

FIRST GLOBAL COCOA FARMERS CONFERENCE ACCRA, DECLARATION

Released today the 27th September 2018, a Declaration document of the First edition Global Cocoa Farmers Conference (GCFC1), which took place on 26-27 September 2018, in Accra, Ghana. The GCFC1, which was organised by the International Cocoa Farmers Organization and Farmgate Cocoa Alliance, was attended by 400 participants, representing diverse stakeholders in the cocoa value chain.

We the Delegates, representing members of all relevant stakeholders and groups across the globe in the cocoa sector, such as: farmers, governments, traders, processors, chocolate manufacturers, civil society organizations, trade unions and many others, made it clear today, the 27-09-2018, that the cocoa sector will not and cannot continue with business as usual.

The First Global Cocoa Farmers Conference GCFC1 Declaration

We, the delegate representing diverse stakeholders in the cocoa value chain who attended the two days First Global Cocoa Farmers Conference on the 26 - 27 September 2018, at Alisa Hotel in Accra, Ghana, hereby unanimously Declared the following:

1. We affirm that International Cocoa Farmers Organization (ICCFO) participate in sector activities, such as, Policy and development initiatives at national and international level in the value chain.
2. We affirm that ICCFO have a space in policy formation as these policies directly affect our livelihoods.
3. We affirm that the cocoa sector defines and clarify roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and harmonizing service delivery.
4. We affirm the establishment of effective monitoring of sector activities to guarantee transparency and accountability or to restructure/reforming existing ones.
5. We recognize ICCFO as a significant contributor to the future of the cocoa economy.

6. We affirm that ICCFO participate in sector initiatives on climate change and deforestation, as it directly impacts lives of its members.
7. We affirm ICCFO engagement and participation in the development and implementation of all sustainability initiatives in the cocoa value chain.
8. We affirm that ICCFO be part and play a role at sector platforms on market, cocoa trade and contract bodies, and be part of exciting price fixing mechanisms.
9. We affirm that ICCFO is a signatory to all existing and future cocoa sector agreements and sustainability initiatives, such as the Global Cocoa Agreements and Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy.
10. We affirm that ICCFO is a signatory to the Cocoa and Forest initiative sector sustainability, Cocoa Action Program and other international sustainability and environmental platforms.

Conclusion

This declaration is in accordance with all international and national cocoa sector declarations, like the World Cocoa Conference (WCC) organized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), the Partnership Meeting, organized by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and all other cocoa sector required documents.

This will guarantee the atmosphere to make the sector more comprehensive and inclusive, paving the way for better collaboration and experience sharing among major stakeholders on the areas of policy, production of cocoa beans, trade and end products consumption.

This will go a long way to realize a cocoa sector where relevant stakeholders share responsibilities, so cocoa beans are produce and consume with the respect for people, business and the planet.

Recommendations

We the delegates, urge all stakeholders in the cocoa value chain to endorse this declaration and call on the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) to adopt and include this Declaration among other sector declarations, such as the World Cocoa Conference WCC and other sector binding declarations.