

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT OF FAIRTRADE STANDARDS SHORT SUMMARY

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Audience: Fairtrade stakeholders

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FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL



Development of Fairtrade Standards – Short summary

Fairtrade International develops Producer Standards for different categories of producers, a Trader Standard and Product Standards. These Fairtrade Standards are the collective requirements that producers and traders must meet, as applicable, to be certified as Fairtrade. Standards & Pricing of Fairtrade International develops Fairtrade Standards in compliance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Definition of project scope, planning

Fairtrade International may internally identify the need for a standard project, but stakeholders may also submit a standard project request. A standard project can be to develop a new standard or to revise an existing standard. Any project starts with drafting a project assignment, which summarizes the terms of references of the project. The project assignment is placed on the Fairtrade International website (www.fairtrade.net) to give all stakeholders (including the public) the opportunity to comment on it. Based on the comments, the project assignment can still be modified before it becomes final.

Research

After the planning phase, the assigned project manager from Standards and Pricing conducts a research. The project manager may involve stakeholders in the research as needed to develop a draft standard.

Consultation

The draft standard is sent to the identified stakeholders for feedback. Those stakeholders include usually producers, producer networks, suppliers, retailers, other units within Fairtrade International, FLOCERT and national Fairtrade Organizations. The draft standard is also posted on the Fairtrade International website. The public consultation phase is of at least one round of 30 days for minor projects and 60 days for major projects with a second round of at least 30 days for new standards. It may be reduced in case of an urgent revision.

Approval and publication

Standards need to be approved by the Fairtrade Standards Committee which is a stakeholder committee of producers, traders, national Fairtrade organizations and external experts. Minor decisions can also be delegated to the Director of Standards and Pricing.

Review and complaints

Standards are reviewed at least every five years. Stakeholders can complain against the setting of a Fairtrade Standard following the Standard Operating Procedures for complaints against Fairtrade Standards setting.

