

17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA17) OF RSPO MEMBERS

SUMMARY REPORT



2020

GA17 SUMMARY REPORT

The 17th General Assembly (GA17) of RSPO Members was held virtually on Wednesday,
25 November 2020 at 2000 hours (MYT).

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE AND E-VOTERS

SECTOR	ATTENDANCE ^[1]	E-VOTE	
		RESOLUTIONS	ELECTIONS
Oil Palm Growers	34	51	12 ^[2]
Processors and/or Traders	15	50	49
Consumer Goods Manufacturers	12	33	33
Retailers	6	12	12
Banks and Investors	3	11	11
Environmental or Conservation NGOs	8	23	23
Social or Development NGOs	8	7	7
TOTAL	86	187	147

NOTES

1. Ordinary member representation by a designated representative at the virtual GA17. The virtual GA17 has a total of 143 participants including 57 observers.
2. Representing the Oil Palm Growers - Rest of the World membership subsector.

RESULTS OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS	WEIGHTED VOTE RESULTS
<p>RESOLUTION GA17-1: To receive and adopt the Treasurer’s Report and the RSPO’s financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>For : 89.86</p> <hr/> <p>Against : 0.98</p> <hr/> <p>Abstain : 9.16</p> <hr/> <p>Approved</p>
<p>RESOLUTION GA17-2A: To accept the resignation of PricewaterhouseCoopers and to approve the appointment of Ernst and Young as the new auditors of RSPO.</p>	<p>For : 94.43</p> <hr/> <p>Against : 0.98</p> <hr/> <p>Abstain : 4.59</p> <hr/> <p>Approved</p>
<p>RESOLUTION GA17-2B: Resolution to amend the RSPO Statutes to formalise the new voting format, virtual General Assembly and other general amendments.</p>	<p>For : 93.22</p> <hr/> <p>Against : 3.26</p> <hr/> <p>Abstain : 3.52</p> <hr/> <p>Approved</p>

ELECTION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MEMBERSHIP SECTORS	ELECTED/APPROVED	
	PRINCIPAL	ALTERNATE
OIL PALM GROWERS		
Rest of the World Agrocaribe, represented by the principal Jose Roberto Montenegro Baide and the alternates Sander van den Ende (SIPEF Group), Audrey Lee Mei Fong (Olam International Limited), and John Clendon (Univanich Palm Oil Public Company Limited), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	Agrocaribe , Jose Roberto Montenegro Baide	Sander van den Ende (SIPEF) Audrey Lee (Olam International Limited) John Clendon (Univanich Palm Oil Public Company Limited)
Smallholders: FELDA's two-year term expires and is not available for re-election. No election was held for this seat.	Vacant	Vacant
PROCESSORS AND/OR TRADERS		
AAK AB, represented by the principal Tim Stephenson and the alternate Caroline Westerik-Sikking (AAK AB), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	AAK AB , Tim Stephenson	Caroline Westerik-Sikking (AAK AB)
CONSUMER GOODS MANUFACTURERS		
The Procter & Gamble Company, represented by the principal Lee Kuan-Chun, and the interim alternate Olivier Charrier (Ferrero Trading Lux S.A.), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. One other nomination was received from FMF Foods Limited, represented by the principal Daventi Naidu and the alternate Priya Puja Prasad (FMF Foods Limited).	The Procter & Gamble Company , Lee Kuan-Chun	Olivier Charrier (Ferrero Trading Lux S.A.)
RETAILERS		
Retailers' Palm Oil Group, represented by the principal Julian Walker-Palin, and the alternate Hugo Byrnes (Royal Ahold Delhaize NV), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	Retailer's Palm Oil Group , Julian Walker-Palin	Hugo Byrnes (Royal Ahold Delhaize NV)

ELECTION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS (CONTINUED)

MEMBERSHIP SECTORS	ELECTED/APPROVED	
	PRINCIPAL	ALTERNATE
BANKS AND INVESTORS		
Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A., represented by the principal Geraldine Lim and the alternate Martin van Vaals, the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A. , Geraldine Lim	Martin van Vaals, Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A
ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS		
WWF International, represented by the principal Michael Guindon and the alternate Harjinder Kler (HUTAN- Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	WWF International , Michael Guindon	Harjinder Kler (HUTAN- Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme)
The interim alternate Eleanor Spencer (Zoological Society of London (ZSL)) to the incumbent principal member Anne Rosenbarger (World Resources Institute) is up for approval by the General Assembly.	N/A	Eleanor Spencer (Zoological Society of London (ZSL))
SOCIAL NGOS		
Both ENDS, represented by the principal Paul Wolvekamp and the alternate Nursanna Marpaung (Federasi Serikat Buruh Kehutanan, Perkebunan dan Pertanian Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia (Hukatan)), the two-year term of which is expiring is available for re-election. There were no other nominations received.	Both ENDS , Paul Wolvekamp	Nursanna Marpaung, (Hukatan)

