

## Summary ISCO Strategy Meeting 2023

Bern, 5th/6th July 2023

*This is a GISCO internal summary of the ISCO Strategy Meeting in absence of an ISCO-coordinated documentation.*

### Day 1: ISCO Monitoring Analysis Workshop (Secretariats)

#### Participants:

Brüderle, Anna	ICI (Co-lead ISCO WG Monitoring (stand-in))
Ditz, Julia	GISCO
Geens, Hilde	C-lever (Consultant)
Ghafari, Maxime	FRISCO
Humbeeck, Marloes	Beyond Chocolate
Joras, Ulrike	GISCO
Kiewisch, Manuel	Mondelez (ISCO WG Monitoring)
Robin, Christian	SWISSCO
Snoeck, Charles	Beyond Chocolate
Tüllmann, Sophie	SWISSCO
Weiskopf, Beate	GISCO

The workshop included a joint analysis of the harmonized indicators and occurring data limitations as well as a discussion on the joint ISCO report. The main outcomes were as follows:

#### Data Analysis

The data on harmonized indicators was discussed with regard to key messages and findings as well as data limitations. The quality and comparability of the data collected through the monitoring remains a challenge, e. g. because of gaps in data consistency, non-harmonized member types, low response on selected data points such as living income. Efforts to clean data have been increased but further adjustments in the monitoring system will be needed going forward.

#### ISCO Report 2023

A compromise was reached that the first joint ISCO report will be published in December, instead of as originally planned end of October together with the national reports. It will be a short and executive report (5-10 pages) | focus on robust data and clear messaging on the identified common challenges. focusing on the aligned monitoring data points and clear messages. A chapter on the outlook of the joint ISCO monitoring process will be included to propose the future direction for the monitoring process.

As a result of the changed publication data, we will push back the date for the next meeting of the ISCO WG Monitoring where the draft report will be discussed.

### Day 2: ISCO Strategy Meeting

#### Participants:

De Waard, Mark	DISCO
Ditz, Julia	GISCO
Ghafari, Maxime	FRISCO
Humbeeck, Marloes	Beyond Chocolate
Joras, Ulrike	GISCO
Robin, Christian	SWISSCO
Sauvaget, Lea	FRISCO

Snoeck, Charles Tüllmann, Sophie Weiskopf, Beate	Beyond Chocolate SWISSCO GISCO
<b>Practicalities &amp; Agenda</b>  Practicalities and agenda for the day were discussed.	
<b>TOP 1: Joint ISCO Vision</b>  The draft document on the joint vision developed by GISCO was presented in order to provide a framework to consider for the discussions during the day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It could be concluded from first reactions at this point that there is a general commitment from all ISCOs towards working on a joint vision and a guidance for successful collaboration.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, the ISCOs do not attribute the same degree of importance to the institutionalization of collaboration on a European level. It was highlighted that there is still a lot of work to be done including sharpening the joint agenda, and that threats and risks have to be considered in more detail.</li> </ul> <p>It was decided that a subgroup with representatives of all ISCOs will organize a separate meeting to prepare the discussion of the joint vision during the ISCO Board Chair Meeting in October.</p> <p><u>Tasks of the subgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on advantages &amp; threats</li> <li>• Develop options &amp; guiding questions for feedback from board/SteerCo members</li> </ul>	
<b>TOP 2: Closing living income gaps</b>  <u>ALICO – Cocoa Household Income Study</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After a short exchange on the current state of things (reception of new proposal), participants agreed to a separate meeting to formulate ISCO position on CHIS proposal by Wageningen University.</li> </ul> <p><u>Living income targets and roadmaps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GISCO presented their revised Goal 1 on Living Income (Einzelziel 1), the resolution on the Living Income roadmap and the related communication with the German Federal Cartel Office. The recent developments were well received, and high interest was expressed by the other initiatives to receive the communication. The other ISCOs concluded to look into antitrust examinations as their respective national levels or potentially also at EU level.</li> <li>• Harmonization on the Living Income goal has thus succeeded between BC, DISCO; GISCO and FRISCO. SWISSCO still has no targeted living income goal (so far members “must be engaged”), but will have a mid-term review in 2025 where an outcome could be to review the targets.</li> <li>• There is consensus on further alignment regarding the roadmaps, the suggestion of a joint ISCO LI roadmap is well received. This could be the basis for a common toolbox for LI strategies.</li> <li>• Further capacity building on living income among members is also considered relevant in order to take all members along.</li> </ul> <p><u>ISCO Working Group Living Income / Expert Group (managed by DISCO)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To complement the existing ISCO Working Group, which is focusing on knowledge exchange and learning, a separate expert group will be tested. This group will be formed to generate concrete outputs that help ISCO signatories/members take action. IDH will develop ToRs later this year.</li> </ul>	

### TOP 3 : Procurement practices

#### DISCO Position Paper on Procurement Practices

DISCO reported to be developing a position paper on procurement practices for industry which contribute to three pre-defined goals, and on strategies for other players such as retail.

