Standards Committee
Minutes
Meeting 123: 14-15 July

SC members: Stijn Decoene (Chair), Emilie Sarrazin (Vice-Chair), Ben Huyghe, Gustavo Lopez, Silvia Herrera Hernández, Kalindi Lorenzo, Arun Ambatipudi and Nicholas Kadiri Observers: Fairtrade International and FLOCERT staff members have permanent observer status. Other Observers: We do not display the full names of observers and contributing observers to comply with 'The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[1]'. If you need additional information about the observers or contributing observers of this meeting, please contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net
Disclaimer: The Fairtrade International Standards Committee (SC) aims to reach consensus, but decisions may not always reflect the opinions of all people. The section to introduce the topic (background information) has been written by the Standards & Pricing and may not have been discussed by the SC in full. Sections listing action points are an outcome of discussions of the SC but are not part of the decisions made.
Abbreviations CEO Chief Executive Officer CLAC The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fairtrade Small Producers and Workers CoE Centre of Excellence COSP Cost of Sustainable Production DRC The Democratic Republic of the Congo EC Exceptions Committee EMT Executive Management Team FET Fairtrade Executive Team FTO Fairtrade Organizations FI Fairtrade International FMP Fairtrade Minimum Price FOB Free on Board FP Fairtrade Premium FPC Fairtrade Premium Committee FSI Fairtrade Sourcing Ingredient FBW Fairtrade Base Wage GA General Assembly GOTS Global Organic Textile Standard

[1] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj

GPM	Global Product Manager
GPPP	Global Products, Programs & Policy
HL	Hired Labour
HML	Hazardous Materials List
HOC	Head of Oversight and Compliance
HREDD	Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence
IDH	The Sustainable Trade Initiative
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LB	Licensing Bodies
LI	Living Income
LIRP	Living Income Reference Price
LW	Living Wage
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
NAPP	Network of Asia & Pacific Producers
NEM	New Economic Mechanism
OC	Oversight Committee
O2B	Offer to Business
PC	People's Committee
PB	Producer Body
PEB	Producer Executive Body
PM	Project Manager
PN	Producer Networks
PT	Project Team
SA	Senior Advisor
S&P	Standards and Pricing Unit
SC	Standards Committee
SM	Salary Matrix
SOP	Standards Operating Procedure
SPO	Small-scale Producer Organizations
ToR	Terms of Reference
WRAC	Workers Rights Advisory Committee

<u>Item 1 – Opening</u>

Agenda: The SC Chair opened the meeting, consent to record was provided by SC members, ground rules shared and the agenda was presented and approved.

Declaration of conflict of interests: Two SC members declared conflict of interest on the topic for decision on the revised coffee prices.

Item 2 – News session

News from the FI

- Programmes: Global Product Programmes developed and launched (Q3)
- Standards: Advancing Living Income, Conflict Affected Areas, North to North
- Consultation: Livelihood add on standard; Standards Evolution project; Data Sharing
- Labels: North to North, Textile, Living Income Programmes
- Empowering Consumer regulation implementation readiness: Transfer of Assets from FLOCERT; Certification Scheme and Fairtrace; transition of Scheme Oversight, changes in FLOCERT governance (*GmbH to AG*), and operations
- FI Remediation Policy approved at GA

Conflict Affected Areas:

The Conflict Affected Areas Standard first draft has been completed and is currently undergoing revision. The document was developed by MHF on behalf of FI; it will be reviewed by FI Standards Unit and will be prepared for submission to the Standards Committee.

Discussion:

Timing of the project is an issue so that organizations will not lose their certification; this will be considered.

N2N/ North to North standards

Standards of development is progressing on the basis of prior consultation conducted by three NFOs. A robust, cost-effective oversight mechanism is being established to ensure credibility across all certifying bodies participating in the North-to-North scheme. The governance of the North-to-North Standard may sit outside the existing Standards Committee (SC) structure, with a dedicated body being established to oversee Standard and scheme-specific decisions. This body may be a subcommittee of the SC, or a separate advisory committee, ideally composed of 1-2 actual members of the SC, and external N2N related experts (trade union, certification expert, etc.), reporting to EMT.

Discussion

The suggestion should be discussed in detail by the SC. Timing tbc.

Fairtrade International's updated Human Rights Remediation Policy

The policy was updated to meet rising regulatory and market expectations for human rights transparency in Fairtrade supply chains. The policy will be published externally for the first time.

News from S&P

- Margret Loeffen was introduced as PM for STEP project
- The SC was informed that Prakash Philipp will become Head of Standards as of 1 Sept. 2026

News from SC

- Renewals of appointment are closed for 2026
- Next election of chair and vice chair to take place in 2028
- 3rd term of Emilie Sarrazin ends in May 2027, timing of call for candidates still tbc

Item 3 – SC ToR

Discussion
The S&P Director presented the overview of changes to the SC Terms of reference. FI Board approved the final version this has been shared with SC members, and it is in effect as date of publication.

