

## 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 (if required)  
Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christian Thorun

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
<b>9:30 – 9:40 a.m.</b>	<b>WELCOME</b> <i>Aldo Cristiano, Chairman of the Board, German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)</i>
<b>9:40 – 9:50 a.m.</b>	<b>OPENING (VIDEO MESSAGES, TBC)</b> Reem Alabali Radovan, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Alois Rainer, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH)
<b>9:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <b>Living income meets environmental protection: How can an economically viable system change in the cocoa sector succeed?</b> <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> <b>Panellists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nicko Debenham</b> - Sustainability Solutions</li> <li>• <b>Alina Tremmel</b> – Lidl Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Representative (tbc)</b> – Organisation Interprofessionnelle Agricole (OIA), Côte d’Ivoire</li> <li>• <b>Cocoa producer from Latin America</b> (to be confirmed)</li> <li>• <b>Wendy Arenas</b> – ALISOS</li> </ul>

### German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO)



### COFFEE BREAK (20 minutes)

<b>11:30 – 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Impulse: GISCO Task Force Work</b> <i>In this session initial results from the newly established GISCO Living Income and Environment Task Forces will be presented.</i>
<b>11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>From dialogue to impact - GISCO as a Catalyst for your Organisation</b> <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

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