

UNFSS | United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards LAUNCHING CONFERENCE

A Platform of International Dialogue on Voluntary Sustainability Standards

UNFSS Mission Statement: The UNFSS is a platform created to provide information and analysis on voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) with a particular focus on the potential value of VSS as tools for developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals. Key decision-makers from governments and the private sector in developing countries should be sufficiently informed about the strategic importance and main policy requirements of VSS in order to develop proactive strategies that maximize the developmental contribution and export market access benefits of those standards, while reducing their potential negative impacts.

Launch Event Theme: Policy Making and Sustainability Standards: How can governments and private sector work together to achieve sustainable development goals?

Agenda

March 21st (Day 1)

Morning

Opening Session and High Level Panel Discussion on VSSs. Chaired by UNCTAD

9:30 - 10:15

Opening Session:

- Opening by Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD on behalf of all UNFSS partner organizations
- Statement on behalf of UNFSS partner organizations: Patricia Francis, Executive Director, ITC
- Statement by Carlos Perez del Castillo, Chair of Advisory Panel UNFSS
- Presentation: Objectives and challenges of UNFSS by Ulrich Hoffman (Senior Trade Policy Advisor, UNCTAD, UNFSS Steering Committee)

10:15 - 11:45

Multi-stakeholder facilitated discussion: How to make voluntary sustainability standards work to achieve public sustainability goals?

Panellists:

- Fernando Rojas, Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru
- Salvador S. Salacup, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines, Chair of Asean Task Force on Horticultural and Food Product Standards
- Yi Xiaozhun, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of PR China to the WTO
- Joakim Reiter, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO
- Dr. Daniela Büchel, Head, Corporate

Responsibility, REWE Group

- Karin Kreider, Executive Director, ISEAL Alliance
- Musa Muwanga, CEO, National Organic Movement of Uganda
- Bjarne Pedersen, Global Director, Consumers International

Facilitator: Gunnar Rundgren (CEO, Grolink Consultancy)

11:45 - 12:30

Questions and Answers

12:30 - 12:45

Conclusions of high-level session

By Carlos Perez del Castillo

12:45 - 14:15 **Lunch break**

Afternoon

14:15 - 18:00

Interactive discussions and presentations

14:15 - 14:30

Governmental interests and information needs

Chaired by FAO

14:30 - 15:15

Nexus between regulatory and private standards: discussion on governmental concerns, Introduced and chaired by FAO and jointly presented with UNEP, followed by discussion.

15:15 - 16:00

Identifying information needs and concerns: facilitated plenary session: discussion on governmental concerns.

Introduced and chaired by ITC, Discussion

facilitated by Matthew-Wenban Smith (Director,

OneWorldStandards), followed by discussion.

16:00 - 16:45

Impact Assessment: state of sustainability measurement. Introduced and chaired by Daniele Giovannucci (CEO, Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA), followed by discussion.

16:45 - 18:00

Parallel sessions (working groups). Chaired by UNEP

• 16.45 - 18.00

Decision-making processes and draft decision making tool. Introduced by Bill Vorley (Principal researcher, Sustainable Markets Group – International Institute for Environment and Development – IIED), followed by discussion. Conference room XVIII

• 16.45 - 18.00

Capacity needs and needs assessment Introduced by Chris Wunderlich (Coordinator-Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network, SCAN) and Bernardo Calzadilla Sarmiento (UNIDO), followed by discussion. Conference room 10 -14 to 10 -16 on 1st floor

• 16.45 - 18.00

Harmonization and equivalence of VSS Introduced by Diane Bowen (IFOAM and former coordinator of the FAO-UNCTAD-IFOAM project on global organic market access, GOMA), followed by discussion. Conference room XXV

18:00 - 20:00

Cocktail at delegates' restaurant (top floor above Assembly Hall in old part of Palais)

March 22nd (Day 2)

9.30 - 11.00

Information needs. Chaired by UNIDO

• 9:30 - 9:45

Review of first day and presentation of working group results on decision-making tool; capacity needs; harmonization and equivalence

• 9:45 - 10:30

Presentation and discussion of flagship report and discussion papers

Introduced by Matthew Wenban-Smith (Director,

OneWorldStandards)

• 10:30 -11:00

Presentation and discussion of Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) database (ITC) Introduced by Joseph Wozniak (ITC)

11:00 - 13:00

Identifying priority issues and UNFSS next steps

Chaired by Carlos Perez del Castillo (Chair of the UNFSS Advisory Panel)

• 11:00 - 11:30

UNFSS Advisory Panel (AP) recommended activities

and work plan. Introduced and chaired by Carlos Perez del Castillo (AP Chair)

• 11:30 - 12:45

Discussion on priority issues and activities

• 12:45 - 13:00

Summary and next steps. Introduced by Ulrich Hoffmann, UNFSS coordinator at UNCTAD

13:00 - 13:15

Conclusion. Short statements by UNFSS partner organizations

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