

Resolution 6c

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 12th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

19th of November 2015

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RSPO CODE OF CONDUCT TO INCLUDE GUIDELINES ON MEMBER'S CLAIMS

Submitted By: The Board of Governors of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
(Currently represented by: Unilever, Malaysian Palm Oil Association, PT. Agro Indomas *, WWF, Agropalma, Felda Global Ventures, Mondelez International, AAK, Marks and Spencer, Retailers' Palm Oil Group **, IOI Loders Croklaan, Rabobank, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Oxfam Novib, Both Ends, Conservation International)

** Represents the Indonesian Growers Caucus*

*** Aldi South Group, Asda, Boots UK, Coop (Switzerland), Coles, Delhaize Group, Federation of Migros Co-operatives, Kingfisher, Royal Ahold, Sainsbury's, Tesco, The Body Shop International, The Co-operative Food (UK) and Waitrose*

Background:

The proponents of this resolution recognize that there are examples of RSPO members who communicate negatively on Palm Oil, in a direct or indirect way, while failing to mention the existence and role of the RSPO to transform the palm oil industry, or who are mentioning the RSPO and their membership of the RSPO separately from their other claims on palm oil.

This is, in itself, is contravening the guidelines outlined by the new RSPO Rules on Market Communications and Claims, approved by the Board of Governors June 2015, which state that:

RSPO members shall avoid negative claims and seek to promote, and not to denigrate the aims and goals of RSPO, namely the production and use of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO).

Where a negative claims is defined as a "Claim which conflicts with the stated aims of the RSPO and/or implies that the removal of palm oil from a product is a preferable social or environmental sustainability outcome to the use of certified sustainable palm oil."

As such, this resolution proposes to make the necessary changes to the Code of Conduct for Members¹ to reflect such guidelines and further clarify the RSPO membership commitments to pursue sustainability for palm oil.

The proponents believe that as members of the RSPO, we are obliged to make it abundantly clear that the solution to unsustainable palm oil is indeed RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil. Unfortunately, the current situation in many of the aforementioned initiatives, is that this link to RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil is either unmentioned or muted. Such communication leads to, or reinforces, a message which undermines the goals of the RSPO.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

THAT an additional item be added to Article 1 of the Code of Conduct for Members. The new item will be item 1.4 as mentioned below:

1. Promotion and Commitment

1.4 *Members must not make claims which imply that the removal of palm oil from a product is a preferable social or environmental sustainability outcome to the use of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. Moreover, members shall seek to promote, and not to denigrate the aims and goals of RSPO, namely the production and use of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil.*

Contact Information:

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References:

¹ The current Code of Conduct for Members can be downloaded for review at <http://www.rspo.org/resources/key-documents/membership>