



## ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY ASSOCIATION (RTRS)

UTOQUAI 29/31 | 8008 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

### Minutes No. 172 of the Executive Board Meeting held on

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 15:00 to 18:00 CEST time (in accordance with article 21, section [1] of the RTRS Statutes).

#### Agenda:

1. Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 171.
2. (a) May 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).  
(b) Priorities Update.
3. Consideration of the Adapted Terms of Reference of Collaborative Soy Initiative. Evaluation of RTRS participation at Collaborative Soy Initiative as stated in RTRS letter delivered to the CSI Steering Committee on April 20, 2020.
4. Approval of the financial statements of the representation in Argentina of RTRS for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019.
5. (i) Approval of the suspension during 2020 of the enforcement of the actions to be adopted in connection with Members in default of certain obligations approved by the General Assembly Meeting on June 12, 2019; and (ii) Approval of the submission of the suspension approved under (i) above for its ratification by the next General Assembly Meeting.
6. Approval of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Working Group Terms of Reference.
7. Public Consultation on ISEAL's work on Landscape Assurance: Jurisdictional and Landscape Consultation. RTRS' approach.
8. Report on the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament: A Farm to Fork Strategy & EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.
9. Approval of RTRS' alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
10. Approval of RTRS' participation in the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) Working Groups.
11. RTRS' Communications. Approval of Statement: Boycott Letter to Brazil Government.
12. Update on PCI & Soft Commodities Forum (SFC)-Aliança da Terra & Instituto PCI project.
13. "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 1. Update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard.
14. Any other business.
15. Closing.



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### A. Introduction

The meeting of the Executive Board of Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS) starts on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 15:00 CEST time.

#### Participants: RTRS Executive Board members:

- Marina Born, Caldenes S.A. (constituency: Producers):  
marina.engels@responsiblesoy.org
- Gisela Regina Introvini, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers):  
giselaintrovini@hotmail.com
- Maria Cristina Delicato, Associação Amigos da Terra – CAT Sorriso (constituency: Producers): cristinadelicato@terra.com.br. (Alternate for Anadir Regina Graça Paiva): dudypaiva@hotmail.com
- Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho, Bartira Agropecuaria S.A. (constituency: Producers): liaquina@brookfieldbr.com
- Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz, Fundación Vida Silvestre (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): ulises.martinez@vidasilvestre.org.ar
- Oswaldo de Carvalho Junior, Earth Innovation Institute (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): ocarvalho@earthinnovation.org
- Hernan Zunino, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (constituency: Civil Society Organizations): hernan.zunino@tnc.org
- Judith Kontny, Lidl (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): Judith.Ginsberg@lidl.com
- Lieven Callewaert, Alliance 4 Soy (constituency: Industry, Trade and Finance): lieven.callewaert@soy4brands.org

#### RTRS Secretariat based in Zurich:

- Ingrid Korn, RTRS Administration Officer:  
Ingrid.korn@responsiblesoy.org

#### RTRS Secretariat based in Buenos Aires:

- Marcelo Visconti, RTRS Executive Director:  
marcelo.visconti@responsiblesoy.org
- Laura Villegas, Communications Officer:  
laura.villegas@responsiblesoy.org
- Daniel Kazimierski, Technical Unit Officer:  
daniel.kazimierski@responsiblesoy.org
- Ana Laura Andreani, Technical Unit Analyst:  
ana.andreani@responsiblesoy.org





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### Special guests invited:

- Cid Sanches, RTRS External Consultant: [cidsanches64@gmail.com](mailto:cidsanches64@gmail.com)
- Mabel Fernández, RTRS External Financial Consultant: [mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com](mailto:mabelau.fernandez@gmail.com)
- Ana Carolynne Ribeiro Queiroz, FAPCEN (constituency: Producers): [anacarolynnerg@hotmail.com](mailto:anacarolynnerg@hotmail.com) (Alternate for Gisela Regina Introvini): [giselaintrovini@hotmail.com](mailto:giselaintrovini@hotmail.com)
- Constantin Malik, Malik Management: [constantin.malik@mzsg.ch](mailto:constantin.malik@mzsg.ch)
- Ellen Hof, Hill+Knowlton Strategies (H+K): [ellen.hof@hkstrategies.com](mailto:ellen.hof@hkstrategies.com)
- Pauline Juricic, Hill+Knowlton Strategies (H+K): [pauline.juricic@hkstrategies.com](mailto:pauline.juricic@hkstrategies.com)

Marina Born, President of the RTRS Executive Board, chairs the meeting and welcomes the participants to the Executive Board meeting. The agenda is presented, and participants are asked whether any additional topics should be included. No other topics are included. The meeting begins.

