

Members of the Governments of the EU Member states
Head of Presidency of the Council, President Emmanuel Macron
Members of the European Parliament,

We approach you on behalf of 1.9 million Fairtrade farmers and workers working in agricultural supply chains across the world. **Supported by companies working with Fairtrade, we call upon you to put people's rights and environmental sustainability at the core of the proposed due diligence legislation.**

Millions of people consume our food and other essential products daily, from cocoa, banana and coffee to the cotton in their clothing. Unfortunately, there are still gross historical human rights violations in these supply chains that relentlessly affect our communities, such as:

- Low incomes and wages keep farmers' and workers' living standards low and result in food insecurity, limited educational opportunities, and poor access to health care;
- Child labour is fueled by families' poverty and lack of access to quality education for children and youth, denying them the opportunity to break out of the poverty cycle;
- Women often face violence and harassment at workplace, are overrepresented in the lowest-paying tasks and underrepresented in decision making, and;
- Careless overuse of hazardous chemicals causes irremediable health problems, pollution of waterways and destruction of biodiversity.

The COVID-19 crisis and climate change are exacerbating our challenges. European due diligence legislation is sorely needed. However, the impact will depend on the content and implementation of such legislation. **We need companies to work with us in addressing and remediating human rights and environmental violations.**

Dialogue with the people impacted by business is a fundamental principle in human rights and environmental due diligence. We, as rights holders, want our voices heard.

We call upon you to implement impactful European legislation on human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) that ensures that companies:

- Conduct due diligence on their **whole value chains**, since violations often take place at the beginning of supply chains;
- **Invest in and share the cost of compliance** proportionally and fairly along the entire supply chain, not putting more pressure on farmers and workers without the resources to improve the situation and take necessary actions;
- Assess existing business practices and shift to fair **trading and purchasing practices**, such as long-term commitments and fair pricing policies that enable living incomes and wages and greater predictability for producer organizations;
- Address the most serious human rights and environmental issues rather than abandon or avoid high-risk sourcing areas ('**cut and run**') as soon as their suppliers face human rights or environmental challenges;
- Recognize and act on **living wages, living incomes**, freedom of association and collective bargaining as indivisible human rights which are indispensable steps in human rights and environmental protection and promotion;
- Have **meaningful dialogue** with farmers, workers and other rights holders at every step of their due diligence process, working together in a participatory and bottom-up approach.

This legislation will only have been implemented correctly if it has meaningful impact in improving the lives of rights holders, including farmers and workers, rather than creating additional harm. We therefore appeal to you to seize this moment and to listen to our voices and invite us to any upcoming stakeholder dialogues, negotiations or consultations.