



## **The World Banana Forum (WBF)**

*Working together for sustainable banana production and trade*

### **Eleventh Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee**

*Attended by the Steering Committee members and Working Group coordinators*

**27-28 October 2016**

Lebanon Room (D-209), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

### **Final Report**

**Thursday, 27 October 2016**

#### **1. Opening speeches by Mr. Boubaker Ben Belhassen, Director of FAO Trade and Markets Division and by the WBF Executive Board and Secretariat**

Mr. Boubaker Ben Belhassen welcomed the participants and thanked them for their attendance. He mentioned the recent opportunities and challenges for the banana sector in terms of climate change and management of pests and diseases. Mr. Ben Belhassen announced the coming launch of the FAO global programme to combat Tropical Race 4 of the Fusarium Wilt disease. He highlighted the potential pioneer role of the banana sector in building responsible supply chains by ensuring decent work and respect for labour rights. He mentioned that the WBF is a successful model of multi-stakeholder platform in this regard.

Mr. Renwick Rose welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Board and wished for a productive conference to meet the many challenges of the banana sector through collaboration. Mr. Pascal Liu welcomed the participants on behalf of the WBF Secretariat and introduced the intern who recently joined the Secretariat, Mr. Nelson Castro. Mr. Liu also presented the objectives and expected outputs of the meeting and invited participants to share their suggestions.

**Morning session (chaired by Mr. Bernardo Roehrs)**

#### **2. Summary of WBF activities in 2016**

Mr. Victor Prada presented the work of the Secretariat as supporter and facilitator of the Steering Committee (SC), the Working Groups (WG) and the Executive Board (EB), as well as the Action Plan for the Steering Committee and Working Groups. He presented the activities of the Secretariat to promote the WBF and increase the number of its participants, including fundraising activities.

#### **3. Labour Rights, Gender, Health and Safety in banana production**



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Mr. Prada gave an overview of the Banana Occupational Health and Safety Initiative (BOHESI) project. Following inter-sector collaboration among government ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector, the manual on occupational health and safety is nearly complete and has been adopted by the Ecuadorian Government. The dissemination of the manual and training of staff from the public, private and trade union sectors will follow suit in early 2017. The collaboration with the ILO for a potential ratification of ILO's convention 184 together with the facilitation of tripartite commissions has been explored. Ms. Anna Cooper, co-coordinator of the BOHESI project and the WBF Working Group on Labour Rights (WG03), described the structure of the manual and explained that it will be translated into English and French and adapted for Cameroon.

Mr. Prada explained that the WG03 Labour Relations publication on best practices has been thoroughly edited by the FAO and ILO and will be released soon.

Ms. Cooper gave a summary of the work of WG03 on: gender, specifically on the results from the FAO-funded gender research 'women in the banana export industry'; the international meeting of women working in the banana industry in Bonn in December 2015; considerations for gender specific elements on living wages for WG02 and subsequent priorities for action and recommendations related to gender for the SC. The gender reports will be made available to WBF members soon, as well as a specific webpage on gender via the WBF site. Ms. Francesca Distefano from the Social Protection Division of FAO expressed her interest in collaborating more with the WG, involving the WBF in gender-related initiatives such as the United Nations' "He for She Campaign".

### **Decisions:**

#### *Occupational health and safety:*

- Disseminate the BOHESI manual widely and adapt it to other countries;
- Keep the voluntary (rather than mandatory) approach for the dissemination of the BOHESI manual;
- Support governments in the ratification of ILO Convention 184 in partnership with the ILO;
- Explore the possibility to incorporate the training of labour inspectorates into the project;
- Assess possible collaboration with certification schemes for promoting the use of the manual;
- Request the extension of the BOHESI project until December 2017 as discussed with Solidaridad and IDH.

#### *Labour-Management relationships:*

- Make the report on good practices for Labour-Management relations available to SC and wider WBF members.
- Organize a dynamic panel session on this topic during the WBF Conference.

#### *Gender issues in the banana industry:*



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- Review the estimated number of women working in banana plantations in Costa Rica, taking into account the information provided by Corbana.
- Strengthen the collaboration of WG03 with the gender team in FAO.
- Discuss and prioritize within WG03 the following areas of work and fundraising needs:
  - Developing research on women-specific repetitive strain injuries
  - Facilitating the research and dialogue between companies and trade unions on safe work for pregnant women and nursing mothers
  - Analyzing the socio-economic impacts of women’s employment in the banana industry
  - Developing proposals for gender-based violence to input into ILO processes
  - Continuing collaboration with WG02 on the gender elements of living wages

### *WG03 Coordination:*

- Explore possibility of company / union collaboration for lead coordination and involvement of Christelle Lasme and Iris Munguia to co-coordinate WG03, as agreed during the meeting.

