



**AKTIONSBÜNDNIS FÜR
NACHHALTIGE BANANEN**
ACTION ALLIANCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE BANANAS

Memorandum of Understanding of the Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas

The Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas (Aktionsbündnis für nachhaltige Bananen - ABNB) is a dialogue and action forum in Germany, in which commercial actors and importers, exporters and producers, consumer and non-governmental organizations, as well as, representatives of trade unions and government officials collaboratively work together, which are relevant for the German market.

Background

The ABNB was initiated under the name of Banana Forum in autumn 2014 by TransFair/ Fairtrade Germany. The Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) has supported from the beginning the design and implementation of the action alliance, acting since the fall of 2015 as a project secretariat. The ABNB is in the development phase, in the course of which decisions on the further development of the Alliance are taken in stakeholder workshops. In addition, working groups discuss detailed questions on mutually agreed topics;

these working groups are open to all stakeholders. This memorandum of understanding formulates the first fundamental objectives and entry requirements of the action alliance. The undersigned actors strive to promptly draw up a common framework for action with concrete content, guided by the objectives set out below. In addition, both the development of a common definition of sustainability in the banana sector and the formulation of the governance structure of the action alliance are to take place by the end of 2016.

—————→ **The following objectives and entry requirements are supported by all stakeholders. They serve as a basis for the further elaboration of a detailed framework for action in the ABNB, in which both details for the implementation process as well as action fields are set.**

Objectives of the Action Alliance for Sustainable Bananas

The overall objective of the action alliance for sustainable bananas is that, in the long term, all the bananas that are sold on the German market are produced sustainably throughout their value chain and thus promoting and respecting human rights and environmental protection. In concrete terms, wages or income of producers and workers are to be improved in vertical cooperation with partners in the value chain, as well as, the living and working conditions in the producing countries; in the long-term payment of at least living wages is sought, based on the calculation methods of the World Banana Forum or the Global ISEAL living wage coalition.

The protection of biodiversity and the diversity of varieties in production are to be increased and the environmental impact is to be reduced. Small farmers' organiza-

tions should be involved in long-term trade partnerships and be capable to meet the requirements of these partnerships. Sustainable production requires also cover reasonable costs for social and environmental standards: the banana producers are to be given enough economic space for sustainable production. Other objectives are the motivation of consumers through communication and education programs towards an increased appreciation of socially and environmentally sustainable banana and therefore sustainable patterns of consumption. Supply chains shall be transparent, so that each and everyone knows where and how bananas are produced.

The commitment of all stakeholders relies on the compliance of human rights, the ILO core labor standards and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the willing-

ness to reward improvements in growing financially. To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the signatories of the action alliance want to develop a framework for action, which targets at different points in the value chain, which combines the activities of companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), standard-setting organizations, trade unions and governments and which includes the following fields of action:

- a) In the producing countries: improving social, environmental and economic conditions of production with the involvement of the private sector, governments and NGOs in the producing countries
- b) In trade: strengthening the idea of stable trade relations and fair prices for all players along the value chain from producer to consumer

- c) In Germany: Improved appreciation of socially and environmentally sustainably produced bananas by consumers and motivating the consumers to reflect on the production of bananas; Influencing the policy framework (international)
- d) International: connection and interaction of ABNB the World Banana Forum (WBF)
- e) Emphasis on positive examples and knowledge sharing between stakeholders there to

The exchange between the actors involved solely serves to improve the social and environmental conditions of production and the increase in appreciation by the consumer. The Alliance for Sustainable bananas does not intend to restrict competition in the banana market.

Entry requirements for the exclusion of unacceptable practices

The members of the Coalition for Action recognize all of the following fundamental principles of international agreements in their business practices from the beginning of the signature and agree to respect these:

- Observance and promotion of the human rights and respect for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- Freedom of association and the right to join a union and to be represented in negotiations (Article 23, paragraph 4 UN Declaration of Human Rights; ILO 87 and ILO 98; Principle 3 of the UN Global Compact, European Social Charter Part II)
- Prevention of forced work and debt bondage (ILO 29 and ILO 105; Principle 4 UN Global Compact); Prevention of trafficking (Article 4 UN Declaration of Human Rights)
- Preventing the worst forms of child labor (ILO 182; Principle 5 UN Global Compact) and employment under the minimum age (ILO 138)
- Payment of equal salaries for equal work (ILO 100)
- Prevention of discrimination in the workplace due to race, skin color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin (ILO 111)
- Waiver of illegal forced eviction without adequate compensation (Commission on Human Rights: Resolution 2004/28, Prohibition of forced evictions; FAO Voluntary Guidelines for land use; International International Human Rights Law to adequately housing. E/CN.4/1994/20, para. 143 National Legislation of countries Costa Rica, Ecuador and Colombia contains passages about housing rights)
- Renouncement of pesticides that are listed in the Stockholm Declaration (POPS) or the Rotterdam Convention (PIC). Moreover, the actors want to work together to phase out in the medium-term the remaining highly hazardous pesticides according to the PAN HHP list.
- Ensuring occupational health and safety (ILO 155)
- Waiver of unfair trading practices (Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact; EU Green Paper on unfair commercial practices in B2B supply chain for food and non-food)
- Protection of forests, High Value Conservation Areas and conservation areas and preventing their degradation, and improved protection of biological diversity, the biosphere and the environment as a whole. (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The principles forest A / CONF.151/26 (Vol.III). Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). UN Resolution A/RES/62/98 Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, recently confirmed by the UN climate summit: New York Declaration on Forests in 2014, supported inter alia by Costa Rica, Colombia and Ecuador).
- Compliance with all legal requirements, for example, with respect to the minimum wages and prices as well as requirements regarding labor law and environmental protection.

Organisation, Name

Signature