakers are available on GISCO's website: [www.kakaoforum.de](http://www.kakaoforum.de)*

*Note:*

*The minutes of the internal meeting have been prepared and sent separately.*