### **Follow-up:**

3.0	Labour Rights	Deadline	Leader	Support
3.1	Explore the possibility to replicate BOHESI in other countries	15/05/17	V. Prada	FAO country office
3.2	Support government efforts for the ratification of ILO Convention 184	15/08/17	V. Prada	FAO country office
3.3	Develop suggestions on how labor inspectors will work with the manual, take part in the public sector training and promote the use of the manual	15/05/17	V. Prada	S. Longley
3.4	Request to extend the BOHESI project until December 2017	31/01/17	J. Kroezen	V. Prada
3.5	Review the estimated number of women working in banana plantations in Costa Rica	31/03/17	A. Cooper	V. Prada
3.6	Strengthen the collaboration between the gender sub-group of WG03 and the gender team in FAO	31/12/16	V. Prada	A. Cooper
3.7	Prepare the WG03 outputs to be presented at the Global Women’s Conference	31/03/17	A. Cooper	V. Prada



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3.8	Facilitate collaboration between the gender group and the ILO on gender-based violence	15/12/16	S. Longley	V. Prada
3.9	Develop a workplan and fundraising objectives to implement the above mentioned priorities on gender	31/03/17	A.Cooper	V.Prada
3.10	Facilitate collaboration between the gender group and WG02 initiatives on Living wages	ongoing	V.Prada	A.Cooper
3.11	Finalize and distribute labour relations publication	15/12/16	V.Prada	A.Cooper
3.12	Suggest name for the gender sub-group in WG03	22/12/16	V. Prada	P. Liu
3.13	Organize a call with Christelle Lasme and Iris Munguia on WG03 lead coordination	15/12/16	V.Prada	A.Cooper

#### 4. Distribution of value in the banana supply chain

Mr. Alistair Smith conducted an interactive activity where participants were divided into four groups considering various elements of a sustainable supply chain (living wages, income required by producers for sustainable production, externalities, etc.). All groups were asked to find a main message to transmit to the other groups related to costs of sustainable production.

Recent work conducted on living wages can be found in the WG02 report (document WBF-SC11-2016-06) and Secretariat report (document WBF-SC11-2016-04) available from [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5WbgEfm3ec\\_UJwQ0xnaHlzZzQ?usp=sharin](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5WbgEfm3ec_UJwQ0xnaHlzZzQ?usp=sharin). In collaboration with the Global Living Wage Coalition, WBF members continue to participate in living wage initiatives in Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala, Ecuador, Ivory Coast and Ghana. It was stressed that research should focus on including gaps in pay related to gender, and related to the discrepancies between payment per hours worked and payment by production. The Secretariat has provided the consultants conducting the research in Ecuador and Guatemala with inputs to improve the Anker’s methodology. There is also ongoing work on externalities to analyze the costs of sustainable production. The goal is to estimate external costs and assess the opportunities and challenges of monetizing these costs. This study has been conducted recently by Fairtrade International. CIRAD may contribute in the medium term. Mr. Smith explained that he had coordinated WG02 for over five years and requested to be replaced as Coordinator after the WBF Conference. Rainforest Alliance offered to co-coordinate WG02 potentially with Augura’s support.

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### **Decisions:**

- The offer of the Rainforest Alliance to designate a coordinator for WG02 has been accepted. The Secretariat will contact Augura to confirm its availability to co-coordinate WG02
- Continue developing proposals on living wage benchmarks and advocacy activities at country level
- Continue the work on costs of sustainable production with CIRAD and Fairtrade International.
- WG02 will hold an in-person meeting in the first quarter of 2017

### **Follow-up:**

4.0	Distribution of value	Deadline	Leader	Support
4.1	Discuss the coordination of WG02 with Rainforest Alliance and AUGURA	31/01/17	V. Prada	J. T´Lam
4.2	Follow up current activities on living wages benchmarks	30/05/17	V. Prada	W. Flinterman
4.3	Follow up current activities on costs of sustainable production	30/05/17	V. Prada	J. Paredes
4.4	Organize in-person meeting of WG02	30/03/17	A. Smith	V. Prada
4.5	Collaborate with the WG on gender to strengthen gender element of living wage initiatives	31/01/17	V.Prada	A.Smith

### **Afternoon session (Chaired by Ms. Katie Knaggs)**

#### **5. Sustainable Production Systems and Environmental Impact**

Mr. Manfred Pülm gave an overview of the activities carried out during the last period, including the portal on best practices for the banana sector, the Carbon and Water Footprint project, and the Task Force on TR4.

