

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COCOA CERTIFICATION
24-27 JUNE 2013, DOUALA, CAMEROON

Recommendations adopted on 27 June 2013

The International Workshop on Cocoa Certification was organized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and the *Office National du Café et du Cacao* (ONCC) in Cameroon and the United Nations Forum on Sustainable Standards (UNFSS). The event was held at the Sawa Hotel in Douala, Cameroon, from 24-27 June 2013.

The aim of this landmark workshop was to conduct a comprehensive review of cocoa certification with a view to building a consensus and making recommendations on the best way to achieve sustainability in the cocoa sector.

Sponsorship was generously provided by the Government of Cameroon, the UNFSS, the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), Hershey, Mondelez International and Mars Chocolate.

The workshop brought together over 150 participants from Europe, the United States, Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia, representing cocoa producers, governments from cocoa exporting and importing countries, the cocoa and chocolate industry, certification bodies, civil society and international agencies, and included over 30 speakers and panellists.

At the end of the workshop, on 27 June 2013, the participants adopted the following recommendations:

1. Collect as far as possible, relevant information and materials on sustainability standards and make them publicly available to all stakeholders, thereby increasing transparency in the cocoa value chain;
2. Acknowledge the role of existing certification schemes alongside the new, upcoming ISO/CEN standards for cocoa, as efficient tools through which to support the development of a sustainable cocoa economy. Further consultations are encouraged, aimed at ensuring better transparency and accountability in relation to price/premium setting and to increase farmers' revenues. The various certification schemes are also invited to continue the process of harmonization of training curricula and associated documentation, as well as the auditing procedures involved, in order to simplify the certification process, reduce the associated costs for farmers while increasing the share of the premium that the latter receive;
3. Request the UNFSS to continue its consultation process, leading to a better understanding of voluntary sustainability standards. ICCO and its stakeholders are kindly requested to contribute to this process in relation to cocoa-specific matters. The UNFSS and the ICCO will develop a mechanism to facilitate that contribution, whether it is linking to a committee within the ICCO or via another means; and
4. Request the ICCO to facilitate a direct dialogue between the governments of cocoa exporting countries and the cocoa and chocolate industry, with a view to agreeing on a strategy to enhance the sustainability of the cocoa sector through credible national and international standards.