



The World Banana Forum (WBF)

Working together for sustainable banana production and trade

Report of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC23)

Attended by the Steering Committee (SC) members and Working Group (WG) coordinators

Online Sessions, 23-24 November 2022

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

1. Welcome by the WBF Secretariat

Mr Pascal Liu, FAO Team Leader on Responsible Global Value Chains, began the session by welcoming all participants to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC23). He provided an overview of the challenges faced by the banana industry and the global agricultural sector, and further noted that global banana exports have continued to fall for the third year in a row while costs of production continued to rise. Mr Liu underscored that this fall was due to various factors on the supply side (such as high costs of energy, inputs, and transportation, bad weather and diseases) and the demand side (effects of the war in Ukraine, high inflation on purchasing power of consumers, more stringent MRL in some major markets). He also mentioned the existence of various European Union legislative proposals that may influence global banana trade in the future. He emphasized that, to tackle these challenges, close collaboration by all the stakeholder groups of the banana sector is needed more than ever. He concluded by presenting the agenda and inviting SC members to engage actively in the discussions of the SC23.

2. Welcome, objectives and expected outcomes of the SC23 meeting by the Advisory Board co-chair

Mr Andrew Biles (Chiquita), co-chair of the WBF SC and Advisory Board (AB) began his intervention by mentioning that due to recent agricultural supply shocks, many producing countries are shifting their exported-oriented focus to domestic markets. He stressed that since most of the banana production worldwide is being commercialized in domestic markets, it is important to consider those markets in the international banana trade discussions. Mr Biles then presented the objectives and expected outcomes of the first day of the meeting.


3. Overview of recent activities of the WBF's Working Groups and outcomes of the Thematic Sessions

Working Group 01 (WG01) on Sustainable Production Systems and Environmental Impact

- **Carbon and Water Footprint (CWF) project**

Mr Matheus Lima (FAO) provided a brief overview of the milestones achieved by the third phase of the CWF project and highlighted the improvements implemented in the new version of the CWF tool, including new features, the dynamic display of results and automatic generation of reports. He informed participants about the series of audio-visual and capacity building materials produced by the project, which were used during the training sessions facilitated by Gestarse in eight countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region, namely: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama and Jamaica. He mentioned that companies that concluded the training exercises were invited to participate in the subsequent activities of the project, receiving support on the use of the tool with real data from their operations. Mr Lima then mentioned that the third phase of the project is developing a distributed ledger (blockchain) system that is capable of measuring carbon and water footprints of different downstream operations in the banana supply chain (from farm to retail) and that more details would be provided during the dedicated session on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation (refer to Section 4).

He concluded by informing members that the Secretariat has dedicated substantial time to the development of a technical project proposal for one Latin American country, which is focused on building the capacity of farmers



on climate change related aspects and on the implementation of climate-smart technologies such as the CWF tool. The proposal, of a total value of 250,000 EUR, has been presented and strongly supported a key the donor.

- **Subgroup on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation**

Mr Matheus Lima briefly presented the goals and objectives of the new Subgroup and informed SC members on the discussions carried out during the subgroup's kick off coordination call on 12 October 2022. He thanked the various industry stakeholders for their participation in the discussions and presented the key takeaways of the meeting, including the aggregation of the different sustainable measures in two workstreams namely: 1) Soil Management/Ecosystem Conservation and 2) Sustainable Management of Plastics.

Mr David Montealegre (FAO) then announced the creation of two new subsections of the WG01 in the WBF website. The recently launched pages are focused on providing information to the general audience on the structure, functions and steps for obtaining credentials for the [Carbon and Water Footprint Tool](#), as well as on the activities carried out by the [Subgroup on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation](#).

- **TR4 Global Network**

Mr Lima presented a summary of the discussions held during the Thematic Session of the Working Group 01 concerning Fusarium Wilt TR4 and informed the audience about a series of bilateral calls facilitated by the WBF Secretariat with different stakeholders to explore synergies and potential joint activities in affected countries. He then mentioned that the Secretariat has supported the development of a FAO proposal focused on strengthening the prevention and control of Fusarium wilt TR4 in member countries of the Andean Community. Mr Montealegre added that the Secretariat has also increased the number of recent publications and awareness raising materials available on the [TR4GN database](#).

- **Thematic Webinars**

Mr Lima concluded this section by presenting the main topics covered during the webinar organized by the WBF Secretariat on '[Climate Change and Access to the European Market](#)', held on 11 July 2022. The webinar presented the proposed EU's Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, with a focus on its environmental and climate change components, and further discussed the challenges and opportunities that the directive provides to banana exporting companies. He then announced another forthcoming technical webinar, with the tentative title of 'Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), European Union Regulations and its Impacts on Banana Production', expected to be held in late December 2022. The webinar objective will be to discuss the European Union's strategy on pesticides and MRLs, and the potential impacts and opportunities for banana producers in the light of European Union's recent regulations.

Working Group 02 (WG02) on Distribution of Value

- **Observatory on Costs of Sustainable Production and Distribution of Value (OCSF)**

Mr Victor Prada (FAO) provided an overview of recent Working Group 02 (WG02) activities on distribution of value and the Observatory on Costs of Sustainable Production (OCSF). He recalled that the work of the Observatory, which began in 2021, was carried out with support from CIRAD and BASIC. Mr Prada then reminded participants of the main objective of the OCSF to provide annually updated information and analysis on the dynamic evolution of value, costs, taxes and margins at the various stages of the world banana chains. He then recalled the various stages of the project together with outputs achieved, as well as the composition of the Observatory Committee. He further stated that a series of interviews and workshops were carried out under the umbrella of the Observatory in 2021 and 2022, with a special mention to the last webinar in March 2022. He explained that the discussions on the Observatory will be continued, and the learnings derived from its establishment will help to facilitate dialogue on the matter. In order to reach the following stage of the OCSF the WBF Secretariat will facilitate through regular updates and meetings an appropriate debate on: costs of production and margins, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, purchasing practices and shared responsibility with the ultimate objective to trigger institutional involvement in the activities.

- **Fruit Attraction 2022**

Mr Prada informed on the participation of the WBF Secretariat and WBF members in a conference on shared responsibility in the global banana value chain, which was organized by the LATAM Task Force during Fruit Attraction 2022 in Madrid, Spain. The event consisted of two panels titled "*Different latitudes, different needs. What are the consequences of the Farm to Fork Strategy for agriculture outside the European Union?*" and

"Shared responsibility: an outstanding debt. What will be the fate of the concept of buying bananas in the coming years?". Fruit Attraction has become one of the leading commercial fairs for the worldwide marketing of fruit and vegetables. Its ability to attract many actors from the sector makes it a good commercial connection nexus for the banana industry players that make up the entire value chain.

