

Call for candidates for the Fairtrade International Standards Committee – Traders Representative

Background

Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade and is based on a partnership between producers and consumers. Fairtrade offers producers a better deal and improved terms of trade. This allows them the opportunity to improve their lives and plan for their future. Fairtrade offers consumers a powerful way to reduce poverty through their everyday shopping.

Fairtrade International is the international non-profit, multi stakeholder body that is responsible for the strategic direction of Fairtrade, sets Fairtrade standards and prices, and supports producers.

The Fairtrade International Standards Committee

The Standards Committee (SC) main role is to decide on standards content, objective, scope, and timelines, to balance stakeholder comments, to resolve particular contentious issues, to clarify terms and definitions and to review effectiveness and practicality of pertinent areas of standards.

The SC has the following responsibilities:

- Development and decision-taking of Fairtrade standards and prices as far as not delegated to the Standard & Pricing Unit (S&P) as defined in the standard setting procedure.
- Decision-taking regarding equivalency and full or partial recognition of other standards and schemes to Fairtrade standards and scheme, as available following strategic guidance from Fairtrade International.
- Oversight of the correct operation of Fairtrade's assurance scheme (certification, verification and licensing activities) according to pre-established rules and in line with Fairtrade's mission and guidance and feedback to assurance providers and licensing bodies on their implementation and interpretation of Fairtrade standards.

- Development of Fairtrade principles related to Fairtrade standards, including assessment of research results and analysis of policy options their implications for standards, and advising Fairtrade International or other relevant decision-making bodies on these.
- Decision making on technical amendments to the Standard Operating Procedures and decision making whether changes to Standard Operating Procedures will have strategic importance.
- Decision-taking on procedural complaints about the way Fairtrade standards are or were set, if the initial answer from the Fairtrade International Assurance Manager is deemed unsatisfactory by the complaining party.
- Advise the S&P on all decisions relating to the development and maintenance of Fairtrade standards to ensure high-quality, consistency and continuous improvement.

The Fairtrade International Supervisory Board appoints SC members following general nomination procedures. The SC is composed of members representing the key stakeholders of Fairtrade - producers, traders, national Fairtrade organizations – as well as external experts. Traders, as market – facing stakeholder, represent core Fairtrade commodities and diverse supply chain roles.

The SC meets as often as needed; usually between 4 to 6 times per year. Meetings are either physical meetings once a year in Bonn Germany; or teleconferences usually taking place over several consecutive half days. The working language is English both for written and oral communication.

For a full description of the responsibilities, mandate, composition, working principles and processes see the [Terms of Reference](#).

The current [list of members](#), general information about the SC, and the minutes of the last meetings are published on our [website](#).

Call for Candidates

Fairtrade International is calling for candidates to represent **Traders** in the Standards Committee.

The candidates should demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to the goals and aspirations of Fairtrade for farmers and workers.
- A commitment to working collaboratively with fellow SC members and understanding of the challenges that balancing multiple interests presents to governance in general and the Standards Committee in particular.
- Familiarity with the Fairtrade strategy and the current Fairtrade standards.
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to make rationalized judgments on presented standard options and on discussed alternatives to amend standards.
- Fluency in English.
- Support from the senior management of their organization.
- Strong commitment to participate in SC meetings and contribute to the SC tasks.

For the Market-facing seat that is to be filled by a representative of Traders, candidates should in addition be able to add value to the work of the Standards Committee in one or more of the following areas:

- Knowledge about sustainability challenges such as human rights violations, carbon footprint or pesticide use in global supply chains and understanding of the role of standards and certification in driving positive changes.
- Experience in supply chain building, brand management or market development from trading industry perspective.
- Understanding of the most pressing development challenges from Trader's point of view for various types of producer set-ups and products.
- Knowledge about other certification schemes and their relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Analytical thinking on the future development of global Fairtrade Standards in context of changing market perspectives, national and international regulatory frameworks.

Application Process

Candidates should apply via e-mail to Stijn Decoene (Standards Committee Chair) at standards-pricing@fairtrade.net copying Andreas Kratz (Director Standards & Pricing) attaching the following documents:

- A letter of motivation.
- A Curriculum Vitae (2 pages maximum) demonstrating relevant experience and qualifications.

The deadline for applications is February 13, 2026.

Selection process

- A Selection Panel will review the applications and will prepare a shortlist for interviews that will take place between Feb. 13-27 .
- The Selection Panel makes its recommendations to the People's Committee of Fairtrade International that finally sends the recommendations to the Supervisory Board that votes on and appoints the SC member.
- The appointment will be for a three-year period.

Bonn, January 19 2026