

Resolution GA14-6f

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

30th November 2017

**TITLE: BALANCED REPRESENTATION IN THE RSPO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VOTING PROCESS BASED ON MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

Submitted by: ABN AMRO Bank, PT Inti Indosawit Subur, Bumitama Agri Ltd, Credit Suisse AG, Golden Agri- Resources Ltd, Golden Veroleum Liberia, Lingkar Komunitas Sawit (LINKS), Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA), Olam International, Sawit Watch, Standard Chartered Bank, Wilmar International.

Background:

The principal objective of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is “to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil through co-operation within the supply chain and open dialogue between its stakeholders”.

With the RSPO now embarking on the theory of change as a strategy to transform global markets towards sustainable palm oil, it is timely for the RSPO to provide an enabling platform to enhance multi-stakeholder participation that balances the interests of all its members.

Based on the existing one-vote, one-value approach to voting within the General Assembly (GA) categories/sectors with large memberships can have undue influence on the direction of the RSPO. This inherent risk is not in the best interests of RSPO or its membership as it can distort the RSPO decision-making process and potentially derail the RSPO achieving its strategic vision and mission.

The long term attractiveness of RSPO membership may be compromised as new members are reluctant to join and some existing members continue to find that their “voice” are not equitably heard despite exercising their rights to vote in the GA.

Potential Benefits:

Encourage greater membership participation within each category/sector in the RSPO GA decision-making process;

Enhance membership growth as interested groups, organizations and individual members can feel their participation and contributions have clear added value;

Enable a balanced approach to decision-making within the RSPO by ensuring all interest groups are weighted equally, from the smallest representative group to the largest.

Potential Risk:

Increased logistic requirements and complexity in coordinating the votes within each membership category/sector and in the management of the GA voting process.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

That the RSPO review its GA voting format to be based on a proportional approach such that the various membership categories have equal weighting regardless of total membership numbers.

Note: This change in voting format will not affect the voting process of Board of Governors (BoG) representation (i.e. the vote for representation on the BoG within each member category will still be based on individual member votes).

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References:

Please refer below for the total of RSPO Ordinary Members by Sector as of 30 Sep 2017.

No	Membership Sector in Ordinary Category	Total
1	Consumer Goods Manufacturers	759
2	Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders	521
3	Oil Palm Growers	173
4	Retailers	64
5	Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (ENGO)	39
6	Social or Development Organisations (SNGO)	12
7	Banks and Investors	14
	Total	1,582

Source: RSPO Secretariat Oct 2017