- **Living Wages**

Mr Prada reviewed the activities conducted under the Living Wage Advocacy Initiative (LIWIN), and the work carried out in the run-up to the finalization of the [World Banana Forum Declaration to Living Wages for Men and Women Working in the Banana Industry](#), approved during the SC21. He concluded by stressing the importance of raising awareness on the efforts of the WBF with regards to the topic of living wages, and of bringing visibility to the WBF declaration on living wages.

- **Shared responsibility**

Mr Prada outlined activities conducted under the newly created WBF Latin American and African Regional Commissions in addition to incoming National Commissions (more information available in Sections 6 and 13 of this report)

Working Group 03 (WG03) on Labour Rights and Other Workplace Issues

- **Gender Equity**

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado briefly presented an overview of the gender-related transfer of learning activities carried out in Ghana and Colombia under the amendment to the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between FAO and Fairtrade Germany, and informed participants that all activities had been finalized.

In Ghana, the final activity entailed trainings on female leadership, literacy skills and income diversification – following the Fairtrade Women's School of Leadership program – which counted on over 400 participants. In Colombia, a gender pay gap study was finalized and the results and recommendations of the study were presented to WBF members in September. The recording of the session and final report will soon be made publicly available and will be shared with WBF members.


Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then provided an update on the gender stocktaking questionnaire activities, informing participants that a meeting was held with CORBANA in October to present the proposed activities and objectives, following the decisions taken at the SC22 to pilot the questionnaire in Costa Rica. Support for the activities was expressed by CORBANA, and it was jointly decided to begin the dissemination of the questionnaire in January 2023. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado therefore encouraged all WBF member companies working nationally or with direct links to the Costa Rican banana industry to participate in the activity once the dissemination of the questionnaire begins. She also informed participants that another proposal was prepared by the WBF Secretariat and presented to the Task Force on Gender Equity (GE-TF), which would aim to complement the company questionnaire with worker interviews in Costa Rica.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado concluded this section by informing participants of the recent launch of the [BOHESI Guidelines for the healthy and safe employment of women workers in the Latin American banana industry](#) and next steps discussed, as well as the comments and concerns received from some industry stakeholders on the contents included in the document. This topic was further discussed in Day 2 (refer to Section 10).

- **Occupational Health and Safety / Banana Occupational health and Safety Initiative (BOHESI)**

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado reminded participants of a consultation process that was carried about by the WBF Secretariat in 2021 in eight banana producing countries with the aim of understanding the interest of local actors in replicating BOHESI, as well as the proposal that was presented to a donor to replicate the initiative in these countries, which unfortunately proved unsuccessful. She stressed, however, the continued and ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to explore replication opportunities, and informed participants that two proposals were prepared by the WBF Secretariat and presented to the WG03 and GE-TF in early November for the continuation of BOHESI activities in Ecuador as well as potential replication activities in Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala. These proposals were discussed in more detail in Day 2 (refer to Section 11).

She also informed members that, following decisions taken at the SC21, an official letter of communication was sent to the Permanent Representation of Cameroon to FAO to inquire about the possibility of conducting multi-stakeholder consultations in the country for the revision and approval of the updated health and safety manual. The Secretariat has recently been informed that the letter has been received by the Permanent Representation and that internal discussions are currently taking place with relevant national institutions. Members will be kept informed of any developments.



Mr Cesar Guerra (COLSIBA) then inquired about the progress of discussions and activities within the WBF on the issues of collective bargaining and freedom of association. Though freedom of association is engrained in the laws of many countries in theory, it is stunted by various obstacles in practice. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado responded to the question, saying that this topic is a priority for the WG03 and that discussions are underway with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, Ms Reinhardt Hurtado encouraged COLSIBA – in light of previous bilateral discussions and agreements reached – to prepare and present a proposal to the WBF on how it would like to see the topics of collective bargaining and freedom of association addressed and relevant actions taken within the WBF, citing the need for a proposal focused on collective, concrete actions rather than simply discussions on the matter.

Ms Svetlana Boincean (IUF) also intervened, stating that the WBF charter emphasizes that members must work on the realization of and respect for workers' rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining. She highlighted that it is the responsibility of companies and governments to support progress in banana producing countries and for them to recognize the right of association for workers. She concluded by emphasizing WBF members' responsibilities to work on these topics and to recognize workers' rights, beyond discussion and in action. Ms Adela Torres (COLSIBA) reaffirmed these concerns, calling on all stakeholders to provide support in these matters through the WBF Working Groups.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado concluded the session by stating that all concerns and suggestions had been well noted and again extended the invitation to COLSIBA and IUF to present a proposal to the WBF on how they foresee that collective action and progress on these topics could be achieved under the framework of the WBF.

4. Special Session on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation

Subgroup on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Conservation

Mr Lima opened the session by informing participants that Ms Andrea Bruestle (GIZ) expressed her apologies for not being able to present the recent activities of the subgroup. He then continued by reminding members that the subgroup was established following the proposals made during the SC22 by the former Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (ABNB) and the WBF. The subgroup aims to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through knowledge sharing and the adoption of science-based sustainable measures. Mr Lima provided a brief overview of the activities carried out by the WBF and the ABNB before the establishment of the subgroup, highlighting the synergies identified among the activities on climate change mitigation carried out under the CWF project and by ABNB on the identification of climate change adaptation measures to support producers and supply chain operators to reduce the negative effects of climate change in the banana industry.

He then mentioned the study from HFFA Research and Potsdam Institute commissioned by ABNB, which has identified the potential impacts of climate change in banana-producing countries in Latin America, and a subsequent study conducted by the University of Bonn, which has identified cost-effective sustainable measures to adapt to climate change and to enhance and conserve biodiversity in banana production. The results of the studies are available in the [new section of the WBF website](#). Mr Lima also mentioned other activities conducted by ABNB, including: 1) a stakeholder commitment to work together towards adaptation and mitigation of climate change in banana supply chains; 2) the development of climate criteria with a focus on the seven measures¹ to complement voluntary sustainability standards; and, 3) a handbook manual developed – in collaboration with *Del Campo al Plato* project in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic – to support producers in implementing the seven measures identified.

Mr Lima mentioned the importance of the handbook, which provides detailed guidance to support producer organizations in the adoption of sustainable practices and measures, explaining the advantages of their implementation, the methods to be used, the costs associated and the integration of the measures in certification schemes. The handbook is being developed in cooperation with the Global Nature Fund and GIZ Costa Rica and is expected to be available in early 2023. Mr Lima stated that the first subgroup meeting was held on 12 October, where it was proposed to aggregate the seven measures into two complementary workstreams in order to facilitate their implementation. The proposed workstreams are focused on: (1) sustainable plastic management, and (2) soil management and ecosystems conservation. Mr Lima also pointed out GIZ's proposal to promote, distribute and test the handbook under the framework of the subgroup.

- **Decisions:** Develop a work plan for the different workstreams of the Subgroup.
- Discuss ways to promote, distribute and test the Handbook under the framework of the Subgroup.

¹ The seven sustainable measures identified in the studies commissioned by ABNB are: composting; cover crops; mulching; Integrated Pest Management (IPM); buffer zones; plastic reduction; and plastic recycling.

