

Major chocolate companies make landmark call for EU to regulate cocoa sector

Alex Armstrong

Mon 12/2/2019 2:54 PM

Greetings –

As a member of The VOICE Network, Mighty Earth is thrilled to join VOICE, Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade, and the world's largest chocolate companies in calling on the European Union to strengthen their requirements for environmental protections and human rights safeguards in the cocoa trade. Our joint statement is below.

If you're interested in speaking with Mighty Earth's Etelle Higonnet on this statement or about the cocoa industry and sustainability more generally, please let me know.

Best,

Alex



We, a group of companies (Barry Callebaut AG, Mars Wrigley and Mondelez International), The VOICE Network*, Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade, call on the European Union, by far the largest importer and consumer of cocoa in the world, to strengthen human rights and environmental due diligence requirements of companies in global cocoa supply chains, aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

We strongly believe that we all need to take action together to effectively address some of the systemic human rights and environmental challenges in the cocoa supply chain. National governments must enforce and strengthen their own labour, child protection and environmental laws, and companies have a responsibility to conduct due diligence to identify risk, jointly evaluate remediation and take action which is proportionate to their exposure to the human rights and environmental risk.

Therefore, we think an EU-wide approach to due diligence will benefit all actors in the supply chain in terms of a clear and consistent set of rules and common intent.

The EU should:

- Aim to negotiate bilateral agreements with cocoa origin governments to create the frameworks necessary to achieve this aim and provide financial and technical support to those governments to do so.
- Establish a regulatory and policy framework within the EU to ensure that companies conduct human rights and environmental due diligence in their supply chains. This will help encourage

sustainable cocoa production, support consumer trust and help sustain market demand for cocoa from West Africa over the long term.

Find our Joint Position Statement outlining the details of our call to action [here](#). We are looking forward to working with relevant authorities, the rest of the industry and various stakeholders to discuss what is proposed. We invite others to endorse our Joint Position Statement.

* The VOICE Network is an association of NGOs and trade unions, functioning as a watchdog and catalyst for a reformed cocoa sector. Its members are [ABVV/FGTB-Horval](#), [Be Slavery Free \(formerly Stop The Traffik\)](#), [EFFAT](#) (observer), [FERN](#), [Mondiaal FNV](#), [Green America](#), [Inkota](#) [Netzwerk](#), [International Labor Rights Forum](#), [Mighty Earth](#), [Oxfam Novib](#), [Oxfam Wereldwinkels](#), [Public Eye](#) (observer), [Solidaridad](#), and [Südwind Institut](#).

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RE: Cargill's Uninspiring Climate Commitment

Alex Armstrong

Tue 12/3/2019 5:08 PM

To: Press <press@mightyearth.org>

Cargill's Uninspiring Climate Commitment

*In response to Cargill's latest announcement regarding the company's contribution to climate change and its plans for emissions reductions, **Mighty Earth CEO Glenn Hurowitz** released the following statement:*

"Cargill has once again demonstrated its penchant for generating nice headlines with positive sounding but substance-less commitments.

"Cargill is finally recognizing that a trader's impact is in what they trade - and Cargill is trading in unsustainable and environmentally destructive goods. But announcing ill-defined and unenforceable less-than-half measures is meaningless.

"Cargill's track record does not inspire confidence that today's announcement will lead to tangible results. As with its commitment earlier this year to spend \$30 million on a [to-be-determined strategy to fight deforestation](#), the company's spokespeople have admitted that they do not know how to implement this commitment.

"And like Cargill's pledge to eliminate deforestation from key supply chains by 2020, successful implementation is a less likely outcome than another [pained acknowledgement](#) that they will fail to meet the goal.

"Cargill keeps saying they want to do something. They've articulated the 'want' but not the 'something.'"

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About Mighty Earth

Mighty Earth is a global environmental campaign organization that works to protect forests, conserve oceans, and address climate change. We work in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and North America to drive large-scale action towards environmentally responsible agriculture that protects native ecosystems, wildlife, and water, and respects local community rights. Mighty Earth's team has played a decisive role in persuading the world's largest food and agriculture companies to dramatically improve their environmental and social policies and practices. More information on Mighty Earth can be found at www.mightyearth.org/.

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