Key change: SC is now responsible to request assessment in terms of auditability and implementation to all standards revisions and changes.

SC members were encouraged to be familiar with the approved SC ToR.

Item 4 – Standard SOP

Discussion
The S&P Director presented an overview of changes to the Standards SOP, as approved by EMT and already in effect**.**

New relevant steps in the process:
Role of the Executive Management Team (EMT) determined to sign-off of consultation papers before consultation is launched and standards before final approval. Main attention from EMT on legal compliance check of standards, and standards fitting strategically.

Item 5 – Director's Decisions

From May 2026 to July 2026, the Standards & Pricing Director signed off on 4 decisions.

The change the product description in the standard to allow for an agile process to allow new products into the certification under the Fruits & Vegetables Standard and Fresh Fruits Standard.
Gold standard: The start of applicability of the revised standard not as phased approach as decided by the SC.
Plantain prices: The worldwide amendment of weight box from 22 kg to 22.68 kg.

Item 6- Project Updates

Discussion
The Committee reviewed the project update document and discussed the status of several ongoing initiatives.
A Standard Committee member questioned the delay reported in the banana pricing update and asked whether the project would still meet its planned timeline, including a decision in September, and when the next consultation would take place. The Standards & Pricing team explained that technical and procedural issues had delayed the launch of the consultation. However, they confirmed that the objective remains to

bring the proposal for decision in September, potentially by shortening the consultation period to compensate for the delay.
The Committee also discussed the progress percentages included in the project update document. A Standard Committee member noted that the percentages appeared inconsistent with the narrative descriptions of project progress and requested clarification. The Standards & Pricing team explained that the percentages are indicative estimates and may not fully reflect the latest developments, as the document had been prepared at the end of June. The team acknowledged that some percentages, including the banana pricing project, may underestimate the actual level of progress achieved.
A Standard Committee member welcomed the project update document as a useful overview of the activities undertaken by the Standards & Pricing unit, particularly for new members. The member noted that the STEP project and the work on advanced living income standards were not included and suggested that all ongoing projects should be reflected in the update to provide a complete overview.
In response, the Standards & Pricing team explained that STEP has been regularly reported through dedicated agenda items and that projects introduced as separate discussion topics are not always repeated in the project update document. The team indicated its willingness to include brief references to such initiatives in future reports should the Committee find this useful.

Decision
No formal decisions were taken.
The Committee noted the confirmation that the banana pricing project remains on track for a September decision despite delays in launching the consultation process.
The Committee expressed support for including brief references to additional ongoing projects in future project update documents to improve visibility and provide a more comprehensive overview of the Standards & Pricing portfolio.

Next Steps
- Standards & Pricing to confirm and communicate the revised consultation timeline for the banana pricing project.
- Standards & Pricing to continue monitoring progress against the September decision timeline for the banana pricing update.
- Standards & Pricing to consider including short summaries of projects discussed through separate agenda items, such as STEP and advanced living income standards, in future project update reports.
- Future project updates to provide clearer context for reported progress percentages to support consistent interpretation by Committee members.

Item 7 – STEP

We are currently in the middle of the consultation process. A reminder was sent out last Wednesday encouraging people to take part in the survey.

Consultation and Test and Learn

Consultation: Broad coverage of producer organisations using sampling approach to cover all categories
Test and Learn: a complementary process to collect feedback on the Draft Standards for a small number of producer organizations selected to cover target categories and focus on specific parts of the consultation survey. The methodology is in-person workshops.
A brief overview was given of the results that are currently being consolidated and organised for the Risk Assessment Tool.

Consultation

According to the Roadmap, we are in the public consultation period (July-August). The consultation assets consist of 1. Supporting Assets, 2. Training Sessions, 3. Consultation Processes and 4. External Material and Webinar.
Next steps:

- Standards team will come back to the SC in the September meeting with a preliminary analysis and main outcomes of the consultation and Test & Learn workshops
- Standards team members supporting the consultation workshops and T&L
- Consultation synopsis will be prepared for all stakeholders

Risk Map Governance

The risk map is designed to support companies and farmer organisations in assessing their human rights and environmental risks. With the new Standards, the Fairtrade Risk Map will be part of defining the social and environmental requirements applicable to each Producer Organisation (PO). This opens new questions about Risk Map governance.
The objectives of Risk Map are supporting PO with risk assessment and FT Standards compliance to Advance sustainability, human rights and market access. Bring producer perspectives to commercial partners' risks assessments to foster fairness in supply chains. Inspire action among consumers and civil society by showing the challenges and Fairtrade responses in global supply chains. Spur continuous development in Fairtrade's own operations, from Standards to PS, programmes, fundraising and advocacy.
The map consists of 4 sections: about, commodities, countries and issues. For example, "Countries" page highlights external data from Work Bank, UNICEF, and others; for 130 countries and updated 2 times per year; and the issues pages shows the activities that Fairtrade has, it currently has 9 sections and now FI Comms approves (like other website texts).
Governance: COE has started developing a public quality policy to set out, what is "quality" re the map (current draft: robust; guided by rightsholders, transparent; up to date): and what methods we use to maintain quality. Its necessary clarify the roles and remit of the scheme ownership, Digital Service Unit, and HREDD COE,
In the December SC meeting the Evolved Standards including the risks categorization per product and country need to be approved by the SC.

