



Making Voluntary Sustainability Standards Contribute to the SDGs

Thursday, 11 October 2017 Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) have become an important market access prerequisite for developing-country producers and exporters of agro-forestry and fishery commodities. Intended benefits from VSS however do not always reach small producers and MSMEs.

Issues for Discussion

- How can we merge consumer and business interests towards “sustainable” goods with development interests?
- How can trade shape the influence of VSS on developing countries’ market access?
- What do country cases show on how “equitable” VSS are for smallholder producers and MSMEs?

Program (Thursday 11 October 2018)

10:00–11:30

Merging Market Interests with Development Interests: Approaches with VSS

Chair: Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Panellists:

- Stephen Fevrier, Head of Mission, Permanent Delegation of the OECS to the UN in Geneva
- Sergi Corbalàn, Executive Director, Fair Trade Advocacy Office
- Rashid Kaukab, Executive Director, CUTS International Geneva
- Nina Eggert, Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA)
- Lorena Jaramillo, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD

11:30–13:00

UNFSSi 3rd Flagship Report: Voluntary Standards, Sustainable Development and Trade

Chair: Santiago Fernández de Córdoba, UNCTAD

Presentation of Flagship and VSS Multi-stakeholders National Platforms:

- Matteo Fiorini, European University Institute
- Manish Pande, Joint Director, Quality Council of India
- Rogerio Correa, Coordinator Brazilian VSS Platform, INMETRO

Discussant:

- UNFSS Members: FAO, ITC, UNEnvironment, UNIDO, UNCTAD

15:00–16:30

In Search of Equitable VSS: Evidence from the Field

Chair: Miho Shirotori, UNCTAD

Findings from the field study:

- Julia Seiermann, UNCTAD

Discussant:

- Rodrigo Rupérez, Andean Community Consultant
- Toralf Richter, Senior Consultant, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
- Gilbert Sindjou, Sustainability Expert in Tropical Commodities and Ingredients
- Daniele Giovannucci, President, Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA)

16:30-17:00

Closing Session

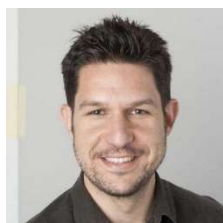
Chair & Speakers of the 1st Session on VSS (11 October 2018)



Isabelle Durant is the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD. Prior to the current post, she was a member of the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region and of the Economic Affairs committee. Ms. Durant served as Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Minister of Transport and Energy for four years. Between 2009 and 2014, Ms. Durant was Vice-President of the European Parliament. As a Belgian Senator from 2003 to 2009, Ms. Durant served on the Committees for Foreign Affairs and Social Affairs and participated in many Election Observation Missions (DRC, Egypt, Tunisia).



Stephen Fevrier is Head of Mission at Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to the United Nations. He has worked extensively with developing countries, including emerging economies, and least developed countries in the planning and execution of trade strategies directed at establishing and enhancing market access opportunities. His work in international trade has touched on every part of the trade policy cycle, from the framing of policy architecture and negotiation, to the implementation and management of concluded agreements.



Sergi Corbalán is Executive Director of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO). The FTAO is a joint initiative of Fairtrade International and the World Fair Trade Organization. Sergi has over 18 years of experience on EU and Global affairs, having worked for a variety of civil society and industry actors, on policy and legal topics linked to consumer protection, trade and sustainable development.



Rashid S. Kaukab is Executive Director of CUTS International, Geneva. Previously he worked for the South Centre, the Pakistan Mission to the UN and WTO in Geneva and as a Senior Expert for UNCTAD. He holds a MBA from Yale University, US and an MA in Economics from Karachi University, Pakistan. His expertise and interests include trade and development, WTO and regional trade agreements, trade in services, regulatory reform and competition and climate change linkages.



Lorena Jaramillo is Economic Affairs Officer of UNCTAD. Lorena has been involved with BioTrade since 2001 at UNCTAD and also in her home country Ecuador as the Director of the national BioTrade Programme. She has worked on developing and implementing sustainable development projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America regarding biodiversity, sustainable trade and business development. As an economist, she is specialized in sustainable development. She holds an MBA from the HEC, Geneva University, Switzerland.

ⁱ UNFSS is an international platform of 5 UN bodies (FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNIDO) designed to support developing countries to better understand, address and potentially benefit from standards-based sustainability programs. The Forum is a neutral dialogue platform and is coordinated by a steering committee of the 5 UN bodies and includes linkages with private sector representatives, research entities and NGOs through the establishment of a national multi-stakeholders advisory panel. Three of these national platforms have already been established recently in Brazil, China and India.