



**JOINT STATEMENT**  
***for immediate release***

Abidjan and Accra, Monday 21 November 2022

**Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI) Calls on Companies for Immediate Action while Committing to Joint Efforts to Develop Everlasting Price Mechanism**

Following a November 8, 2022, statement in which Le Conseil du Café-Cacao (CCC), with the support of the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI) and the Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod), invited the cocoa and chocolate industry to plan for the effective resumption of purchases in accordance with their commitments, on Friday, November 18, 2022, the CIGCI together with its member countries met with companies in the chocolate and cocoa sector to take stock of the current situation.

On this occasion, the Executive Secretary of the CIGCI, Mr. Alex ASSANVO, the Director General of the CCC, Mr. KONÉ Brahim Yves, and the Managing Director of the Cocoa Marketing Company, Mr. Vincent AKOMEAH representing the Chief Executive of Cocobod, Honorable Joseph Boahen AIDOO, noted the efforts made by certain companies and their desire to jointly find solutions for sustainable cocoa production that places farmers at the heart of this strategy.

The CIGCI, the CCC and the Cocobod insist on the need to work together for a more tangible, concrete actions on the part of all stakeholders in the cocoa value chain so farmers are not the only ones to bear the costs in a difficult economic climate.

Indeed, a failure by the industry to show greater commitment to buying trends will have an extremely negative impact on the lives of millions of small-scale cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, for whom cocoa farming is the only subsistence income they have.

Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana have therefore reiterated the need for companies in the cocoa industry to respect the implementation of the Living Income Differential (LID), to guarantee a sustainable income for farmers in the two countries.



At the end of this meeting with the industry, the CIGCI, the CCC and the Cocobod, noting the cocoa purchasing efforts by applying the LID and a positive country origin differential of certain companies, encourage all companies to act and show they sincerely believe in sustainable cocoa production.

To this end, under the auspices of the CIGCI, a working group of experts composed of representatives of member countries and cocoa sector stakeholders has been set up to study solutions to better resolve certain problems and to guarantee a sustainable price mechanism in the long term. The CIGCI, CCC and Cocobod expects the group to provide recommendations by the first quarter of 2023 and reaffirmed its stance on the importance of all stakeholders engaging transparently to find a lasting solution.

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