FULL LIST OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 2020/21

MEMBERSHIP SECTOR	PRINCIPAL	ALTERNATE
OIL PALM GROWERS Malaysia	MPOA , Dato' Carl Bek-Nielsen	Lee Kuan Yee (Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK))
OIL PALM GROWERS Indonesia	Golden Agri-Resources Ltd , Agus Purnomo	Mohamad Fadhil Hasan (PT Inti Indosawit Subur)
OIL PALM GROWERS Rest of the World	Agrocaribe , Jose Roberto Montenegro Baide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sander van den Ende (SIPEF Group) Audrey Lee Mei Fong (Olam International Limited) John Clendon (Univanich Palm Oil Public Company Limited)
OIL PALM GROWERS Smallholders	Vacant	Vacant
PROCESSORS AND/OR TRADERS	AAK AB , Tim Stephenson	Caroline Westerik-Sikking (AAK AB)
	Wilmar International Limited , Daphne Hameeteman	Olivier Tichit (Musim Mas Holdings Pte. Ltd.)
CONSUMER GOODS MANUFACTURERS	The Procter & Gamble Company , Lee Kuan-Chun	Olivier Charrier (Ferrero Trading Lux S.A.)
	Unilever , Petronella Wilhelmina Meekers	Martin Huxtable (Unilever)
RETAILERS	Retailers' Palm Oil Group , Julian Walker-Palin	Hugo John Byrnes (Royal Ahold Delhaize NV)
	Aeon Co., Ltd. , Kahori Miyake	Yumie Kawashima (Aeon Co., Ltd)
BANKS AND INVESTORS	Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A. , Geraldine Lim Sook Ching	Martin van Vaals (Coöperatieve Rabobank U.A.)
	Standard Chartered , Samantha Bramley	Roger Charles (Standard Chartered)
ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS	WWF International , Michael Robert Guindon	Harjinder Kler (HUTAN Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme)
	World Resource Institute (WRI) , Anne Rosenbarger	Eleanor Spencer, (Zoological Society of London (ZSL))
SOCIAL NGOS	Both ENDS , Paul Wolvekamp	Nursanna Marpaung (Hukatan)
	Forest Peoples Programme , Marcus Colchester	Madeleine Brasser (Oxfam International)

ANNEX 1

Summary of Question and Answer Session at the 17th General Assembly (GA17) of RSPO Members

QUESTION	NAME/ORGANISATION	RSPO'S RESPONSE
<p>1 How does RSPO balance the need for conserving the environment with the need for development and livelihoods when these two goals can very often be in direct conflict?</p>	<p>From several members of various sectors</p>	<p>The Co-Chair commented that new solutions are needed and the industry needs to look beyond its individual project site, with the broader landscape, jurisdiction, scale, etc. Development projects that are labelled for the purpose of improving livelihood should place communities in the driver's seat and empower them to make decisions on the processes and developments that they would like to see implemented. She added that the RSPO is challenging the industry to do all the above and to start thinking beyond the dichotomy by having integrated strategies for both development and conversation.</p>
<p>2 The overview of achievements presented by CEO-Designate did not show any achievements related to people's impact area. Does it mean that none has been achieved in that impact area? What would RSPO do to ensure a positive impact for communities, plantation workers, women, etc.?</p>	<p>Madeleine Brassier (Oxfam International)</p>	<p>The CEO-Designate explained that the video did not manage to show everything that took place in the past months and urged all the participants to read the full Impact Report, which has a dedicated section on achievements related to people.</p> <p>She then added that measuring social impacts is challenging and informed the participants that RSPO will be working closely with Social NGOs to measure impacts in this area.</p> <p>She highlighted that a recent study carried out in Indonesia found that RSPO certification does improve well-being and reduce poverty in market-based approach communities in Sumatra. Positive results are yet to be observed in subsistence-based communities in Kalimantan.</p>