Ms. Farrah Adam presented the work done for the Best Practices Portal, including the project’s achievements, and digital and content strategy to be developed in the coming months for the environmental and social practices, and standards and certifications. On the latter, special attention will be paid to avoid promoting specific organizations and standards. Practical downloadable and communicable factsheets on the practices will be produced in order for users to have access to key information on the topics in a user-friendly manner. The online version will also include relevant



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background and framework besides the information available in the factsheets. Ms. Cooper and Ms. Sue Longley highlighted their interest in having WG02 and WG03 Coordinators review the draft best practices at this stage. Mr. Luud Clercx presented the carbon and water footprint project, showing the methodology, partners and budget required. Mr. Louis Bockel presented the EX-ACT tool and Ms. Daniella Malin presented remotely the Cool Farm tool to help decision-making in the context of the project.

Mr. Clercx presented the work done by the Task Force on TR4, while Mr. Enrique Uribe from GlobalGAP made a remote presentation on a TR4 add-on. Mr. Fazil Dusunceli presented the work done by FAO's Plant Protection Unit (AGP) on prevention and management of TR4 including the preparation of a global programme to combat TR4. Mr. Liu mentioned that major banana companies are discussing informally the possibility of forming a partnership to address jointly the challenges posed by this disease. Ms. Cooper asked whether members of the other WGs would have the opportunity to provide input on the articles on the Best Practices Portal. Ms. Adam confirmed that a former consultant had in fact contacted some members of the other WGs and contributors on this matter in 2015 in the early stages of the project, but Ms. Cooper's response to those emails was untimely as she was in maternity leave. The Secretariat's role was to facilitate the contacts with other WG members, taking into account Bioversity's Promusa portal ownership, which was initially selected by WG01 members to host the collection of articles. She welcomed any contributions from members despite the approaching deadline.

### **Decision:**

- WG02 and WG03 Coordinators will review the best practices before publication according to their area of expertise.
- Draft a Guidance Note on Best Practices to be included into the Best Practice Portal, including criteria and procedure for approving a Best Practice.
- The Task Force on TR4 will provide feedback on the add-on to the GlobalGAP standard.
- SC Members will urge their colleagues, partners and contacts to avoid using the term "Panama Disease".

### **Follow-up:**

5.0	Sustainable Production and Environmental Impact	Deadline	Leader	Support
5.1	Share draft practices with WG02 and WG03 for review in English and Spanish according to their area of expertise before publication	18/11/16	F. Adam	C. Crampe



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5.2	Draft a Guidance Note on future Best Practices to be included into the Best Practice Portal, including criteria and procedure for approving a Best Practice.	30/03/17	F. Adam	C. Crampe
5.3	Inform SC members on the fundraising process of the Carbon and water footprint project.	20/01/17	F. Adam	L. Clercx
5.4	Ask for feedback and information from GlobalGAP on the add-on.	18/11/16	L. Clercx	F. Adam
5.5	Share the FAO Global Programme on TR4 with the TR4 Task Force once finalized.	31/01/17	F. Adam	F.Dusunceli
5.6	Inform the SC on discussions between major banana companies if they agree to establish a partnership to fight TR4 collectively.	30/12/16	P. Liu	F.Adam
5.7	Share results of studies on detergents for footbaths with TR4 Task Force	30/12/16	O. Sanchez	F. Adam

### 6. Funding of the WBF

Mr. Prada gave an update on the status of fee collection and noted that although this process takes a considerable amount of the Secretariat's time, it is indispensable to ensure the operation of the WBF. He then presented the proposal for a banana flour project and requested feedback from the SC. Tesco, Dole and Chiquita currently have projects using banana flour and agreed to share information with the WBF Secretariat. Mr. Liu presented the preliminary financial report for 2016 and the forecast for 2017, showing a good financial situation to start 2017 and contribute to the funding of the WBF Conference. The SC approved the preliminary financial report for 2016 and requested to incorporate the cost of the international meeting of women working in the banana industry into the budget forecast for 2017. It also requested the WG coordinators to inform the Secretariat of WG revenues and expenses processed independently from the Secretariat so that they can be incorporated into the financial reports.

