

General Assembly 2026 German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

***Shaping the future together:
Resilient cocoa supply chains for people and the environment***

Agenda Public Session: Thursday, 21 May 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Stresemannstraße 94, 10963 Berlin

Conference language: German
Simultaneous interpreting: English / French / Spanish
Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christian Thorun

9:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION
9:30 – 9:40 a.m.	WELCOME <i>Aldo Cristiano, Chairman of the Board, German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)</i>
9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	OPENING (VIDEO MESSAGES, TBC) Reem Alabali Radovan, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Martina Englhardt-Kopf, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH)
9:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	PANEL DISCUSSION Living income meets environmental protection: How can an economically viable system change in the cocoa sector succeed? <i>A living income for cocoa farmers and ambitious environmental targets are considered key levers for a future-prove cocoa sector. But how can living income and environmental goals be meaningfully linked while maintaining corporate competitiveness? In this session scalable approaches will be discussed with the panellists.</i> Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicko Debenham - Sustainability Solutions• Alina Tremmel – Lidl Foundation• Ali Pefougouan Coulibaly – Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire• José Andrés Morales Barreto – Comicacao• Wendy Arenas – ALISOS

German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)

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COFFEE BREAK (20 minutes)

11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Impulse: GISCO Task Force Work <i>In this session initial results from the newly established GISCO Living Income and Environment Task Forces will be presented.</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	From dialogue to impact - GISCO as a Catalyst for your Organisation <i>Exchange in groups: How can the instruments of GISCO support decision-making processes in your company/organisation to advance living income and agroforestry strategies?</i>

LUNCH BREAK (1.5 hours)

Member Marketplace for joint projects and approaches

2:00 – 2:20 p.m.	CONSOLIDATING SESSION RESULTS: FROM DIALOGUE TO IMPACT
2:20 – 3:45 p.m.	Meet the Experts - In-depth Exchange with the Panellists <i>In rotating groups, participants engage in dialogue with experts and deepen thematic aspects from the panel discussion.</i>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	CLOSING WORDS Next steps, outlook