Project on Carbon and Water Footprint in the banana industry (CWF)

Mr Lima presented an overview of the third phase of the CWF project in the banana industry launched earlier this year, which counted on the support of the University of Castilla la Mancha and the Laboratory of Metrology of Costa Rica to implement upgrades in the architecture, design, computational power and features of the CWF tool. He highlighted that the improvements were defined and implemented following producers' feedback obtained during the second phase of the project, desk research conducted by a GHG accounting specialist, and a comparison of the CWF tool with other tools available in the market.

Mr Miguel Vallejo (Gestarse) then presented the timeline of activities conducted under the third phase of the project. He emphasized the support provided by Gestarse on the development of capacity-building and awareness raising videos and on the implementation of the new modules of the tool. Mr Vallejo detailed the improvements made to the CWF tool, including its translation into English, the addition of new modules on animal traction, land use changes, soil carbon stocks, calculation of uncertainties and the estimation of indirect emissions derived from volatilization and lixiviation of nitrogen-based fertilizers. He also announced that five hands-on tutorial videos — in the use of specific modules of the tool — are currently being developed.

Mr Vallejo presented the 13-week training programme focused on GHG accounting and water footprint estimation by banana producing organizations. He informed WBF members on the training activities initiated in September 2022, which counted on the participation of banana producing organizations of eight countries of Latin America and the Caribbean encompassing a total of 147 participants (including farmers, managers, and technicians). Those who completed the course were awarded a certificate delivered by the WBF Secretariat. Mr Vallejo informed that a personalized technical accompaniment was carried out after the training sessions and that during this process, a pilot group structured by 40 farms based in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Nicaragua received support on the definition of the scope, data collection and use of the tool with real data from their operations. The groups varied in farm sizes ranging from 4.9 to 500 ha. In total, more than 5,000 ha of conventional and organic farms are currently under technical accompaniment.

Ms Svetlana Boincean (IUF) asked if the tool is also effective considering the context of small-scale production. Mr Vallejo and Mr Prada answered by confirming the effectiveness and applicability of the tool for small farmers, mid-scale growers and big plantations.


Blockchain Initiative

Mr Prada presented the FAO-funded Blockchain initiative carried out by the WBF with support of Amazon Web Services and Infosys, which aims to expand the scope of the CWF tool to include information on the carbon and water footprint of downstream operators of the banana industry including logistic providers, traders and retailers, thereby creating an immutable, transparent and traceable record of sustainability indicators. He then underscored the importance of this type of systems to support the industry in adapting and complying with the forthcoming European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence legislation.

Mr Prada explained that the Initiative would enable unprecedented transparency on the climate impact of the banana industry from producers to retailers and will encourage the commitment of banana supply chains to climate action.

The objective is to develop and pilot a blockchain integrating information related to carbon emissions and water consumption at this stage to: a) provide greater transparency on GHG emissions and water use related to production and logistics of banana boxes (from farm to retail); b) ensure that all the supply chain players have the means to understand their environmental impact and are rewarded for the application of sustainable practices in their organisations; c) open exchanges/debates/discussions between the various constituencies of the industry based on objective information; d) enable public and private players to develop informed environmental sustainability strategies and policies at national and international levels.

The Blockchain Network (BN) will be able to store, calculate (through APIs to the tool) and analyse the data supported by permissioned records of GHG sources of emissions and water consumption/impact of members of the supply chain. The BN must validate the information through the network of nodes of the blockchain. The minimum viable ecosystem of the BN will comprise five nodes with main operations namely: banana producers (production and packaging), logistic providers (terrestrial, maritime transportation and storage), traders (ripening and storage), retailers (storage/distribution), and United Nations (neutral convener and BN enabler). Each of the operations will require a detailed record of transactions to be added to the BN.



Mr Prada also addressed concerns of the audience with respect to the BN's electricity consumption in comparison with cryptocurrency miners. The BN electricity consumption is comparable to a normal simple server or centralized system (client/server architecture) such as the CWF tool, therefore minimal.

Ms Ina Raible (University of Vienna) explained the work carried out by the university to support stakeholders in taking full advantage of the Blockchain Network developed by FAO. She stated that the university will support the onboarding of members by organizing a series of trainings to be conducted with different constituencies. Ms Lorena Baños Carrión (University of Vienna) then discussed some of the current challenges faced during the implementation of the Blockchain system, including the communication of the Blockchain System with the Carbon and Water Footprint tool and the correction of bugs identified.

Mr Prada acknowledged the progress achieved so far and indicated that the activities under the CWF project will continue next year. He mentioned that the project will continue to build the capacity of banana producers in measuring and reducing their emissions and climatic impacts. He added that manuals and training materials on the use of the blockchain will be shared with companies interested in participating in the pilot and training will be provided to diverse stakeholders and constituencies. He concluded by mentioning that social factors are also being considered as part of the blockchain traceability system in the future.

Mr Xavier Roussel (Dole) proposed the inclusion of indicators of the [Science-based Targets](#) initiative (SBTi) in the system, in order to support ambitious corporate climate pledges, which was well noted by the WBF Secretariat.

Decisions:

- Present the results and lessons learned from the 3rd Phase of the Project to WBF members.
- Share manuals and training materials on the use of the blockchain with stakeholders interested in participating in the pilot .
- Explore the possibility of inclusion of SBTi indicators in the system in order to support corporate climate pledges.
- Conduct a pilot exercise using the blockchain traceability system with different constituencies of the banana value chain (from farm to retail).

Update on FAO's Global Agri-food Climate Initiative for Carbon Neutral Supply Chains

Mr Liu presented the latest developments regarding the Global Agri-food Climate Initiative for carbon neutral supply chains being developed by FAO. Since the SC22, FAO has worked on the internal approval process for the project proposal, which was presented in a side event of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems –one of the governing bodies of FAO that focuses on trade and markets. In the late summer, potential donors and partners were approached to support the initiative.

Mr Liu then mentioned that the proposal was also presented during a COP27 side event organized by FAO in collaboration with various organizations, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, the UN World Food Programme, and the Swedish company Tetra Pak, highlighting the positive momentum for the initiative. He underscored that potential donors and beneficiaries of the initiative are supportive of the establishment of pilot programs, suggesting that bananas could be a good candidate for the commodities to be selected.

5. Updates on Fusarium Wilt TR4

Mr Gert Kema (Wageningen University & Research) provided an overview on the history of Fusarium Wilt, highlighting its devastating effect on the variety Gros Michel, and therefore its subsequent replacement by Cavendish. Mr Kema then presented the timeline of the TR4 outbreak in Mozambique, mentioning that, following the confirmation of the outbreak in Mozambique, a report was prepared by Stellenbosch University that indicated, among other factors, the lack of modern monitoring and mapping options, as well as lack of an adequate management and control alternatives in the country. Mr Kema raised concerns regarding the spread of TR4 in the country, indicating that infected plants were identified outside of the quarantined farms and highlighting the necessity of immediate action to contain the phytosanitary emergency. Additionally, he explained the importance of sequencing TR4 strains in order to compare and identify potential origins of the different outbreaks.

