

## Resolution GA16-6f

### Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 16th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Title:** Adoption of the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard 2019 for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil By Independent Smallholders

**Submitted by:** The Board of Governors of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

(Currently represented by: Unilever, Malaysian Palm Oil Association, Golden Agri-Resources Ltd.\*, AgroCaribe, HSBC Holdings Plc, FELDA, AAK AB, Wilmar International Limited, The Procter & Gamble Company, Retailers' Palm Oil Group\*\*, AEON Co.Ltd, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., Both ENDS, Oxfam International, World Resource Institute, WWF International)

*\* Represents the Indonesian Growers Caucus*

*\*\* ALDI International Services GmbH & Co, oHG, Royal Ahold Delhaize N.V., ASDA Stores Ltd (part of Walmart Inc.), Boots UK Limited, The Co-operative Group (UK), Coop Switzerland, Coles Supermarkets Pty. Ltd., Lidl Stiftung & Co.KG, Marks and Spencer plc, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd., Tesco PLC and Waitrose Ltd. (part of John Lewis Plc).*

#### **Background:**

Objective 2 of the RSPO Smallholder Strategy aims at increasing the number of smallholders certified through the simplification of the certification process for Smallholders. The need to develop a separate standard for Independent Smallholders was identified.

A multi stakeholder Taskforce, known as the Smallholder Interim Group (SHIG) lead this process, aligned with the 2018 P&C Review. The SHIG was composed of four smallholder representatives (from Malaysia, Indonesia, Africa and Latin America), one ENGO, one SNGO, three members representing the supply chain companies and banks/investors and processors/traders.

A summary of the SHIG meetings consultation process undertaken by SHIG, can be found below.

- Six physical meetings of SHIG with balanced representation from all stakeholder groups, with several sub-groups working in between the physical meetings as well.
- Decision making was consensus based
- Three rounds of public consultations lasting 60 days each during which
  - Sixteen physical face to face public consultations were organised globally across all regions
  - Comments were received in seven different languages through the online surveys
- Three webinars were held and two of these were only for the Environmental and Social NGOs
- Six Focus Group Discussions were conducted between the second and third public consultations, specifically on the applicability of the standard
- A total of 160 responses were received through all the public consultations and processed

The Smallholder Standing Committee (SHSC), Standards Standing Committee (SSC) and the Board of Governors (BoG) have confirmed that due process was followed in the development of the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard.

**The RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard (2019):**

The objectives as laid out in the Scope of Work of the SHIG were met, notably by:

- Defining the applicability of the standard for independent smallholders
- Developing a stepwise, continuous improvement model for the certification of independent smallholders to reduce the barriers for certification for smallholders;
- Ensuring the language in the normative and informative parts of the standard are auditable and practically implementable by the independent smallholders;
- Aligning the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard with the RSPO Principles & Criteria 2018 by including core sustainability requirements of the P&C 2018, namely NDPE requirements: no deforestation, no planting on peat and no exploitation whilst ensuring the system is inclusive and accessible to smallholders;
- Developing a simplified assurance mechanism for the phased approach;
- Developing an appropriate market incentive mechanism throughout the continuous improvement phases to both, incentivise the implementation of the standard by the independent smallholders and ensure progress in the continuous improvement model.

**Proposed Resolution:**

1. That RSPO Members adopt the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard 2019
2. That the Secretariat continuously monitor and oversee the implementation of the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and that a comprehensive review be done annually for the first two years after the adoption of the standard
3. That RSPO Members to whom the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard applies work towards implementation and certification against this standard
4. That the supply chain actors commit to supporting smallholders by supporting the implementation of the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and by increasing their uptake from smallholders
5. That RSPO Members who are not directly involved in the supply chain actively promote and support the implementation of RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and certification of Independent Smallholders.

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