

Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform

A multi-stakeholder initiative for a socially, economically, and environmentally responsible coffee value chain.

Declaration of intent – January 2024

Preamble

The members of the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform (SSCP) are committed to advancing social, environmental, and economical sustainability throughout the coffee value chain, with a clear focus on coffee production. Our joint vision is an industry that respects the rights of all people, protects the climate and the environment, and operates with integrity and within planetary boundaries, ensuring sustainable coffee sourcing and improved livelihoods for producers and their families. The signatories of this declaration of intent acknowledge that a sustainable coffee sector can only be achieved if all stakeholders along the value chain benefit. The SSCP emphasizes the implementation of due diligence related to coffee imported responsibly into Switzerland, following international legal frameworks and guidelines of the UN, OECD, and ILO as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform

The SSCP is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched by the Swiss coffee industry, the federal government, civil society, and academia to promote sustainability in the coffee sector. The signatories of this declaration of intent include stakeholders in the coffee value chain who are willing and can contribute to this shared responsibility. Specifically, these are traders, importers, roasters, manufacturers, standard-setting organizations, retailers, financial institutions, and stakeholders from civil society such as NPOs, foundations, universities, and other research institutions.

The SSCP will promote the joint assumption of responsibility for a key sector of Switzerland's economy. It will encourage the dialogue between various stakeholders and interested parties, thus creating a shared understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions within the coffee value chain. The SSCP will encourage collaboration of the Swiss coffee sector with any national and international organizations and initiatives that are actively advocating for improving sustainability within the coffee sector.

Commitment

The Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform and its signatories are committed to:

1. Making the coffee value chain more sustainable, by using its leverage and global reach to drive action towards sustainable solutions;

2. Creating synergies with other platforms and initiatives at national and international level;
3. Fostering peer learning and sharing information;
4. Harmonizing impact measurement methodologies along the coffee value chain;
5. Co-designing and implementing joint projects in producing countries together with representatives of producer organizations and supported by the Swiss government through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), with a focus on integrating the interests and benefits of producers and rights holders;
6. Encouraging policy dialogue;
7. Promoting the dialogue with local authorities and organizations in producer countries and supporting and encouraging them to improve the situations of coffee farmers and their families

Declaration of intent and action areas

All stakeholders involved in the coffee value chain are needed to manage its transformation towards becoming socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable. For this reason, the signatories of this declaration of intent from businesses, standard-setting organizations, civil society, and the public sector work together to leverage common opportunities in the SSCP.

The signatories to this declaration of intent commit to work on the following key action areas:

1. Increasing the sustainability of coffee imported to Switzerland and traded globally, as well as improving supply chain transparency

Signatories commit to basing the entire physical flow of coffee products into Switzerland on sustainable agricultural production and therefore to increasing the share of sustainably traded coffee.

Material requirements

Sustainable coffee is defined as coffee produced and traded in a manner that respects and promotes environmental protection, social equity, and economic viability. Building on global frameworks and references, sustainable coffee shall address a multitude of opportunities and challenges that coffee production and processing faces, including:

- Environmental challenges such as biodiversity, deforestation, water, waste management, overuse of agrochemicals, reduction of carbon emissions, and resilience of coffee farmers to climate change.
- Social issues such as respect for human rights, decent working conditions, child protection, food security, and non-discrimination and empowerment of vulnerable groups.

- Economic topics such as living wage and income and sharing the rising costs of implementing human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) requirements fairly among the value chain partners.

Traceability and transparency

Trade in sustainable coffee in Switzerland must be traceable and transparent. The flow of coffee along the whole supply chain, from origin to consumer, must be reported and shared transparently with the SSCP.

Targets & Monitoring

Concrete SSCP targets, including individual company targets, and the verification of progress will be defined in a roadmap that elaborates in detail on the vision, commitment and action areas of this declaration and defines the way to achieve them. SSCP member companies commit to achieving these targets, which will be monitored and verified based on certification/verification of independently audited schemes endorsed by the SSCP, preferably leveraging existing initiatives. The roadmap will emphasize the principle of continuous improvement, which is expected from all members and promoted actively in the SSCP. Furthermore, the SSCP will ensure public accountability for its activities based on a meaningful degree of public transparency over targets and enforcement levels.

2. Addressing thematic focus topics

We as signatories commit to collaborate on the thematic focus topics identified by the SSCP as main challenges facing the coffee industry, while recognizing great leverage and potential for improvement through joint action and individual commitments. The focus topics around social, environmental, and economic sustainability will be agreed upon by the members of the SSCP after the launch of the platform.

The SSCP aims to join forces with other organizations and initiatives to fund and/or implement projects in coffee producing countries aiming at addressing the focus topics. This joint action shall have a direct impact on site and make a quantifiable contribution to the focus topic.

3. Implementing due diligence processes

Signatories publicly demonstrate on a regular basis how they implement due diligence in their operations and value chains. They systematically analyse and prioritize the risks in their supply chains. Based on the assessment, they set targets and derive measures to address these risks and to initiate improvements. The SSCP shall provide a platform for practical exchange and support for signatories to improve their due diligence efforts through guidelines and tools and events.