Mr Kema mentioned that, based on the results of comparison of the five strains isolated in Mozambique with other outbreaks, there is no evidence indicating that the expansion of the outbreak in Mozambique is related to new incursions. Mr Kema underscored the need to identify, sample, isolate and sequence TR4 incursions as quickly as possible, and make the information publicly available. He mentioned that TR4 has spread to twelve countries in eight years and underscored that scientific data suggests that it is not being effectively managed

using the current technology. He then concluded by mentioning that collaboration and sharing of accurate information and data is crucial to tackle the disease in an effective manner.

The second presentation, by Mr Marcelo Gamboa (FAO SLM), covered a series of activities conducted by FAO in Latin America on risk management, surveillance and monitoring of the spread of Fusarium Wilt TR4. He briefly presented the Technical Cooperation Project SLM/3803 on “*Risk Reduction in Agriculture facing (phyto) Sanitary and Climate threats in the SICA Region, in a COVID-19 Context*” which is being implemented in partnership with the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health for Central America (OIRSA) and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The project is being implemented in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Mr Gamboa mentioned the ongoing actions conducted in the countries of the project, such as simulation exercises on TR4, the production of a document on ‘*Risk Reduction and Management, the case of TR4*’, as well as a project formulation on phytosanitary-commerce issues which includes Foc TR4. He then introduced the project on Improved National Capacities of Key Actors for the Foc TR4 Prevention, Response and Surveillance and informed participants on an [International Update Course on Foc TR4](#) carried out by the Ministry of Rural Development and Land of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and FAO.

Mr Gamboa then reported on the activities conducted in Ecuador focused on improving the capacities of key actors on prevention, response and surveillance of Foc TR4. He further mentioned that FAO has delivered biosecurity kits to small producers and diagnostic kits to the Molecular Biology Laboratory of AGROCALIDAD. He mentioned that the project ‘Regional Action to Strengthen the Prevention and Control of Fusarium wilt of Musaceae, tropical race 4, in member countries of the Andean Community’ is currently being developed to support the establishment of early warning and surveillance systems, and the implementation of risk analysis and mitigation measures in four countries of the Andean region, namely Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Decisions:

- Continue to support the formulation of joint actions in the Andean Region and strengthen cooperation with African stakeholders on TR4 prevention and containment.

6. Regional and National Commissions of the WBF

Latin American and African Regional Commissions

Mr Emerson Aguirre (AUGURA) presented a brief background and overview of the goals of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Commission (LACRC) — established to bring together key stakeholders of the region to agree on strategic dialogue formats, set regional priorities, and join forces for the achievement of shared goals.


He highlighted the importance of purchasing partners and consumers for the activities of the regional commission and the necessity of tools to calculate accurately fair prices for sustainable bananas. He mentioned that the first commission workshop is expected to be organized soon and that commission should avoid duplicate efforts. He then concluded by stating that shared responsibility must be built to reverse the downward spiral of banana prices, especially given the rise in production costs.

Mr Jean-François Billot (Afruibana) then mentioned that the first meeting of the African Regional Commission (ARC), held in October, covered a variety of topics such as the importance of shared responsibility and due diligence for the African banana sector, access to basic services, the agro-ecological transition, the stimulation of leadership and entrepreneurship as well as gender and environmental issue.

National Commissions

Mr Agustín Delgado (AEBE) discussed the forthcoming WBF national commission for Ecuador and mentioned that national commissions can play a key role in advancing progress on several issues, while considering national sensibilities, laws, and particularities. Mr Alistair Smith (EUROBAN) then shared information on a national commission being created in France, which will bring together a variety of actors with a special focus on smallholders and workers’ organizations. This commission is expected to be launched in 2023.

Ms Boincean raised concerns over the regional and national commissions of the WBF, which was further supported by COLSIBA. According to IUF, the commissions can be perceived as furthering the interests of particular stakeholders. On the topic of shared responsibility, she stated that workers and trade unions cannot share the responsibility of corporations. Mr Prada thanked Ms Boincean for her comments and presented the background and inception of the regional commissions, as a request from banana producing governments in Latin America with a need for a neutral convener to facilitate the appropriate functioning of the group. This information has been also explained in the SC22 report. He pointed out that such structures are inclusive and



open to all stakeholders. Mr Edgar Monge (Tesco) followed up by stating Tesco's position to avoid commissions that are coordinated by only specific groups of stakeholders (e.g. producers only, etc.). Mr Prada expressed appreciation for members' concerns and assured that the coordination of the regional commissions is open to all stakeholder groups in the respective regions.

Decisions:

- Continue efforts to ensure that the regional and national commissions include a multi-stakeholder coordination of regional stakeholders in the respective regions and/or countries, including for LACRC.
- Support the preparation of workplans of regional and national commissions
- Coordinate the joint preparation of virtual meetings, agendas and exchange of information with Commission coordinators and members

7. Conclusions of Day 1

Mr Liu concluded the session by delivering the closing remarks, thanking all of those involved in the session, including the attendees, interpreters, presenters and WBF Secretariat staff, and invited participants to actively participate during the subsequent sessions on Day 2 of the SC23.

Thursday, 24 November 2022

8. Welcome by WBF Secretariat

Mr Liu began the session by providing an overview of the discussions carried out in the first day of the meeting and welcomed all participants to the second day of the SC23.

9. Welcome, objectives and expected outcomes of the SC23 meeting by the Advisory Board co-chair

Ms Christelle Lasme (Compagnie Fruitière) provided the opening remarks and presented the objectives and expected outcomes for the second day of the meeting.

10. Activities on gender in the banana industry


Gender pay gap study in the Colombian banana industry

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado presented a short summary of the activities of the GE-TF regarding a gender pay gap study in Colombia, which was conducted under an LoA between FAO and Fairtrade Germany. The results of the study were presented to local industry actors in a Stakeholder Workshop in July 2022, which was followed by a presentation to WBF members in September 2022. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado informed members that the report has been finalized and will soon be published online in English and Spanish.

Ms Sally Smith (Anker Research Institute) then delved into the methodology, key findings and recommendations resulting from the gender pay gap study. The recommendations – where the WBF could play a strong role – include: 1) gather and disseminate examples of good gender-related practices; 2) carry out desk-based research to explore the similarities and differences between the Colombia case study companies and other banana producers in Colombia and other countries; 3) develop systems for measuring and addressing gender pay gaps; 4) increase women's participation in field activities; 5) develop women's ability to participate in workers' organizations and committees; 6) examine the link between production cycles, gender pay gaps and living wages; and, 7) conduct a sector-wide and gender-neutral job evaluation of all activities on banana plantations in the world to ensure equal pay for work of equal value and to improve the balance in remuneration for packing in comparison to fieldwork.