### B. Quorum and proposals

Marina Born ascertains that the quorum required to validly pass resolutions has been reached. The Executive Board considers the following items on the agenda:

#### 1. *Approval of the Executive Board meeting minutes No. 171.*

Minutes No. 171 are reviewed page by page.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

#### The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

“The Executive Board meeting minutes No. 171 are approved (by consensus).”

#### 2. *(a) May 2020 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and (b) Priorities Update.*

Some of the headlines of the May 2020 KPIs are presented to the Executive Board members.

First, the indicators show that the uptake of certified material until June 2020 has increased almost 30% in comparison with the same period in 2019.

Second, the certified production registered until June 2020 is higher than the one registered during the same period in 2019. Furthermore, it is expected that a producer from the United States -who withdrew from the certification in the past- will start certifying its production again this year.

In view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item in the agenda.

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### *3. Consideration of the Adapted Terms of Reference of Collaborative Soy Initiative. Evaluation of RTRS participation at Collaborative Soy Initiative as stated in RTRS letter delivered to the CSI Steering Committee on April 20, 2020.*

Certain considerations regarding the Adapted Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Collaborative Soy Initiative (CSI) discussed during the CSI Steering Committee meeting held on June 4, 2020, are presented to the Executive Board which are also described in more detail in the document attached to the agenda for this Executive Board meeting as "*Annex #3.b.- Highlights of the CSI SC Meeting held on June 4, 2020.*"

Many of the questions made by RTRS in connection with the ToR of the CSI remain unanswered and were still not clarified in the revised version of the ToR presented during the last CSI Steering Committee meeting held on June 4, 2020 (attached to the agenda for this Executive Board meeting as "*Annex #3.a.- CSI Adapted ToR*").

Due to the importance of the ToR, Marcelo Visconti explained to the CSI Steering Committee members, that he was unable to vote on the approval of such document until he had the opportunity to share the document with the RTRS Executive Board.

In addition, according to the letter delivered by RTRS to the CSI Steering Committee on April 20, 2020, the RTRS Executive Board agreed to reevaluate the experience with CSI after a few months.

In this context, as representative of RTRS at the CSI Steering Committee, Marcelo Visconti shares with the Executive Board certain concerns related to the potential consequences of participating with a voting capacity in the CSI without the protection of a legal entity while a number of relevant aspects raised by RTRS in the ToR remain unaddressed and, therefore, he recommends to continue contributing with the initiative, attending to its meetings, sharing RTRS' experience and collaborating, but no longer in a voting capacity and reevaluating this role in the future in the event the CSI evolves into a legal entity or the issues pointed out by RTRS are satisfactorily addressed in a future version of the ToR.

Luiz Carlos Iaquina Filho supports Marcelo Visconti's recommendation.

Lieven Callewaert takes the floor and stresses that he recommends RTRS does not step out the CSI as a voting member in order to avoid reputational impacts.

Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz takes the floor and states that RTRS should continue participating in the CSI as a voting member and further expresses that legal documents like the ToR can be constantly improved.

Marina Born suggests postponing the approval of the ToR under analysis until more clarity on the topics explained is reached.

Lieven Callewaert agrees with Marina Born and suggests including the approval of the ToR of the CSI in the agenda for the first Executive Board meeting to be held after a new version of the ToR of the CSI is distributed among the CSI Steering Committee members.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board rejects the resolution.

#### The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"The Adapted Terms of Reference of the Collaborative Soy Initiative are rejected (by consensus)."





