





BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE COCOA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ROADMAPS

You can find the template [here](#).



1. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION ON THE INDIVIDUAL ROADMAPS

At the 2022 General Assembly, the members of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) decided that the creation of individual roadmaps and public reporting on them in the form of a progress report is a prerequisite for membership.

	<p>The individually developed roadmap publicly outlines how your company/organisation contributes to the GISCO goals and what progress has been made. Commitments and progress measurement are a significant contribution to achieving the GISCO objectives.</p>
	<p>GISCO Members develop individual roadmaps on the five topics of traceability, certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes¹, agroforestry/deforestation, child labour, and living income². These themes are based on the GISCO Roadmap, the GISCO goals and the targeted indicators. The individual roadmaps are published on the GISCO website.</p>
	<p>Your company's/organisation's roadmap should answer the following questions on the above-mentioned focus topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What individual commitment does your company/organisation set itself to contribute to the goal of a sustainable cocoa sector? • What milestones does your company/organisation set itself on the way to achieving this commitment? • What is the main challenge for your company/organisation to achieve the listed commitments and milestones and how could GISCO support you in this? • What progress has your company/organisation made against the commitments and milestones? You are also welcome to use the data you have entered into the monitoring system for progress reporting, provided it can be published. You can find more information in the practical instructions to fill out your roadmaps.
	<p>The creation of the individual roadmaps is thus also intended to shape a learning process and create the following added value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the members: to specify their activities more precisely, to better track their individual progress and communicate it accordingly, as well as to better assess the status of their own efforts in comparison with other actors in the cocoa sector.

¹ For the previously used term 'independently verified,' there is still no clear definition, therefore the term 'cocoa from corporate programmes' is now used.

² An antitrust review was conducted in 2023 to examine whether and how individual members can report on income and pricing issues within the framework of the individual roadmaps on Living Income. The German "Bundeskartellamt" gave positive feedback. At the special general meeting in 2023, it was decided that roadmaps on living incomes must be submitted by the end of 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For GISCO: to increase the credibility of GISCO and to provide a better understanding of the challenges faced by each stakeholder group and the supportive role GISCO should play.
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2. SELF-COMMITMENT BY MEMBER GROUP

Member group	Submission of roadmap and reporting
Member group A: Federal Government	Voluntary reporting on the implementation of the roadmap
Member group B: Industry Only applies to members trading or processing at least 100 tonnes of cocoa	Have committed themselves until the end of 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To add commitments on the topic of 'Living Income' in their roadmap • to submit the first progress report on the implementation of their commitments
Member group C: Trade Only applies to members trading or processing at least 100 tonnes of cocoa	Have committed themselves until the end of 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To add commitments on the topic of 'Living Income' in their roadmap • to submit the first progress to report on the implementation of their commitments
Member group D: Civil society	Have voluntarily committed themselves until the end of 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to submit the first progress report on the implementation of their commitments
Other members such as supporting members or members who trade or process less than 100 tonnes of cocoa.	Voluntary submission of a roadmap and voluntary reporting on the implementation of their commitments

Regulation in the event of non-compliance with the voluntary commitments:

If a member cannot keep to the schedule and cannot (yet) submit the corresponding commitments, this must be plausibly justified. An application for an extension of the submission deadline or for exemption can be submitted to the Board via the GISCO Secretariat if there is a plausible reason. The Board can then exempt a member from submitting the roadmap based on the list of plausible reasons for non-participation in the monitoring/roadmap process agreed in the resolution process in case of not meeting expectations. Further information and an overview of plausible and non-plausible reasons can be found [here](#).