Mr Monge expressed his support for the initiative and asked if it would be possible to carry out academic research to understand additional tasks that can be safely done by women and therefore yield a higher pay. He suggested that the WBF could identify key work areas where further female participation in field activities could be encouraged.

Ms Torres suggested that the results of the study could be segregated between unionized and non-unionized plantations, in order to have a clear picture of the influence of unionization on the gender pay gap. She then highlighted that, in Colombia, women workers earn the same as men in the same tasks and it is the difference of days and/or hours worked that contributes to the gender pay gap. She agreed with the previous comments made, that women workers should be allowed to carry out a wider range of tasks on the plantation to increase their wage. She finalized her intervention by stating that these recommendations should be used to develop practical activities on the ground, rather than remain simply within a written report.



Mr Marco Calvo (AUGURA) suggested that future studies should expand the scope of the sample, pointing out that Colombia has hundreds of banana plantations, and only two farms may not be enough to assess the situation adequately. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado noted the feedback from members, stating that the objective would indeed be to expand the scope of this study to other plantations in the future to enable greater representativeness of the industry. Ms Sally Smith concluded by stating that further details on this matter are also included in the report.

Mr Björn Willms (GIZ) then informed participants that GIZ Ecuador, in collaboration with German retailers, has recently finalised a study on living wages, which found that the gender pay gap between men and women workers is not as high as previously thought. He stressed that it would be best to carry out studies in all banana-producing countries to understand in more detail the size of the gender pay gap for women workers in the global industry. Mr Willms then asked if the double-burden of women workers was analysed in the gender pay gap study for Colombia, and if so, what results came from it. Ms Smith informed Mr Willms that the double-burden was discussed during the interviews, but not analysed fully.

Mr Jose Francisco Zúñiga (ASBAMA) suggested to analyse in detail all the activities carried out in a banana plantation and how many job applications are received from women for the different tasks. This would allow an evaluation of the activities favoured by both men and women and would feed into the analysis of the gender pay gap. Ms Smith noted the suggestion, stating that it would be important to also consider cultural norms and workplace culture to understand the type of activities typically oriented for male and female workers.

Decisions:

- Continue discussions within the GE-TF on how the recommendations of the gender pay gap study in Colombia can be supported, including extending the study to other plantations in Colombia as well as other countries to have a more representative sample in each country and to better understand the gender pay gaps in the global industry.
- Explore the possibility of conducting academic research to understand the additional tasks that can be safely done by women on plantations (including in the field) – which could enable a higher pay – as well as the challenges and barriers to women accessing and taking up those jobs.

Guidelines for the healthy and safe employment of women workers in the Latin American banana industry

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then discussed the BOHESI [Guidelines for the healthy and safe employment of women workers in the Latin American banana industry](#) (BOHESI gender guidelines), which was published in September 2022 and presented to WBF members in a [webinar](#) in October 2022.

She presented important feedback received and concerns raised recently by industry stakeholders, which includes that some of the information presented in the document tends to generalize or use language that suggests the multiplicity of events. This additional information not only seems to go beyond the scope and objectives of the document but may in effect portray a different message than is intended. Additionally, the wording of the text suggests mechanisms to be executed solely through trade unions, which ultimately does not consider that unions, as well as other forms of organization, are recognized in the laws of each country, and the organization and structure of these organizations is established in the respective regulatory frameworks. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then briefly presented some examples related to these concerns, which generally pertains to the text boxes which include information gathered from interviews with women leaders of COLSIBA.

She then opened the floor to members for their inputs and suggestions. Mr Monge commented positively on the publication of the guidelines but highlighted that unionization is not present in all plantations and the guidelines should therefore include worker committees and other forms of worker representation.

Ms Boincean then stressed that not all structures claiming to represent workers are legitimate, nor do they form under the progression of freedom of association and labour rights – such as the so-called “Yellow Unions”. In fact, she claimed that this is a way for companies to undermine freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining by refusing to negotiate with workers directly, citing worker’s committees as their representatives. She ended her intervention by cautioning against the inclusion of structures other than trade unions as representatives of workers as this may undermine workers’ rights.

Mr Wilbert Flinterman (Fairtrade International) mentioned that Fairtrade International aligns with the stance of the IUF, citing that the WBF needs to be clear in its commitment to create pathways towards collective bargaining through legitimate representations of workers under the legal framework of each country. He then cautioned that including certain worker representative structures may hinder the efforts towards collective bargaining and freedom of association for workers.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado stated that all comments and concerns raised were well noted and would be considered in the revision of the BOHESI gender guidelines. She ended the section by informing participants that further discussions on the matter will take place within the GE-TF and that if members are interested, they may participate in the forthcoming meetings of the Task Force.

Decisions:

- Proceed with a new revision of the document to identify possible solutions to the comments and concerns raised, and discuss next steps within the GE-TF.

11. Activities on occupational health and safety and child labour in the banana industry

BOHESI replication efforts

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado presented two proposals for the continuation and replication of BOHESI in various countries, noting that it is an opportune time to continue the important work on the topic of occupational health and safety (OHS) in the banana industry in light of the ILO's recent decision to include a "healthy and safe working environment" as a Fundamental Principle and Right at Work and the increasing shift towards mandatory social and environmental due diligence requirements.

She first provided a brief overview of the timeline of activities carried out in Ecuador under BOHESI since 2014. She then presented a proposal for the continuation of BOHESI in Ecuador, with proposed activities including: (1) a multi-stakeholder revision and updating of the BOHESI manual; (2) gender-sensitive health and safety trainings – using the manual and BOHESI gender guidelines – for company management and health and safety representatives, worker and trade union representatives, and government extension workers; and, (3) improving/establishing multi-stakeholder roundtables/commissions to strengthen dialogue on decent work aspects. Secondly, she also proposed replication activities in Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala, which would entail the adaptation of the BOHESI manual, along with similar activities as those proposed in Ecuador. She then informed members of the concrete interest expressed by at least four WBF members to replicate BOHESI in Colombia, and provided further details on the requirements to conduct replication activities in the country, such as the funds of approximately USD 320,000 as well as the two year duration needed to carry out the activities. She concluded by making a call to WBF members who would be interested in joining the efforts to replicate the initiative in Colombia.

Mr Peter Hurst commented positively on the proposals and asked for clarification on which version of the manual would be adapted. He further stated the need to have the Cameroon health and safety manual formally adopted by a multi-stakeholder process, which could then be used in further BOHESI activities in Latin America. Regarding the former, Ms Reinhardt Hurtado confirmed that the objective would be to begin work and discussions based on the latest revisions done for the health and safety manuals for Cameroon and Ghana.

Decisions:


- Support the continuation of BOHESI activities in Ecuador, Cameroon and Ghana, including a national multi-stakeholder consultation for the approval of the revised health and safety manual for Cameroon.
- Proceed with fundraising activities for the replication of BOHESI activities in Colombia.
- Continue exploring stakeholder interest and opportunities to replicate BOHESI in other banana producing countries.