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The Executive Board members further agree that (i) a new version of the ToR of the CSI will be considered during the first Executive Board meeting to be held after a new revised version of the ToR of the CSI is distributed among the CSI Steering Committee members, (ii) if a CSI Steering Committee meeting is held before such RTRS Executive Board meeting, Marcelo Visconti will vote against the version of the ToR of the CSI under consideration in such CSI meeting, and (iii) RTRS will continue to participate of the CSI Steering Committee with a voting capacity.

*4. Approval of the financial statements of the representation in Argentina of RTRS for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019.*

The financial statements of the representation in Argentina of RTRS, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, are presented.

Luiz Carlos Iaquinta Filho, in his role as Treasurer of RTRS, refers to the professional process conducted by the RTRS Secretariat and the auditor in Argentina (KPMG Argentina), and remarks that having different auditors in Argentina and Switzerland, leads to more accurate numbers and a stronger control of the operations, thus strengthening RTRS' reputation.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"The financial statements of the representation in Argentina of RTRS for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 are approved (by consensus)."

5. (i) *Approval of the suspension during 2020 of the enforcement of the actions to be adopted in connection with Members in default of certain obligations approved by the General Assembly Meeting on June 12, 2019; and (ii) Approval of the submission of the suspension approved under (i) above for its ratification by the next General Assembly Meeting.*

After a brief exchange of views and considering the unprecedented scenario caused by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the Executive Board members agree that RTRS should take the necessary measures to fulfil with its objectives, while understanding the complex reality faced by many RTRS Members nowadays. In this sense, they agree that RTRS should take the necessary actions to ensure that the Members can comply with their obligations towards the association, rather than imposing sanctions that were created under normal conditions.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

- (i) "To suspend -during 2020- the enforcement of the actions to be adopted in connection with Members in default of certain obligations approved by the General Assembly Meeting on June 12, 2019 (by consensus);" and
- (ii) "To submit the suspension approved under (i) above for its ratification by the next General Assembly Meeting (by consensus)."

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### 6. *Approval of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Working Group Terms of Reference.*

The topic is presented, and the RTRS Executive Board members are informed that the approval of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Working Group (WG) Terms of Reference is necessary to open the registration process for such WG, which will be in charge of the revision of the RTRS Soy Standard.

Marina Born and Judith Kontny confirm their interest in participating in this WG.

It is further confirmed that all the applications received in order to participate in the WG will be approved by the RTRS Executive Board members during the next Executive Board meeting.

As far as the timeline and the format of the WG are concerned, it is explained that (i) an online forum will be set up and it will be mainly focused on discussing the comments received during the public consultations to be carried out during 2 one-month periods (June-July 2020 and October-November 2020), and (ii) online meetings will be carried out and they will be mainly focused on taking the relevant decisions based on the preliminary conclusions and agreements achieved within the framework of the public consultations and the discussions held in the online forum. It is also informed that the first round of online meetings of the WG will take place around mid-August.

Once the first round of online meetings is over, the first draft of the revised version of the current RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production will be developed and submitted for the approval by the Executive Board members at the end of September 2020.

During October and November 2020, the first draft mentioned above will be submitted for a second public consultation and, by December, a second round of online meetings of the WG will be held, and further discussions will take place in the online forum.

In order to be able to start the revision of the current version of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, the Executive Board members agree to move forward with the approval of the WG Terms of Reference under analysis.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

#### The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Working Group Terms of Reference are approved (by consensus)."

Furthermore, the Executive Board members request the Secretariat to contact ISEAL and confirm if a revision of the current version of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production can include the development of a new scope named, for example, "deforestation free & conversion free stepwise approach."

### 7. *Public Consultation on ISEAL's work on Landscape Assurance: Jurisdictional and Landscape Consultation. RTRS' approach.*

In view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to postpone the discussion of this topic until the next Executive Board meeting.





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### 8. Report on the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament: *A Farm to Fork Strategy & EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*.

The topic is introduced, including a description of the background regarding the reporting process led and developed by the RTRS Secretariat -with the support of Hill+Knowlton Strategies (H+K)- on the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament "*A Farm to Fork Strategy & EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*," published on May 20, 2020.