Ms. Adam gave an update on the fundraising initiatives including the project with Exeter University and DFID on which Mr. Dan Bebber, Senior Lecturer of the university, gave a remote presentation to the meeting. She also highlighted the efforts done with donors for the carbon and water footprint project, including GIZ, IDH, and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), and with the EU-funded research programme Horizon 2020 in collaboration with Wageningen University and other partners. Mr. Edgar Monge suggested exploring the possibilities for registering the WBF as a "501C3 organization", in order to be able to apply for funding in the United States.

#### Decisions:

- Continue developing project proposals to raise funds, as they are essential to produce concrete outputs at country level and support the development of the WBF
- Continue assessing the feasibility of a Banana Flour Project for donation to local communities (no commercial purpose)



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- The preliminary financial report for 2016 is approved
- FAO is requested to extend the WBF multi-donor project and trust fund until 31 December 2018
- Incorporate the cost of the international meeting of women working in the banana industry into the budget forecast for 2017

### **Follow-up:**

6.0	Funding of the WBF	Deadline	Leader	Support
6.1	Explore the possibility of Registering the WBF as a “501C3 organization”.	30/01/17	V. Prada	F. Adam
6.2	Remind SC members to share useful banana flour contacts such as producers and project developers.	31/01/17	V. Prada	SC members
6.3	Inform the SC of the progress made with donors such as GIZ, EU and CFC.	30/01/17	F. Adam	WBF Sec.
6.4	Remind WG coordinators to inform the Secretariat of WG revenues and expenses processed independently from the Secretariat	31/12/16	P. Liu	L. Clercx, A. Cooper, A. Smith
6.5	Request the extension of the WBF multi-donor project to 31/12/18.	31/07/17	P. Liu	
6.6	Incorporate the cost of the international meeting of women working in the banana industry into the budget forecast for 2017.	30/01/17	P. Liu	A. Cooper

**Friday, 28 October 2016**

**Morning session (Chaired by Ms. Sue Longley)**

### **7. Memberships and Partnerships**

The SC welcomed the following new members of the WBF: the Dominican Republic, ASBAMA, AUGURA, MACK, The Sainsbury Laboratory and EARTH University. It also accepted the Dominican Republic, ASBAMA and AUGURA as new SC members.

Ms. Camille Crampé presented the survey launched by the Secretariat to improve participation and strengthen communication and its preliminary results. There will be a second survey in 2017 to focus on WBF achievements, value added, member expectations and areas for improvement. Mr. Liu explained



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the rationale for a survey on information needs. Ms. Crampé then dealt with the issue of how to engage new members and asked participants for their priorities in terms of events that the WBF should attend. Participants gave their priorities and suggested making more efforts to promote the tools developed by the WBF, including the Best Practice Portal, in order to show the benefits of joining the WBF. They suggested using the forthcoming newsletter to do this and producing different versions of the WBF flier to target specific stakeholders.

Mr. Prada presented the Secretariat's activities to engage potential new members, a list of which will be made available to the SC, and shared the results of the conversations with LIDL and Carrefour. The mode of participation of multinational companies in the WBF was discussed, as participants wondered whether the Secretariat should invite the parent company only or also its local subsidiaries to join the WBF. The SC asked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on this matter. Ms. Adam highlighted the response received from some European retailers, in which they expressed their interest in participating in the WBF indirectly through their suppliers and potentially participating in specific projects.

Ms. Adam also informed the SC on the process with FAO's Panel of Experts on Pesticides Management and Syngenta, in which FAO acknowledges that this is a broader issue, and mentioned that the assessment is in progress and there will be a meeting in April 2017 to discuss the matter.

The SC discussed the opportunity of joining the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA). While some participants expressed concerns, others recommended to keep the communication open without considering joining for the moment.

Mr. Prada provided a presentation on running effective multi-stakeholder platforms (MSP). MSPs have demonstrated to be compelling engines to create strong public-private partnerships (PPPs), but they face a number of challenges including stakeholder representation and participation capacity, trust building and legitimacy, effective governance and accountability, loss of institutional memory, facilitation and coordination and costs associated with maintaining an MSP. The key factor to address these challenges is the presence of an effective neutral convener. An article on the subject matter will be published in the FAO's publication Sustainable Value Chains for Sustainable Food Systems.