Child labour prevention, protection and eradication in the banana industry

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado reminded members of the information presented on child labour during the SC22, where the WBF Secretariat discussed possible cooperation opportunities with the government of Ecuador aimed at preventing, protecting and eradicating child labour in the banana industry. This would form part of the additional activities and efforts conducted under BOHESI.

Ms Maria Daniela Peralta (Ministry of Labour of Ecuador) then reviewed the child labour situation in Ecuador, calling for an intensification of activities on the topic, as child labour has increased in Ecuador since the pandemic. Ms Peralta insisted that it is not simply a cultural issue, but one that comes about from a lack of basic services, not only in Ecuador but across the developing world. Technical assistance for the implementation of public policies in the agricultural sector and the support of large organizations such as FAO is key to achieve progress on child labour eradication efforts.

She then informed participants of a tool developed by the ILO and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to identify and combat child labour in specific areas and economic sectors in a given country, known as the Child Labor Risk Identification Model (MIRT, by its Spanish acronym). Ms Peralta highlighted the potential of this new model to inform public policies and adequately adjust them to be tailored



to local context and regions, as well as the numerous actors within each economic sector, which would ultimately allow for long-term solutions on specific child labour issues. She then outlined some of the causes affecting child labour rates, such as the various gender gaps (the gender pay gap in Ecuador stands at a 19% difference), violence and harassment towards women, and the double-burden of women workers. She also stressed that despite the good work carried out towards child labour eradication, the COVID-19 pandemic, absence of social services, and drop in school attendance, have again given rise to the number of child labour cases among medium and small sized producers.

Ms Peralta stated that, in Ecuador, children who work in the agricultural sector while continuing their studies have shown a decrease in their performance and results. She further highlighted that a 40% school drop-out rate was observed post-pandemic, as opposed to the 14% pre-pandemic.

Mr Peter Hurst pointed out the importance of recognizing hazardous child labour as a form of child labour and stressed that it would be important for the WBF to have access to the latest list of hazardous child labour identified in Ecuador, as mandated by ILO Convention 182 (C182) on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. He stated that this would facilitate a link between hazardous child labour and the health and safety work currently being carried out under BOHESI.

Ms Peralta informed participants that based on C182, Ecuador signed a ministerial agreement in 2015 with the aim of ensuring efforts to prevent, protect and eradicate hazardous child labour in 23 activities identified in various sectors and industries. She then stated that despite this action, it is not as simple as differentiating which activity is hazardous and which is not, but it is the conditions that enable hazardous work to be carried out that require our attention.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then added that one of the objectives of the work carried out under the continuation of BOHESI activities in Ecuador will be to target hazardous child labour and ensure decent youth employment, especially in small and medium-sized farms.

Ms Reinhardt Hurtado concluded the session by sharing information about a forthcoming workshop on child labour in the agriculture sector of Latin America and the Caribbean organized by FAO on 28 November 2022 and invited members of the SC interested in the topic to participate.

Decisions:


- Continue resource mobilization efforts for the proposed activities on the prevention, protection and eradication of child labour in the Ecuadorian agricultural sector, with a focus on the banana industry.

12. Creation of a WBF Commission for Smallholder Farmers

Mr Prada began by highlighting that 70% of banana producers globally are smallholder farmers, and they therefore play a significant role in the banana industry. Following interest from members and other industry actors and considering the European Green Deal presented in 2019, Mr Prada proposed the creation of a dedicated Commission for Smallholder Banana Farmers. The active participation of smallholders is crucial for the activities of the task force, in order to develop evidence-based solutions to their problems.

Mr Mattia Serrano Ferraro (FAO) then gave an overview of the consultation process that was undertaken by the WBF Secretariat for the creation of this Commission, explaining that numerous smallholder farmers associations/organizations — and organizations working in close collaboration with smallholders — were interviewed during the proposal creation for the task force, to ensure that the proposal is aligned with their priorities and needs. He then discussed the key challenges identified by smallholders during the initial consultations, namely: exponentially high costs of production, lack of support for sustainable production, certification demands, climate change impacts, accessibility to international markets, living wages and living incomes, and static prices for banana boxes. Additionally, he reported that smallholders are threatened by low visibility and value in the supply chain, barriers to fairer competitive conditions, limited capacities to negotiate for improved working conditions, current and forthcoming due diligence legislations, country specific challenges, the inability to attend in-person events, as well as a lower demand from certain markets.

Mr Lima then briefly mentioned the environmentally-related challenges identified by smallholders, such as Fusarium wilt Tropical Race 4 (TR4) and the lack of biosecurity strategies for small farms, occurrence of pests and diseases, pesticide use, climate change impacts, availability of water and fertilizers costs. Regarding economic aspects, Mr Prada explained that smallholders face high production costs, static banana prices, certification costs, logistical problems, and difficulty to access markets, land and finance. Ms Reinhardt Hurtado then discussed social challenges faced by small producers such as occupational health and safety issues, workplace violence and harassment, gender equity, child labour, collective bargaining, and living wages and living incomes.



Ms Marike De Pena (CLAC) further reviewed the situation faced by smallholders, particularly discussing the lack of visibility of smallholders and other specific challenges such as crop diversification and youth inclusion in the industry. She then stressed the need to develop training materials for smallholder associations as well as support smallholders in building their monitoring and compliance systems. She concluded by mentioning that as sustainability standards and costs of production increase, smaller banana producing operations will need the support of the entire supply chain to adapt successfully.

Decisions:

- Proceed with the creation of the Commission for Smallholder Farmers, ensuring a multi-stakeholder coordination of the group.
- Support the preparation of Smallholder Farmers Commission Workplan
- Coordinate the joint preparation of virtual meetings, agendas and exchange of information with Commission coordinators and members

13. Activities on the distribution of value and shared responsibility in the banana industry

Mr Prada discussed an event held at Fruit Attraction in Madrid in October 2022, which was organized by the LATAM Task Force with the support of the WBF Secretariat. The event discussed the expected consequences of the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDD) and the establishment of fair prices for the sustainable production of bananas. Two panels were held, with the participation of actors from across the supply chain, including from civil society, governments, retailers, and other public and private sector stakeholders. The role that greater shared responsibility could have in supporting the growth of the industry, if endorsed by all key players, prevailed throughout the debate. The agenda, event background information and recording may be found in the following page on the [WBF website](#).

Discussions held by Mr Prada with LATAM Task Force members led to the strengthening of their cooperation with the WBF and the establishment of a common agenda for the betterment of the banana industry in the region. Main agenda items will be: CSDD, living wages, shared responsibility, costs of sustainable production, maximum residue limits (MRL), agrochemical use, highly hazardous pesticides (HPP), agroecological practices and natural ecosystems, climate change adaptation and mitigation, plastic disposal, occupational health and safety, gender equity, traceability and blockchain utilization.