Discussion
The topic of comprehensive scheme ownership was presented earlier this year to the OC, the SC may be provided an updated overview, there's many advances, but some areas still require further development and partly those changes also address governance and decision-making processes: What is scheme ownership and what is Standards & Price setting. The SC is in favour of having more context.

The second presentation introduced governance considerations for the Fairtrade Risk Map, which will become a key element of the new standards. The Risk Map determines which social and environmental requirements apply based on country and product risk. Self-assessments cannot reduce externally identified risk levels.
Comments from the SC included the relevance of updating the risk map so the burden on the producers is not more than necessary including factoring the input of stakeholders; it was mentioned as problematic that producers work on reducing the risks but this does not show on the risk map and this should be clear how this is addressed. An update in upcoming SC meeting in September would be useful.
More context was provided on how country risks evaluations are based largely on external sources (UN, World Bank, ILO, UNICEF, etc.) and updated twice a year. There will also be clear indications for producers when to update their risk assessment accordingly. For each product, the risks will only be updated every three to five years – giving some stability of judgement. Three years for bigger products, five years for smaller products. Product risks are developed through literature reviews, consultation with Fairtrade experts, and validation with producers and workers.

It is still to be decided how is the process of decision making and the role defined for the SC to decide on. It was discussed that it would make sense that the SC approved the process and paraments on which basis the risks are approved. These inputs will be used to propose a methodology on the risk map updates for decision making to the SC in the future.

On the topic of accepting evidence from other certifications, it was explained that the idea is not to accept many but to lower the burden of producers who have multiple certifications. Fairtrade wants to benchmark a small number of certifications and work with Flocert on how this can be used. Organic certification will mark the start of this.

Next Steps
Overall, the project has moved from planning into active consultation and testing. The priority over the coming months is gathering high-quality stakeholder feedback to refine the proposed risk-based standards, validate the usability of the new risk assessment approach, and prepare for implementation in the following year. Concerns remain around the consultation's complexity and the practical impact of expanding requirements, which the project team acknowledged and intends to address through feedback and further refinement. The project team to update the SC as the project is developing further.

Item 8 – Coffee Price Review

Discussion

The Pricing Team presented the 2026 Fairtrade Coffee Price Review, which includes: market context and cost of production study, public consultation results, recommended prices for decision, and the SC decision-making points. The review is part of Fairtrade International's pricing cycle and is based on the latest cost of production data from the crop period 2023–2024, updated to reflect 2025 values. The sample included 57 producer organizations from 13 countries.

Public consultation participation increased significantly compared to the previous coffee price review, with 128 commercial partners, retailers and brands participating (up from 65 in 2022) and support from PNs, NFOs and GPPP coffee team. The public consultation results showed broad support for the proposed Fairtrade Minimum Price increases and for maintaining the current organic differential. The proposal regarding Fairtrade Premium produced more divided results: around two-thirds of coffee producers favoured an increase to 25 cents, and 1/3 favoured maintaining it while commercial partners were almost evenly split, with a majority preferring to keep the current level. Pricing Team also noted that the Fairtrade Premium has not increased since 2011 (15 years), whereas the Fairtrade Minimum Price and organic differential were last revised in 2023.

Main points discussed:

- Organic differential: One SC Member proposed postponing the decision until updated cost of organic compliance is available. The member argued and shared anecdotical information about cost of organic certification increasing significantly since the cost data was collected in 2024, and that these costs vary substantially across certification schemes and markets. The Pricing Team and other SC members supported making a decision now, while committing to monitor costs and collect updated data for the next price review.
- Market risks: Concerns were raised on the risk of coffee volumes shifting to other certification schemes which may have lower minimum prices and organic differentials without a comparable cost of production assessment. Concerns were raised regarding the North American market, where organic coffee accounts for a significant proportion of licensed volumes.
- Regional feedback: One SC Member noted that the consultation provided limited opportunity for qualitative feedback. Some countries (e.g. Mexico and Honduras) indicated that they would have supported larger increases than proposed to the Fairtrade Minimum Price. The Pricing Team confirmed that there was space for qualitative feedback and this feedback was reviewed by the coffee project team, noting that producers from other origins in Latin America, including Nicaragua, Colombia and Peru were supportive of a moderate price increase despite their relatively higher production costs.
- Pricing Proposals: Views differed across the four proposed pricing decisions. One SC Member stressed that competitiveness concerns should not outweigh the need for prices that reflect production costs and long-term producer sustainability. Two SC members supported Pricing Team recommendations. Another SC Member noted that the consultation could justify revisiting the Fairtrade Premium in the future, while one SC member expressed greater support for the FMP and Organic Differential proposals than for maintaining the FP unchanged.