### **Decisions:**

- Attend the international events of Fruit Logistica Berlin, PMA and Acorbat (budget permitting).
- Continue efforts to increase the participation of governments in the WBF



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- The new WBF website template and banner are approved provided that the “News” section should only display news specific to the WBF and that the term “partners” should be replaced by another one.
- The WBF Secretariat will produce a first draft newsletter to be circulated to SC members.
- Produce several versions of the WBF flier to target different audiences.
- Continue communicating with GACSA in an informal mode, create a file on it before the Global Conference and organize presentations on it and agroecology for the next SC meeting.

### Follow-up:

7.0	Memberships and Partnerships	Deadline	Leader	Support
7.1	Share the link to the survey on WBF communications and the list of major events on bananas with SC members.	30/12/16	C. Crampé	F. Adam
7.2	Share the list of organizations approached as potential new members	31/12/16	V. Prada	F. Adam
7.3	Provide a proposal on which component(s) of multinational companies should be invited to join the WBF (e.g. parent company, local subsidiaries).	30/03/17	V. Prada.	F. Adam
7.4	Produce a first mock-up of the WBF newsletter and share it with SC members.	30/03/17	F. Adam	V. Prada
7.5	Create a file with detailed information on GACSA for SC members and invite a representative of GACSA and an expert in agroecology to give presentations at the next SC meeting.	30/01/17	C. Crampé	F. Adam
7.6	Review FAO legal unit’s suggestions on the WBF Charter and circulate a summary to the SC.	28/02/17	P. Liu	Secretariat
7.7	Review the terminology and linguistic consistency of the Charter.	28/02/17	P. Liu	Secretariat
7.8	Write a paper examining the relationships between the WBF, governments and FAO	30/06/17	R. Rose	Secretariat

## 8. Preparation of the Third WBF Global Conference



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Ms. Farrah Adam introduced Peru as potential host for the WBF Global Conference and thanked the government for their attendance and offer. Ms. Claudia Guevara, Alternate Permanent Representative of Peru, presented Peru's proposal to host the event highlighting the opportunity to jointly raise awareness on *Fusarium wilt* TR4 and current biosecurity measures in the region. She gave assurance that Peru would collaborate with FAO and the regional phytosanitary agency OIRSA to develop biosafety measures. Speaking on behalf of the WBF committee responsible for the organization of the Conference (OC), Mr. Monge explained that as some producer organizations were opposed to hosting the conference in Latin America, especially in banana producing nations, the OC had decided to recommend holding the Conference in a country that does not produce bananas despite the low level of contamination risk represented by the event. Mr. Omar Sanchez reiterated the position of his organization (CORBANA) that large international events on banana should be avoided in producing countries to eliminate the risk of contagion by TR4.

### **Afternoon session (Chaired by Mr. Alistair Smith)**

The discussion on possible locations for the Conference resumed. The SC concluded that due to the opposition recently expressed by producer organizations, holding the 2017 WBF Conference in a banana-producing country would not lead to a successful event and create a strong reputational risk for the WBF. Participants agreed to propose Peru as the location for the fourth WBF Conference during the third WBF Conference (if the Government is still interested in hosting it then) as a recognition of the advantages of holding the meeting in Peru and the motivation of the Government. The SC noted that by that time the whole Latin American region should have established strong biosafety protocols that would reduce the risk of spreading the disease through international events on bananas. Consequently, the above opposition would probably have disappeared. Corbana highlighted that as long as there are no resistant varieties nor effective treatment to treat the disease, there is a still risk for the region. Mr. Liu explained that the WBF should be grateful to Peru for its offer and that the SC's recommendation puts Peru and FAO in a difficult situation. He added that FAO would discuss with the Government of Peru possible solutions of interest to all parties. Several participants offered to ask producer organizations of their country to clarify their concerns in writing. Mr. Liu urged the OC to adopt procedures to avoid approaching a possible host country if there is a risk that the country's offer might not be accepted by the SC.

Alternative potential locations discussed included Miami, Germany, Geneva and Rome. Ms. Munguía presented a letter from COLSIBA proposing to hold the conference in Geneva at ILO headquarters. The presence of an inviting partner supporting the organization of the event is an important criterion for choosing the location in addition to accessibility, ease of obtaining visas and local costs. The conference is expected to be carried out in the second semester of 2017 in order to have sufficient time for the preparation of a high-quality event. Several participants advised to avoid certain dates due to competing major events including the FAO Conference, the IUF Congress and the annual congresses of CORBANA and AEBE.

