

Template for DISCO action plans

Subsectors 'Certification organization', 'Civil society', 'Service providers & knowledge institutes', and 'Government'

Instructions

To gather more quantitative insights in what individual signatories are contributing to the DISCO goals in the upcoming years and how the partnership is progressing jointly, the Steering Committee agreed that all signatories will develop and publish individual action plans. These action plans show how they are contributing to the DISCO goals in the upcoming 3 years (until end 2026), and:

- are based on the commitments from the [DISCO declaration](#);
- have a strong link with the indicators from the ISCO Reporting Framework;
- explain how the principles on procurement practices as laid down in the DISCO procurement practices position paper, are being implemented by DISCO signatories.

You are asked to fill below template and submit it by **30 June 2024 the latest** to the DISCO Secretariat: Mark de Waard, dewaard@idhtrade.org and Lisa Graepel, graepel@idhtrade.org.

After submission, all DISCO action plans will be published on the DISCO website. The DISCO Secretariat will analyse and summarise the action plans. The outcomes of this analysis will be shared and discussed during the annual General Assembly at the end of 2024.

For more guidance on defining the actions around the three impact themes, it is recommended to consult the DISCO Roadmaps on [living income](#), [deforestation and forest degradation](#), and [child labour](#). For more information on the quantitative targets, the definitions and usage of the indicators, please consult the [ISCO Reporting Framework](#).

All action plans will cover the period 2024-2026. The quantitative targets **track progress cumulatively until the end of 2026, including what's already been achieved**. Progressive targets with intermediate milestones could also be included. It is also requested to give a brief qualitative description. Where needed, references to a more comprehensive description of the strategy could be included.

General information

Government – Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

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Plans on DISCO ambitions to enable living incomes

Contribution to closing living income gaps

Describe in max. 200 words what your organizations' plans are to contribute to the partnership's goals on closing living income gaps.

The Dutch government wants to leverage the Dutch position in the cacao value chain for large scale sector transformation that recognizes the complexity of the root causes of the sector's challenges. The subsector government is therefore committed to contribute to the DISCO ambitions on an overall strategic level, as well as on an operational level focusing on the three impact goals.

For that reason, the government is committed to strengthen the DISCO partnership in general. In this regard, the government is financing the DISCO secretariat through their partnership with IDH and is representing the partnership in international fora like the ICCO, the EU, etc. The government is committed to strategically position DISCO in these international fora and in production countries through its diplomatic representation. The Dutch government is flexible in when it needs to take additional action when the DISCO partnership is not making (enough) progress. In this regard, the Dutch government (together with the DISCO secretariat) has in 2023-2024 taken the lead in the development of the DISCO procurement practices position paper. Specifically on the DISCO procurement practices position paper, the government is committed to extend the scope of the paper, involving other EU member states with an ISCO.

Furthermore, the government has specific expertise and policies on living income, child labour and deforestation, which the government tries to use to advance the work of DISCO.

Considering living income, the government is advancing living wages/incomes through three tracks: (international) agenda setting, support for a good implementation of living wage/income in RBC/due diligence legislation (CSDDD), and implementation through partnerships. Some concrete activities:

- The Dutch government was an expert in the ILO tripartite expert meeting on wage policies, including living wage (February 2024). This resulted in the adoption of conclusions on living wage, including a definition, principles for calculating LW estimates, and principles on implementing LW. It also includes a clear mandate for the ILO on next steps. The Dutch government will support the next steps that follow from these conclusions, for example by updating the ILO methodology on calculating living wage estimates (including determining a decent standard of living), and calculating economic factors that influence the payment of a living wage. These developments also have relevance for the living income discussion, the ILO will also take a role in this.
- The Dutch government has used and is still using its diplomatic means to anchor living wage/income in the CSDDD, EUDR and other upcoming EU due diligence legislation.
- The Dutch government will, together with other like-minded countries (Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg; the signatories of the Joint Declaration on LW/I), give support to the EU Commission to develop guidance on LW/I in the implementation process of the CSDDD. The objective is to make sure the guidance is in line with existing guidance and experiences on LW/I, and give clarity to businesses and other stakeholders in implementing LW/I in their due diligence. The like-minded group will also support the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Supply Chains, to make sure the helpdesk will include information and examples of LW/I.
- The Dutch government is involved in developing a OECD guidance to help companies identify and prevent living wage and income risks in their value chains, through effective implementation of OECD risk-based due diligence. The guidance focuses on the agriculture and clothing and footwear sectors. The guidance will be published in Q3 2024.
- The Dutch government finances the work of IDH and other implementing partners (like trade unions, Solidaridad, RVO) on living wage/income.
- The Dutch government finances the ILO program 'Setting Adequate Wages':
 - Indicators and methodologies for wage setting.
 - Budget: 5,000,000 USD/4,930,752 EUR.
 - Start date: 01/10/2022; end date: 30-09-2026 (48 months).
 - The project will be implemented in four pilot countries: India, Ivory Coast (cocoa link), Vietnam and Costa Rica. It focuses on influencing wage policies to include reference to living wages, and by supporting governments to calculate living wages in the country.

