

Resolution GA14-6c

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 14th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

30th November 2017

TITLE: STRENGTHENING THE RSPO EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Submitted by: Lingkar Komunitas Sawit (LINKS)

Co-signed: Yayasan Setara Jambi, Sawit Watch

Background:

- Based on the Resolution 6b: Proposed amendments to RSPO Statutes reflecting change of term from Secretary General to Chief Executive Officer, adopted in 2015, the role of the RSPO Secretariat has been empowered to be a RSPO Executive Office and has the mandate for decision making.
- However, in most situations RSPO Executive Office does not exercise its mandate and authority and instead outsourced its decision making authority to third parties, that are not tested for its independency and impartiality:
 - RSPO Complaint Panel
 - HCV RN (High Conservation Value Resource Network)
- The RSPO Complaint Panel supposedly consists of independent and impartial parties, representing all stakeholders. But not all parties being imposed the “conflict of interest” clause. RSPO Executive Office is silent on this matter. Other problems are related to the loss of key important staff managing Complaints in RSPO Executive Office KL and RILO Jakarta. Since this loss, RSPO Executive Office has been act as a “post man” and “rubber stamp” only, and does not criticize any of Complaint Panel recommendations. RSPO Executive Office should treat the recommendations in its capacity as advisory to RSPO and act for the best interests of its members.
- Similar problems also in the appointment of HCV RN. RSPO Executive Office has outsourced the HCV RN through its Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS) to ensure adequate High Conservation Value (HCV) assessments. There are many incidents that showed the weaknesses the System, i.e. peer review, when Reviewers (with Provisional status) who do not know the industry, review the reports prepared by Full Licensed Assessors. However, RSPO Executive Office has been act as a “post man” and “rubber stamp” only, and does not criticize any of HCR RN decision. RSPO Executive Office is not act for the best interests of its members.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

That to address the issues related to these points, it is an imperative and logical to:

- **Strengthen the RSPO Executive Office to exercise its decision making power and not depending on outsourced decision makers. RSPO Executive Office should not act as a “post man” and “rubber stamp”. The appointed independent body, such as Complaints Panel and HCVRN serve as technical support and advisory roles to the RSPO Executive Office.**

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