European retailers are increasingly under pressure to guarantee a fair and sustainable price for banana producers, particularly following the high-level meetings of political and commercial industry players. This situation translates into new purchasing practice models. The European Union representative reiterated the EU's interest in working even closer with Latin American countries on the Farm to Fork actions and foster a strong dialogue between all stakeholders with the support from multi-stakeholder platforms such as the WBF. Mr Prada discussed areas of cooperation on research and innovation with a Member of the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Agriculture.

Mr Prada then informed members on the ongoing development of a concept note to inform WBF members on the new European Union Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).


Decisions:

- Facilitate through regular updates and meetings an appropriate debate on: costs of production and margins, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, Living Wages Declaration, purchasing practices and shared responsibility.

14. Use of FAO or WBF name by members of the WBF

Mr Prada discussed the use of the FAO and/or WBF names and logos by members of the WBF, noting that WBF members have signed a Voluntary Contribution Agreement with FAO and that participation in the WBF does not constitute a formal partnership with the organization nor will members represent FAO under any circumstance - as noted in Article 2 of the agreement. He further highlighted Article 4, which notes that members agree not to use FAO's name or logo in any press release, memo, report or other published disclosure related to any project, without prior written agreement with FAO. Mr Prada stressed that this section affects every non-state actor including civil society organizations (CSO).

Mr Prada then highlighted Article 6 of the agreement which states that *communication by donors/members within the framework of the Voluntary Contribution Agreement should in no explicit or implicit way indicate any*



endorsement by FAO of the Donor commercial activities and products. Mr Prada highlighted that members could mention that they work with the WBF following prior agreement, but clarified that FAO cannot endorse the activities of any member organizations. He then discussed the new due diligence screening process for non-state actors which is now in effect and protects FAO against cases of conflict of interests. Mr Prada stressed that members cannot use the FAO and/or WBF logo and name for their own personal or corporate benefit and requested members to inform the WBF Secretariat of any possible violations by WBF members to the above-mentioned articles. The use of the WBF or FAO names to promote activities of a company or CSO without prior written consent by FAO constitutes misconduct. This situation would trigger a mandatory analysis of the situation by the relevant unit in FAO under FAO's newly established due diligence protocols and potentially the expulsion of the member from the WBF.

Ms Torres agreed with the statements made and Mr Calvo suggested that those non-member organizations that have used the FAO and/or WBF logo and name should be invited into the Forum. Mr Prada agreed with the suggestion but pointed out that the issues regarding the improper use of the FAO and/or WBF logo and name have been made by current members of the Forum.

Ms Boincean claimed that the WBF is an independent body and should therefore not be bound by FAO regulations. Mr Liu clarified that the WBF, as an organization hosted by FAO, is in fact bound by its rules, including for products and publications with WBF member contributions, which entails limitations in the use of the WBF logo. Mr Liu then suggested that future discussions on the topic could be held to clarify any additional queries and discuss how to increase the visibility of the WBF and members who collaborate on WBF's activities.

Mr Hidalgo commented positively on the remarks made by Mr Liu, stating that each activity should be analyzed on a case-by-case basis to discuss the protocols regarding the use of the FAO and/or WBF logo and name.

Decisions:

- Inform bilaterally WBF members at risk to use the FAO or WBF name and logo inappropriately.

15. Increasing participation and coordination of the WBF's Working Groups

Mr Smith gave a brief overview of the proposal prepared by Banana Link regarding the coordination of the WBF's working groups, which was shared with all SC members prior to the SC23 sessions. He noted the growing number of actors from all sectors who have joined the Forum, stating that there is representation from almost all the major fruit companies, and a large number of national producer organizations and retailers. He then highlighted that this increased participation has led to an increased multiplicity and complexity of the activities carried out under the different working groups.

He drew attention to the nomination process of working group coordinators and their responsibilities, stating that the working groups should be more agile while having a better alignment in all their activities. Mr Smith proposed to: set a minimum and maximum number of coordinators for each working group; develop a formal yet simple nomination and election process for coordinators; ensure a rotation of coordinators; and, develop a clear set of procedures for efficient agenda setting, meeting convening, meeting facilitation, interpretation services, and reporting. He then stressed the need to have at least a 40% representation/participation of women in the coordination of these working groups.

Mr Monge also suggested that a protocol be established to ensure that no sector dominates the coordination of any working groups. Mr Felix Strauss (ALDI SOUTH Group) also expressed his support for a greater variety of actors coordinating not only the working groups, but also the regional and national commissions. Mr Prada agreed with the suggestions made, stating that at least three constituents should be represented in the facilitation of the working groups.

Mr Liu then suggested that members provide written feedback and comments on Banana Link's proposal before it is discussed during the next meeting of the Advisory Board (AB). This would be followed by the SC24 where a final decision would be made on the WG coordination. Mr Prada highlighted that the main constraint to having strong coordination teams within the working groups is the lack of volunteers, as not all members have the time to participate in the coordination process. Mr Liu finished his intervention by inviting members to express their interest, if any, in being part of the coordination of the working groups.

Decisions:

- Request written feedback on Banana Link's proposal to SC members prior to the next AB call.

16. Administrative and financial matters

Mr Prada provided a brief update on the successful fee collection campaign for 2022. Mr Liu then thanked members for their contributions and presented the financial forecast report for 2022.

He then briefly presented a draft budget proposal for 2023, which assigns one third – USD 200,000 – for the organization and facilitation of the Fourth Global Conference. The rest of the budget is planned for the preparation of the meetings of the Steering Committee and Advisory Board, as well as the staff time of the WBF Secretariat, the support to the activities of working groups, and the travel sponsorship to WBF meetings – especially for CSO organizations and smallholders. Following this last point, Mr Smith mentioned Banana Link's proposal for the creation of a civil society participation fund. This fund would provide resources particularly to those in the global south who face many problems, such as travelling to events.

Mr Monge agreed with the creation of a fund but suggested that bigger companies and members could provide an independent annual contribution to expand the reach of the proposed fund.

Ms Lasme suggested that members read the proposal in full and provide feedback before a decision is taken. She then highlighted the risk of relying on larger companies who are already contributing to other initiatives and therefore proposed that only the funds already available to the WBF are used for this purpose. Mr Monge clarified that the contributions made by larger companies would be, in case of approval, entirely voluntary.

Decisions:

- Request written feedback on Banana Link's proposal to create of a civil society participation fund to SC members prior to the next SC meeting.

17. Next meetings of the WBF

Mr Prada informed SC23 attendees of the current plan for the WBF to participate in Fruit Logistica 2023. A proposal will be shared with relevant actors to explore its feasibility and interest of the activity. Mr Liu then discussed plans for the Fourth Global Conference of the WBF and expressed his hopes that the next Global Conference will be held in 2023. He noted that it has been five years since the previous Global Conference took place and that it would be beneficial, given that in-person meetings are now possible, that the next Global Conference be held in person. Mr Liu opened the floor to members for their suggestions on the possible dates for the event, keeping in mind other global events that may clash with the WBF global conference and considering that it takes around six months to organize the event appropriately. A consultation process will be launched by the Secretariat to define dates and venue taking into consideration in the first place the availability and interest of host countries.