Substantiate this by setting a quantitative target on (one of) the following indicators:

- *Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for living income gap closure in supply chains by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around living income in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of living income strategies by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of policies around living income influenced by the end of 2026*

Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for living income gap closure in supply chains by the end of 2026

- OECD guidance (October 2024).
- Update ILO methodology on LW estimates (December 2024).

Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around living income in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026

- The Dutch government will try to be involved in all relevant partnerships/coalitions around living income in cocoa producing countries.
- The Dutch government is actively leading a cocoa coalition in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire through its diplomatic representation.

Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of living income strategies by the end of 2026

- This will specifically be done through our partners, like IDH, RVO/SPVO, Solidaridad, FairFood, etc.
- The Dutch government has various funds (like Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business – SPVO) that are open for companies in order to help them with the implementation of living income strategies. However, it is the responsibility of the companies to apply for these funds.

Total # of policies around living income influenced by the end of 2026

- Through (international) agenda setting and the Declaration of Living Wage/Income (with the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg as signatories), the Dutch government tries to influence all relevant policies around living income/wage on the national as well as regional (like EU policies) and international level (UN), with a special focus on the 4 countries of SAW project.

Plans on DISCO ambitions to end deforestation and forest degradation

Contribution to end deforestation and forest degradation

Describe in max. 200 words what your organizations' plans are to contribute to the partnership's goals on ending deforestation and forest degradation.

The Dutch government contributes to stopping deforestation worldwide by 2030 by influencing policy within the EU and in international forums, stimulating sustainable agriculture and trade, and innovative financing.

The government promised in 2023 to double the Dutch commitment to forest conservation in the coming years, from 25 million per year to 50 million in 2025. One of the tracks of the policy commitment on this issue is stimulating deforestation-free agricultural commodity chains in the EU context. In this way, we can reduce our footprint and make it more sustainable. Over the past year, negotiations were held within the EU on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) as an instrument to achieve this goal. The regulation obliges traders and market participants who place or export products (soy, oil palm, beef, cocoa, coffee, timber and rubber) on the EU market for the first time to demonstrate that these products are free of deforestation and legally produced. Companies must comply with this obligation by means of a due diligence and by providing geolocation coordinates to prove where products were produced.

The EUDR has been adopted and is already implemented in national law in the Netherlands. The competent authority has been appointed and is ready to enforce the EUDR. The Dutch government is using various means to ensure the directive is able to deliver on its promise. For example, together with the attaché network of LVVN (LAN) and the competent authority, the Dutch government shows what companies can expect from the Netherlands in regards to the EUDR. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supports the Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free supply chains with €20 million. This TEI functions as the main platform for EU cooperation with third countries in regards to the EUDR. The Dutch government will support research to provide insight into the possibility of extending the scope to other ecosystems. Lastly, the LAN together with the MFA, is involved in bilateral projects and work focusing on sustainability in the supply chains.

Substantiate this by setting a quantitative target on (one of) the following indicators:

- *Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for forest protection in supply chains by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around forest protection in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of forest protection strategies by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of policies around forest protection influenced by the end of 2026*

Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for forest protection in supply chains by the end of 2026

- Studies on the implementation and effect of the EUDR will be developed in the upcoming years (2024-2025)
- The Dutch government will support research to provide insight into the possibility of extending the scope to other ecosystems.

Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around forest protection in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Deforestation-free supply chains with €20 million. This TEI functions as the main platform for EU cooperation with third countries in regards to the EUDR.

Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of forest protection strategies by the end of 2026

- This will specifically be done through our partners, like IDH, RVO/SPVO, Solidaridad, FairFood, Tropenbos, etc.
- The Dutch government has various funds that are open for companies in order to help them with the implementation of deforestation strategies. However, it is the responsibility of the companies to apply for these funds.

Total # of policies around forest protection influenced by the end of 2026

- Through (international) agenda setting and the accompanying measures that will be developed within the framework on EU cooperation with third countries in regards to the EUDR, the Netherlands tries to influence all relevant policies around forest protection.

Plans on DISCO ambitions to end child labour

Contribution to end child labour

Describe in max. 200 words what your organizations' plans are to contribute to the partnership's goals on ending child labour.

The Netherlands has a long history in combating child labour globally. We use diplomatic channels to advocate for solving the problem with urgency, i.e. through multilateral organizations (e.g. International Labour Organization (ILO) and Alliance 8.7). And we work on multi-stakeholder initiatives with production countries, companies and CSOs to develop solutions and best practices to address child labour in value chains. For example:

- We strongly **support the Alliance 8.7**, which is a multistakeholder international platform aimed at accelerating efforts in combatting child labour and reaching SDG 8.7. The Netherlands is part of Alliance 8.7 as a Pathfinder Country since 2021.
- We support companies to find and implement sustainable solutions through the **Subsidy Programme for Responsible Business (SPVO: 24.5 mln euro, 2023-2028)**, implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). Companies, together with their producers and suppliers in production countries and CSOs, can apply for a subsidy to avoid and address negative social risks¹ in their value chain.
- We support governments and social partners in 6 African countries through the ILO ACCEL Africa project (**Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa: 25 mln euro for phase 1 (2018-2024); 28.5 mln euro phase 2 (2023-2028)**). ILO works with these governments to improve regulatory frameworks and to strengthen systems, such as labour inspection, to prevent child labour. Multinationals and companies in the value chain are also involved in the project. In Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, the focus is (amongst others) on the cacao value chain.
- We use the experience from our work with partners, and the input from and engagement with production countries, to increase the knowledge base on what is needed to eliminate child labour from international value chains, and in general. We use this knowledge to **inform policy discussion**, for example concerning the CSDDD. This information is also shared through the **EU helpdesk** for companies/suppliers from production countries, through the Team Europe Initiative Sustainability in global value chains.

Substantiate this by setting a quantitative target on (one of) the following indicators:

- *Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for ending child labour in supply chains by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around ending child labour in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of ending child labour strategies by the end of 2026*
- *Total # of policies around child labour influenced by the end of 2026*

Total # of publications (evaluations, analyses, studies, etc.) on effective approaches for ending child labour in supply chains by the end of 2026

- Through the different programs, especially the ILO Accel Africa project and SPVO (see above), we expect to deliver several relevant publications (no quantitative target). For example through the knowledge & learning agenda that is part of the SPVO. An example is [this report on insights into business-oriented interventions addressing child labour in global value chains](#) published by the Fund against Child Labour (predecessor of SPVO).

Total # of partnerships/coalitions actively involved in around ending child labour in cocoa producing countries by the end of 2026

- The programs are also expected to lead to several multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as PPP's. An example is a partnership with Tony's Chocolonely and Beyond Beans on the extension of health insurance in Côte d'Ivoire, which came into being as part of the ILO Accel Africa project.

Total # of supply chain partners supported (technically, financially, or through pilots) in the implementation of ending child labour strategies by the end of 2026

- Many supply chain partners are supported, such as cooperatives as well as employers and workers' organizations. There is no quantitative target.
- This will specifically be done through our partners, like IDH, RVO/SPVO, Solidaridad, FairFood, Unicef, etc.

Total # of policies around child labour influenced by the end of 2026

- The ILO Accel Africa project also specifically aims to improve laws and policies, as well as its implementation, to address child labour. In Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, the focus is (amongst others) on the cacao value chain.