The OC presented the draft agenda, budget and logistical aspects for the Global Conference. The Permanent Representation of the Dominican Republic expressed interest in joining the OC.



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Ms. Cooper gave an overview of the proposed planning for the multi-stakeholder strategy meeting on gender equity in the banana industry, which is to be held on the day preceding the conference. Mr. Monge suggested involving the Women’s Ministry in Costa Rica (INAMU) to raise the profile of the event. The Permanent Representation of Costa Rica offered their assistance to contact the Ministry of Women's Condition in Costa Rica to enquire about their interest in supporting the Women’s meeting in the Global Conference. The need for participation of companies was highlighted.

### Decisions:

- Due to the concerns expressed by producer organizations, the SC recommends to hold the third Conference in a country that does not produce bananas. It recommends to propose Peru as the host of the fourth Conference during the third Conference if the Government is still interested.
- SC members will submit proposals for location (including Geneva, Miami and Germany) by mid November 2016.
- Avoid scheduling the conference during July, August and the last week of September 2017.
- The multi-stakeholder strategy meeting on gender equity in the banana industry will last one full day.
- Explore the possibilities of engaging the Women’s Ministry of Costa Rica in the meeting of women working in the banana industry.
- Conduct the fundraising for the Conference and the women’s meeting jointly
- The OC will review the suggestions of the SC members for the draft agenda including changing the topic on session 3 on Day 1 and Day 2, and discussing topics under stimulating titles such as “How many certifications does it take to make a banana sustainable”, “GMOs vs. No Banana?” and “What Future for Small Farmers”.

### Follow-up:

8.0	Global Conference	Deadline	Leader	Support
8.1	Discuss possible solutions with the Permanent Representation of Peru.	18/11/16	P. Liu	F. Adam
8.2	Submit proposals for the venue for the Global Conference to the SC.	15/12/16	F. Adam	OC
8.3	Provide a letter for Peru explaining the position of the Guatemalan banana producers.	30/11/16	B. Roehrs	
8.4	Discuss with the ILO the feasibility and costs of organizing the Conference at their HQ	19/11/16	S. Longley	



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8.5	Provide the OC with key contacts in the United States to explore the possibilities of holding the event in the country.	18/11/16	M. Pülm	B. Roehrs, X. Roussel
8.6	Discuss opportunity of organizing the Conference in the United States with AFL-CIO	19/11/16	S. Longley	
8.7	Discuss opportunity of organizing the Conference in the United States with the Center on Labor Rights	19/11/16	A. Smith	F. Adam
8.8	Contact German partners to analyze feasibility of holding the Conference in Germany	19/11/16	G. Jaksch	F. Adam
8.9	Review the suggestions of the SC members for the draft agenda including changing the topic on session 3 on Day 1 and Day 2, and discussing topics such as: How many certifications does it take to make a banana sustainable; GMOs VS No Banana; Future for Small Farmers.	30/01/17	OC	F. Adam
8.10	Develop a proposal, budget and fundraising strategy for the gender strategy meeting	15/12/16	A.Cooper	Gender WG
8.11	Contact the Ministry of Women's Condition in Costa Rica to enquire about their interest in supporting the Women's meeting in the Global Conference.	30/01/17	L. Ceciliano	

### 9. Activity Planning

Mr. Monge presented the Executive Board's priorities for the WBF's activities in 2017. The SC endorsed the following priorities:

1. Deliver the outputs of ongoing WBF activities. Communicate and disseminate the outputs widely within the Working Groups and to external partners in preparation for the Global Conference.
2. Renew the coordination teams of WG02 and WG03. Ms. Christelle Lasme expressed interest in becoming involved in the coordination of WG03, pending discussion with her managers. Mr. Rose also expressed interest in becoming involved in the coordination of the gender sub-group in WG03. Mr. Jan 'T Lam will take an active role in coordinating WG02.
3. Enhance participation in the WGs.
4. Expand the WBF's work on gender issues. This includes expanding the coverage of gender aspects in the BOHESI manual to raise awareness on women's health issues.
5. Determine the venue, dates, programme and logistical aspects of the Global Conference.
6. Strengthen fundraising for the WBF in general and the Global Conference in particular.