QUESTION	NAME/ORGANISATION	RSPO'S RESPONSE
		<p>She added that inclusivity is a priority at RSPO and the organisation will continue to work to improve the well-being of communities. She is confident that there will be more impact reports on people in the future.</p>
<p>3 Why was there no election held for the smallholders' seat in the BoG, when this year has shown such progress in improving smallholders inclusion in RSPO?</p>	<p>Emma Scott (Fauna Flora International)</p>	<p>The CEO-Designate explained that there was no nomination received before the closing date for nomination. A nomination that did not meet the full criteria for the seat was received after the deadline. After a lengthy discussion with the Co-Chairs of the Smallholders Standing Committee and Board of Governors (BoG), it was decided that this important issue would be discussed at the next board meeting. Tim added that it is within the scope of the BoG to arrange for an appointment when the vacancy is available.</p>
<p>4 In your presentation you highlighted the challenges with labour and smallholders, and also with the ongoing challenges with CSPO uptake, which is still about 50%. What strategy will RSPO take to enhance the uptake and also to guide actions to address challenges on smallholders and labour?</p>	<p>Faizal Parish (Global Environment Centre, GEC)</p>	<p>The Co-Chair responded that to improve uptake, the RSPO must remain relevant and successful with shared objectives and common goals for all members. He added that, at the moment, this has not been achieved and growers are not motivated to join RSPO.</p> <p>He explained that uptake can be improved via shared responsibility and the key is to take ownership. He added that all members are encouraged to take ownership and do their part to stimulate the production of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) and focus on the uptake of CSPO.</p> <p>The Co-Chair commented that the oil palm smallholders contributed to about 50% of the total global palm oil and compared to other farmers they are better off and managed to lift themselves out of poverty.</p>

QUESTION	NAME/ORGANISATION	RSPO'S RESPONSE
		<p>To address challenges related to smallholders, he explained that RSPO could bring the smallholders into certification and introduce good agricultural practices that will improve yield and minimise the impact of clearing more land, thus putting less pressure on the ecology.</p> <p>This question was covered at the GA17. For the full response, please refer to section 8 of the Draft GA17 minutes.</p>
<p>5 Regarding the public response by RSPO to the Associated Press (AP) report on the violation of women's rights, how will RSPO revisit this issue in the coming months, with thoughts on preventive and remedial actions building on human rights defender mechanism and the work by RSPO gender subgroup for the adoption of guidance and scrutiny and sanction by the Assurance Standing Committee and RSPO grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>Paul Wolvekamp (Both ENDS)</p>	<p>The CEO-Designate commented that RSPO is very disturbed to read about the findings in the Associated Press article. She explained that the Secretariat has reached out to AP and asked if they could share more information for RSPO to follow-up with an investigation. Unfortunately, AP refused to share any evidence. She added that even without sufficient evidence from the AP, RSPO would still investigate and is currently monitoring the situation. The company assured that they will be conducting an immediate investigation against the allegations. The CEO-D also assured that the Secretariat will continue to follow-up and remain vigilant.</p>
<p>6 The main problem for independent smallholders is the high cost of certification. This will be even more difficult when it enters the replanting period because production will definitely drop drastically while operating costs remain and can even go up. My question is to what extent is the RSPO's role in solving this problem?</p>	<p>Yohanes Regen Saputro (Koperasi Unit Desa Tani Subur)</p>	<p>The Co-Chair explained that RSPO's role is to set certification standards and provide a platform for growers to adopt more sustainable practices. He commented that smallholders should embrace good agricultural practices to improve yield so that they can overcome the challenges faced during replanting period.</p> <p>Note: RSPO provides funds to support independent smallholders to achieve certification. Please visit our website for more information on RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF).</p>

QUESTION	NAME/ORGANISATION	RSPO'S RESPONSE
<p>7 Should RSPO make it mandatory for consumer goods manufacturers and retailers - the last stop before the end consumers - to cover 100% of their palm oil needs by Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) within five years of becoming a member? Similar to growers having to certify all their plantations within five years of becoming a member? This will address the call for increasing uptake.</p>	<p>Ben Vreeburg (Bunge Limited)</p>	<p>The topic of uptake is currently being addressed by the Shared Responsibility Working Group (SRWG). You may propose this to the representative of your constituency, or as a member of the SRWG, you can make this suggestion to the SRWG. If the SRWG members agree, they can bring this recommendation to the Board of Governors (BoG).</p>
<p>8 Why are there still many companies in Indonesia that do not have RSPO certification ?</p>	<p>I Ketut Sutrisno (Koperasi Unit Desa Mitra Bersama)</p>	<p>Not all plantation companies with operations in Indonesia are RSPO members. There are many reasons why they have not pursued RSPO certification, such as cost, the standard is too difficult to comply with, there is no pressure or demand from their buyers, or a combination of factors. Nevertheless, RSPO is committed to recruiting more companies in Indonesia to join us and pursue RSPO certification. We are in the process of developing country-specific strategies for producing countries and will work closely with our Indonesia-based members to encourage the production of certified sustainable palm oil.</p>
<p>9 Does RSPO have a post-COVID-19 strategy to help the sector build back better?</p>	<p>Faizal Parish (GEC)</p>	<p>Like all organisations, RSPO has also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and we have been working to adjust the impacted processes and procedures. At the same time, we have begun the process of revising our long-term strategic business plan, which will incorporate the current pandemic and what the future might look like if the status quo remains or if business conditions improve. RSPO will ensure that it is ready to support impacted members, communities, and stakeholders and help the industry emerge from the current challenges more sustainable and stronger.</p>

The RSPO is an international non-profit organisation formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

www.rspo.org



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

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