Decision

The SC voted on five recommendations put forward by the Pricing Team:

- Decision 1 - Fairtrade Minimum Price (FMP) for Arabica and Robusta coffee, washed and natural: increase to $2.00/lb (washed Arabica) and $1.95/lb (natural Arabica); increase to $1.35/lb (washed Robusta) and $1.30/lb (natural Robusta); the 5-cent washed/natural differential is maintained.
  SC: 6 Approved
- Decision 2 - Organic differential: maintained at $0.40/lb.
  SC: Approved (4 in favour, 2 abstentions).
- Decision 3 - Fairtrade Premium: maintained at $0.20/lb.
  SC: Approved (4 in favour, 2 abstentions).
- Decision 4 - Validity date: 1 December 2026.
  SC: 6 Approved.
- Decision 5 - Delegation to the Director of Standards to make non-substantive (wording/format) changes to the decision documentation, if needed.
  SC: 8 Approved.

Two SC Members were not included in the voting for decisions 1– 4 due to a standing conflict of interest on coffee pricing matters; the vote counts above reflect only the members eligible to vote on those items. The two members were confirmed to have no conflict of interest on decision 5 and voted on that item.

Next Steps

- Pricing Team will publish an internal update on the Fairtrade Hub shortly after the SC meeting to confirm the SC decision, without disclosing the new prices values.
- An internal webinar for colleagues from the NFOs and PNs will be held on 27 July.
- The Public price announcement of the new coffee prices is scheduled for 30 July 2026.
- Pricing Team will continue monitoring updated data on cost of production and cost of certification for organic and conventional coffee, including EU deforestation regulation (EUDR), EU Organic Regulation and HREDD-related cost items to inform any future review of the coffee organic differential.

Item 10 – LI/LW standards

S&P Director presented the proposed Fairtrade Standard for Advancing Farmer Livelihoods, explaining that the initiative has been developed as part of the implementation of Fairtrade's Global Strategy. The proposal responds to the need for a standard supporting the implementation of Fairtrade programmes and enabling consumer-facing claims. The following points summarise the standard framework and the proposed way forward:

- The proposed standard is designed as an add-on to existing Fairtrade standards. It will initially focus on programmes for Small Producer Organizations and translates programme objectives into certifiable requirements for producer organizations, traders and licensees.
- The proposed standard builds on existing Producer Organization Standards and aims to support farmer livelihoods through living income payments, programme investments and actions relating to climate resilience, organizational capacity and the reduction of salient human rights risks.

- A public consultation on the draft standard will run for one month. Feedback received during the consultation will inform a revised proposal to be presented to the Standards Committee in September 2026.
- Fairtrade is developing the certification scheme, including assurance requirements, additional claims and guidance, new logo, visual design, audit procedures to move forward with implementation of this standard. The additional assurance requirements will be also in addition to the existing certification and audit processes.
- Tight timelines are driven by the implementation of Fairtrade's Global Strategy and the need to meet expectations form commercial partners for the development and launch of the programme as add-on standard.

Discussion

It was further explained that participation offers different pathways depending on the type of consumer claim, that Fairtrade is developing an additional certification mark for the programme, and that alignment with the STEP framework has not yet been addressed due to the current timelines. The proposed standard translates existing sustainable livelihoods programmes into certifiable requirements while allowing additional programme activities outside the certification framework, and future commodity-specific priorities would continue to be driven by Producer Networks and programme working groups.

The objective is to scale up already successful programmes and mobilise additional support from commercial partners and donors. A comparable programme for Hired Labour is planned, focusing on living wages and decent working conditions.

Next steps

- Final proposals to be presented at SC meeting in September, following completion of the public consultation.
- In addition to submission of final proposals, standards team to include an overview of the existing Fairtrade programmes that would fall under the proposed standard, including current programme examples with retailers from specific markets (e.g. Germany and the Netherlands).

Item 11 – AOB

The SC member discussed further about the North-to-North governance structure hence the creation of a Sub Committee. 2 SC members offered to take up this position. The voting and successful candidates will be confirmed later through an email process.

The meeting concluded that next dates of the 124th and 125th SC meeting as w/c 23rd September 2026 and 2nd to 4th of December 2026.