

PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE LIVING INCOME GUIDANCE FOR GOVERNMENTS

Presented at the event on the way to a living income and living wage:
How Can Governments And Private Sector Work Together?

Berlin, 21 June 2022 – At the High-Level Meeting on Living Income and Living Wage on the 21st of June in Berlin the Sustainable Food Lab (SFL), the Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO), together with the Living Income Community of Practice (LICOP) presented the Living Income Guidance for Governments “[The Role of Governments in Enabling Living Income in Global Agriculture Value Chains: Guidance for public policy makers](#)”. The event was hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and took place in the wake of the recent EU legislative proposal on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDD-D).

Svenja Schulze, German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, made clear that “voluntary is not enough” and that “we need a European law that is strong and gives the right framework.” She stressed the importance and need to continue “advocating at political level for Living Income and Living Wages. [...] We should be louder, so that more governments realise that it is important to act on that.”

So far, the German and Dutch governments signed on 27 January 2021 a Joint Declaration to promote living incomes and wages. At the event, Belgium committed to join and sign the joint declaration. The Belgian Ambassador to Germany, **Geert Muylle pointed out** that “We need to provide Living Income at the start of supply chains [...] How can producers help to curb climate change if they do not even earn a living income which is a prerequisite for the fight against climate change and against child labour. If we don´t, increased poverty will be the result.” He added: “We cannot and we do not want to do this alone, we need to inspire companies, multilateral organisations and other companies to do the same.”

Svenja Schulze reinforced his point, stating that: “We need to increase our efforts to achieve living incomes and living wages worldwide to prevent human rights violations such as child labour and inhuman working conditions [...] that constitute modern slavery. Living incomes and living wages worldwide are a key factor in reducing poverty and food insecurity and they help secure decent life conditions.”

In this context, Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development, **Liesje Schreinemacher**, added that “economic growth is only sustainable when workers around the world receive a Living Income.”

The message was clear, both Ministers are calling for an inclusion of Living Incomes in the European Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive.¹

¹ Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit: URL: <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/treffen-deutsche-und-niederlaendische-entwicklungsmministerinnen-114518>, last seen: 11/07/2022.

The Living Income Guidance for Governments

The FTAO, SFL and LICOP welcome the statements of the government representatives while at the same time most reactions by the Ministers are also reflected in the Living Income Guidance for Governments, “**The Role of Governments in Enabling Living Income in Global Agriculture Value Chains: Guidance for public policy makers**”, that has been launched and presented at the event.

The guidance paper was created for policy-makers interested in providing support to smallholder farmers in an effort to close the gap between actual incomes and a Living Income in agricultural value chains. The document provides recommendations and guidance in relation to both production (supply-side) and consumption (demand-side) public policies. As **Kristin Komives**, Director of ISEAL and implementing partner at the LICOP, and **Fabian Richter**, Project and Policy Officer at the FTAO, pointed out at the event: *“the aim is not to present any existing policy as a best practice to be copied and pasted into other jurisdictions, but rather to provide food for thought and inspiration to public policy-makers around the world that wish to take action and are committed to ensure that all farmers along the value chains receive a Living Income.”*

You can find the Living Income Guidance for Governments [here](#).

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