Secretariat of the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa

c/o Representation of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) | Reichpietschufer 20 | 10785 Berlin
Executive Secretary Martina Gaebler | Tel.: +49 228 4460 4229 | E-Mail: info@kakaoforum.de | www.kakaoforum.de

3. TIMELINE FOR THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL ROADMAPS ON THE TOPIC OF LIVING INCOME AND PROGRESS REPORTS BY THE END OF 2024

Time	Description
September 2024	Mailing of the information package to all members.
31.12.2024	Deadline for the submission of the individual roadmap on living income and progress reports on the already submitted roadmaps . The submission is done via email to gisco-roadmaps@giz.de . The template for submission can be found here . If a feedback loop by the Secretariat is desired, the first version of the individual roadmap should be shared with the Secretariat by 31 October 2024 .
01.01.2025 - 15.02.2025	Review of submitted roadmaps and progress reports by the secretariat. Contacting of members who have not submitted an individual roadmap, in accordance with the agreed-upon resolution process in case of not meeting expectations .
Board meeting March 2025	Consultation on the implementation status of the roadmap process and any missing roadmaps at the Board meeting
Before General Meeting 2025 (26.-27. May)	Publication of all individual roadmaps including progress reports on the GISCO website.

4. SUBMISSIONS 2024

All members receive a [roadmap template](#) for submitting their roadmap and progress reports. In the template, the commitments on living income and the section to report on the progress on the already submitted roadmaps should be filled in. Tips and suggestions for formulating commitments, including data points from the monitoring that can be used to fill in the template, can be found in the [practical instructions](#).

4.1. Roadmap on Living Income

By the end of the year, members of the member groups industry and retail grocery trade will submit their roadmaps for living income.

You can find the six sample commitments that serve as a guide for creating roadmaps on the topic of living income in the [practical instructions](#) to fill out the template.



Note on antitrust law: Submitting Living Roadmaps based on the six reviewed sample commitments is considered unobjectionable.

In a letter to the Bundeskartellamt in 2023, six sample commitments on the topic of living income were submitted. After a thorough review of the submitted documents and a personal exchange on the matter, the Bundeskartellamt saw no reason for further in-depth examination of the roadmap initiative, including the sample commitments. In addition to the consultation through the Bundeskartellamt, an assessment of the compatibility of goal 1 with antitrust law by the law firm Kapellmann is available.

4.2. Progress reports

GISCO members submit their first progress report on the previously submitted roadmaps on traceability, certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes, deforestation/agroforestry and child labour. Members of Member Group D (civil society) submit their progress report on all five focus topics (including living income).

The submission of the progress reports **is due at the same time as the Living Income Roadmap on 31 December 2024.**

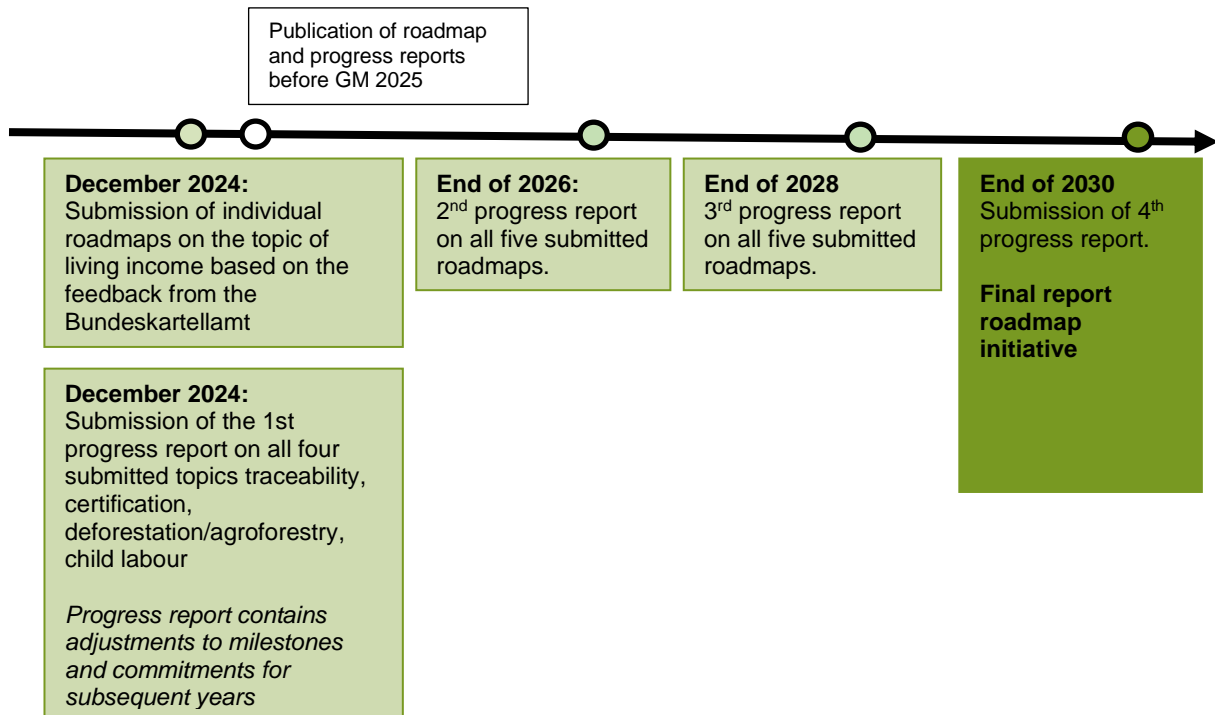
For progress reporting on ‘**certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes**’, it is mandatory for all members from industry and retail grocery trade to provide differentiated information on the percentage of cocoa that is certified by which sustainability standard system or that is verified by which company programme (for retail: own brands; for industry: branded products).