- The process targeting retailers has already kicked off with the objective to generate principles for approve sustainability standards. There was renewed demand for guidance regarding a “DISCO-proof” approach from retailers.
- It was suggested by GISCO and SWISSCO to consider linking this up with the ITC process. DISCO would be willing to use existing data but sees difficulties in the large number of criteria used and assessed in the ITC process. Also, DISCO only aims to include standards, not private labels or company programmes.
- DISCO will share the draft position paper on procurement practices with the ISCOs in Q3 2023, then the discussion will be taken up to which extent this could be built on by ISCOs, e.g. as part of living income strategies.
- GISCO will share the draft introduction to the ITC Benchmarking Tool and the last version of the tool for final feedback and subsequently make it available for ISCO members. Based on this it shall be discussed how the ITC Benchmarking Tool can be further used.

#### “Sustainable” cocoa

There is a need for a common understanding of what is considered “sustainable cocoa” and a need for joint criteria for verified cocoa. This was considered a rather basic step for ISCO harmonization and should be pursued. GISCO referred to the GISCO definition of sustainable cocoa developed in 2019.

- ISCOs agree to organize a separate meeting on this topic to update each other on processes and identify pathways for harmonization.

### TOP 4: Striving for synergies and efficiencies between projects in origin countries

#### --> Guiding questions:

- How do we add value to existing investments?
- Can we map the projects, actors and investments?
- Can we identify quick wins?
- What are logistical challenges and how can we tackle them?

#### Project overview

- An overview of ISCO projects in producing countries was developed. It should be made available to members/signatories once finalized. The idea is to continuously update the overview and in future also include cooperative names to identify synergies.
- One approach for collaboration could be to identify high-potential areas for collaboration (also include WCF), i.e. Cavally region, Ghana intervention areas
- FRISCO will map the main sourcing regions of their members and approach the other ISCOs respectively about their projects in those regions and the potential to join in on the projects or scale pilots.
- A next joint ISCO Mission to a specific region in CIV where projects of several ISCOs are implemented could be used to see how synergies could be created and used best.
- The idea of an ISCO Learning Event on Projects was discussed. This is partially covered by the working groups but could be done with a stronger focus on linking up projects in the countries.

#### Coordination of projects in producing countries

Use partners/networks on the ground to strengthen the communication and coordination between projects in the respective countries. Potentially with a thematic focus (e.g. CFI could coordinate projects with a deforestation focus, the CCC WG Living Income could coordinate projects with a LI focus etc.)

### Project Calls for Proposals

Recommendations were collected for future calls for proposals:

- Give local partners/initiatives a role in selecting the projects
- Build projects on priority topics identified by (local) partners/initiatives in the producing countries (e.g. CFI, WG Living Income etc.)
- Consider fostering joint project proposals of ISCO members in future national calls for proposals
- Consider joint ISCO calls for proposals in the future
- Consider that it is not necessarily the goal to generate more projects

### Funding opportunities for members' projects

It could be an option to jointly identify and promote other funding opportunities (besides the national ISCO's calls for proposals co-funded by the respective governments) and communicate them to the members/ signatories.

## **TOP 5: Strengthening collaboration and exchange among ISCO members**

### Working Groups

- For the next round of working group sessions the following should be considered:
  - Leave WG as they are for now
  - Find a way to mobilize more industry members (ask for their feedback after each section, try to understand their needs)
  - Try to have a physical gathering every now and then for each WG
  - Plan before the end of the year next co-lead rotations for WG (try to include industry members)
  - Test an expert group approach as part of the living income WG
- For the next round of working group sessions the following should be considered:
- ISCO WG Child Labour event (in-person): All ISCOs will again share the invite of the September WG event (Geneva) with their respective ISCO's members. Instead of the ISCOConference, thematic in-person meetings of a certain WG are tested.
- WG on Gender: FRISCO will check out with members, if possible, to prioritize the subject for next year, to take the lead of a WG dedicated to gender.
- Filebox (information sharing tool): In addition to the already integrated WG Child Labour participants, SWISSCO will onboard the WG Forests & Agroforestry onto the Filebox. It will be assessed in Q4 2023 to which extent this is a feasible solution that can be used for all ISCO WGs.
- Evaluation of the format of the monthly meetings of the ISCO secretariats: Monthly strategic meetings with all platforms present are deemed useful by all and will be continued. In person meetings / strategy meetings should take place more often, more than once a year. A meeting at WCC and another meeting towards the end of 2024 should be considered.

## **TOP 6: Wrap-up & Outlook**

Given that a lot of international events are taking place in the cocoa sector in the next months, no additional bigger events should be planned by the ISCOs. A suggestion is to test in-person working group meetings such as the Child Labour event planned in Geneva in September.

For the World Cocoa Conference (April 2024), there is the option to jointly facilitate an ISCO booth. This is to be discussed in each platform and to be taken up in next monthly catch-up call.

The WCC could also be used for a next in-person meeting of the secretariats and the boards/Steering committees.

Date	Event
29 September – 8 October 2023	SARA agricultural fair in Côte d'Ivoire (with NL as guest of honour)
2 October 2023	ICCO 50th Anniversary in Abidjan
24 October 2023	General Assembly Beyond Chocolate
30 October 2023	General Assembly FRISCO
9 November 2023	General Assembly DISCO
Q4 (TBD)	Orange Cocoa Days in Ghana (organized by Dutch Embassy)
6-7 February 2024	World Cocoa Foundation Partnership Meeting in Amsterdam (combined with Chocoa)
7-11 February 2024	Chocoa in Amsterdam (Combined with WCF meeting)
21-24 April 2024	World Cocoa Conference (WCC) in Brussels