Regarding the SC24, Mr Liu recommended that a Doodle be sent out to members, so that possible dates and locations can be voted on. Tesco again extended its offer to host the SC24 in the United Kingdom and the Secretariat expressed its gratitude for the offer.

Decisions:

- Organize bilateral calls with members participating in Fruit Logistica 2023 to explore possibilities to host the WBF in the fair.
- Prepare a proposal for WBF members regarding possible WBF sessions during the Fruit Logistica event.
- Follow up with SC members on suggestions of possible dates and location for the Fourth Global Conference in 2023 (e.g. October).
- Continue discussions with potential host governments – in particular Germany – for the organization of the Fourth Global Conference in 2023.
- Send communication to SC members with possible dates, meeting format and venues for the SC24 in May, including the consideration of Tesco's offer to host the next meeting in their headquarters in the UK.

18. Conclusions of Day 2

Mr Liu concluded the meeting by informing members that the draft report of the SC23 will be made available to all members and encouraged them to provide feedback and suggestions. He then thanked all of those involved in the session, including the speakers, participants, interpreters, technicians and the WBF Secretariat staff.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Twenty-Third Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC23)

23-24 November 2022

List of participants and observers of SC23

#	Organization / Organización / Organisation	Name / Nombre / Nom	Surname / Apellido / Nom	Participation/ Participación / Participation
1	AEBE	Agustin	Delgado	SC member
2	AEBE	Jose Antonio	Hidalgo	SC member
3	Afruibana	Albertine	Yange	Observer
4	Afruibana	Jean-François	Billot	Observer
5	Agroamerica	Javier	Aguirre	Observer
6	Agrofair	Luud	Clercx	SC member
7	ALDI South	Felix	Strauss	SC member
8	Anflocor	Benny	Corcolon	Observer
9	Anker Research Institute	Richard	Anker	Observer
10	Anker Research Institute	Martha	Anker	Observer
11	Anker Research Institute	Sally	Smith	Observer
12	APIB	Julio	Merida	Observer
13	Asbama	Carlos	Fergusson	Observer
14	Asbama	Jose Francisco	Zuñiga	SC member
15	Asbama	Julio	Reales	SC member
16	ASDA	Carrie	Worsley	Observer
17	Augura	Sebastian	Zapata	Observer
18	Augura	Emerson	Aguirre	Observer
19	Augura	Isabel	Yoshioka	Observer
20	Augura	Marco	Calvo	Observer
21	BAMA	Trude	Solvang	Observer
22	Chiquita Brands International Inc.	Andrew	Biles	SC member
23	CLAC Comercio Justo	Willy	Paredes	Observer
24	CLAC Comercio Justo	Marike	De Pena	Observer
25	COLEACP	Morag	Webb	SC member
26	Coliman Bananas	Angel	De La Cruz	Observer
27	COLSIBA	Adela	Torres	SC member
28	COLSIBA	Cesar	Guerra	Observer
29	Compagnie Fruitière	Christelle	Lasme	SC member
30	Compagnie Fruitière	Alain	Normand	Observer

31	CORBANA	Mariano	Jiménez Zeledón	SC member
32	Del Monte Fresh Produce Inc.	Ana	Cueva	Observer
33	Del Monte Fresh Produce Inc.	Ronald	Romero	Observer
34	Demeter	Clara	Behr	Observer
35	Demeter	Felix	Hubner	Observer
36	Dole	Xavier	Roussel	SC member
37	Dominican Republic	Patricia	Rodriguez	SC member
38	Equifruit	Jennie	Coleman	Observer
39	EUROBAN	Alistair	Smith	SC member
40	Fairtrade International	Silvia	Campos	SC member
41	Fairtrade International	Wilbert	Flinterman	SC member
42	FHIA	Victor	Gonzalez	Observer
43	Fyffes	Eimear	Lynch	SC member
44	Fyffes	Freddy	Salguero	SC member
45	Fyffes	Stella	Davis	SC member
46	Fyffes	Caoimhe	Buckley	SC member
47	Fyffes	Jon	Tugwell	SC member
48	Fyffes	Julie	Cournoyer	SC member
49	Fyffes	Carlos	Espinosa	SC member
50	Gestarse	Miguel	Vallejo	Observer
51	GIZ	Björn	Willms	SC member
52	GIZ / ABNB	Andrea	Bruestle	SC member
53	GIZ Colombia	Vivian	Rangel	Observer
54	Global Deal/OECD	Andrea	Marinucci	Observer
55	Global Nature Fund	Thomas	Schaefer	Observer
56	IPL	Tim	Brammer	SC member
57	IUF	Svetlana	Boincean	Observer
58	IUF	Peter	Hurst	Observer
59	IUF	Bert	Schouwenburg	Observer
60	JASAFRUT	Jorge Alex	Serrano	Observer
61	Ministry of Labour of Ecuador	Daniela	Peralta	Observer
62	Ministry of Labour of Ecuador	Paula	Meza	Observer
63	Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association	Stephen	Antig	Observer
64	Rainforest Alliance	Leonie	Haakshorst	SC member
65	Rewe Group	Florian	Schafer	SC member
66	Reybanpac	Paulo	Mello	SC member
67	Soilwise	Herman	Feil	Observer

68	Soilwise	Marco	Jansen	Observer
69	Solidaridad	Jeroen	Kroezen	SC member
70	Tesco	Edgar	Monge	SC member
71	Topco	Amy	Mihelich	Observer
72	University of Exeter	Daniel	Bebber	Observer
73	Vienna University of Business and Economics	Lorena	Baños Carrión	Observer
74	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Ina	Raible	Observer
75	Wageningen University and Research	Gert	Kema	SC member
76	We World	Margherita	Romanelli	Observer
77	FAO/IAEA	Cinthya	Zorrilla	FAO
78	FAO/NSP	Maged	Elkahky	FAO
79	FAO/RLC	Marcelo	Gamboa	FAO
80	FAO/ESP	Nozomi	Ide	FAO
81	FAO/EST	Pascal	Liu	FAO
82	FAO/EST	Victor	Prada	FAO
83	FAO/EST	Matheus	Lima	FAO
84	FAO/EST	Camila	Reinhardt Hurtado	FAO
85	FAO/EST	Mattia	Serrano Ferraro	FAO
86	FAO/EST	William	Butler	FAO
87	FAO/EST	David	Montealegre Morales	FAO
88	FAO/EST	Giuseppe	Bonavita	FAO
89	FAO/EST	Marlo	Rankin	FAO
90	FAO/EST	Sabine	Altendorf	FAO
91	FAO/EST	Eric Jesper	Karlsson	FAO
92	FAO/EST	Michael	Riggs	FAO