Note on antitrust law: Reporting generally unobjectionable

The publication of differentiated information on certified cocoa and cocoa from company programmes on the GISCO website was reviewed under antitrust law by the law firm Kapellmann in 2022. The differentiated reporting was classified as generally unobjectionable.

5. LONG-TERM TIMELINE ROADMAP PROCESS

In addition to the submission of the roadmaps, the timeline also includes the dates for the revision of the commitments and milestones as well as the submission of three progress reports by 2030.



6. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS AND SAMPLE COMMITMENTS

You can find the practical instructions to develop the individual roadmaps with information on the submission of progress reports [here](#). The document contains sample commitments and milestones for the five focus topics for member groups B (industry) and C (retail grocery trace), as well as specifically for small and medium-sized enterprises. Additionally, it includes questions for progress reporting that are aligned with the data points in the monitoring system.

7. REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMITMENTS

Quality of Commitments:

A commitment is a self-imposed obligation by means of which a member's contribution to the GISCO objectives is tracked. In addition to the general quality requirements for the formulation of commitments and milestones, the following should apply to the formulation of commitments:

- The commitment should, if possible, be defined at outcome level.
- The commitment should contribute to the GISCO or ISCO objectives. **The targeted GISCO indicators** can serve as a guide regarding timing and quantification. Commitments on the topic of living income should be aligned with the 6 sample commitments of the antitrust review.
- The achievement of the commitment should be in the future (it should not have been achieved already). In the case where 100% has already been achieved regarding the topic of 'certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes', milestones should be presented to show what is being done to maintain the status quo.
- Existing company-specific commitments or commitments within the framework of other sustainability initiatives can be included.
- If no commitment is made, a reason should be given for why this is not the case and at least one milestone should be shown to illustrate how the path towards formulating a commitment could look like.
- For the roadmaps 'certified cocoa/cocoa from company programmes' differentiated data (for retail grocery trade: private labels; for industry: branded products) on the current status will be provided in the first progress report, indicating what percentage of cocoa has been certified or verified by which standard system or company programme.

Milestones: A milestone serves to observe, measure, and monitor progress towards achieving the commitment. Milestones represent interim steps towards achieving a commitment.

Process of reviewing the submitted roadmaps

1. Review by the Secretariat and information to the Board.
2. In case of an assessment that the roadmaps are insufficient and the explanations are not plausible:
3. **Resolution process in case of not meeting expectations**

The assessment of whether commitments and milestones are sufficient or whether declarations are plausible is based on the criteria listed under requirements.