Thereupon, two representatives of H+K take the floor and present:

- An overview on the European institutions and their role;
- An overview on the European legislative procedure; and
- An analysis of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, which includes a merger between the assessments made by H+K and the RTRS Secretariat, in order to provide the Executive Board members with a better picture regarding the importance of both strategies for RTRS.

After a brief exchange of views and since no further comments or questions are posed on the subject, the Executive Board members decide to move to the next item in the agenda.

### 9. Approval of RTRS' alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The analysis and marketing material regarding RTRS' alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -included in Annex #9 of the agenda for this Executive Board meeting- are presented.

The approach of the documents mentioned above is aligned with RTRS' efforts to demonstrate and strengthen its role as non-business member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2014 and signatory of the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development since 2019.

Furthermore, it is confirmed that the analysis and the marketing material were developed by the RTRS Secretariat.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

#### The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"The analysis and marketing material regarding RTRS' alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -included in Annex #9 of the agenda for this Executive Board meeting- are approved (by consensus)."

### 10. Approval of RTRS' participation in the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) Working Groups.

The Executive Board members are informed about the different activities developed by the United Nations Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (the "Initiative") and the different activities and meetings in which RTRS has been participating since the association signed the United Nations Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development in 2019.

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In this regard, it is further informed that, with the aim of getting more organizations on board with the Initiative and creating the conditions for the systemic integration of gender considerations into standards and standards development activities, the Initiative is currently organizing separate Working Groups to work on the following topics:

- (i) Knowledge Sharing & Training;
- (ii) Methodology for assessing and developing gender responsive standards; and
- (iii) Network development.

Thereupon, the Executive Board members agree that RTRS should participate in the working group named "Knowledge Sharing & Training," taking into consideration that (i) RTRS has started the revision of the current version of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, and (ii) RTRS, as a signatory party to the Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development, committed to work towards the development and implementation of a gender responsive standard in order to contribute towards a more sustainable and inclusive growth, which is necessary for reducing inequality.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"RTRS' participation in the Knowledge Sharing & Training Working Group of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) is approved (by consensus)."

The Executive Board members further agree that Laura Villegas and Ana Laura Andreani will represent RTRS within the Knowledge Sharing & Training Working Group.

*11. RTRS' Communications. Approval of Statement: Boycott Letter to Brazil Government.*

The Executive Board members are informed about the background regarding the Boycott Letter to Brazil Government dated May 19, 2020, where more than 40 companies led by the Retail Soy Group (RSG) signed on the protection of the Amazon, requesting the Brazilian Congress to withdraw certain measures that could leave the Amazon unprotected.

Despite the fact that RTRS decided not to sign the Boycott Letter to Brazil Government, RTRS has prepared a Communication Statement regarding such letter as an institutional and official statement to be used in case RTRS' opinion on this matter is requested.

Ulises Javier Martinez Ortiz agrees with the statement and with the idea of keeping the statement under analysis as a "reactive" communication, also mentioning that he would prefer a stronger positioning with regards this critical matter.

After a brief exchange of views and in the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board approves the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"RTRS' Statement on the Boycott Letter to Brazil Government is approved (by consensus)."





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The Executive Board members further agree that RTRS' Statement on the Boycott Letter to Brazil Government will be used as a "reactive" communication in case RTRS' opinion on the matter is requested.

### *12. Update on PCI & Soft Commodities Forum (SFC)-Aliança da Terra & Instituto PCI project.*

In view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to postpone the discussion of this topic until the next Executive Board meeting.

### *13. "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy: approval of Project Draft 1. Update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard.*

The Project Draft 1 is reviewed, and the developments regarding the preparation process are discussed.

The Executive Board members agree to involve the "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy Sounding Board in the development process of the Project Draft. This will imply sharing the topics and chapters of the Project Draft with them in order to achieve a constructive feedback.

In addition, a new methodology for obtaining feedback regarding the "Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy Project Draft development process is agreed by the Executive Board members in order to optimize time and improve the quality of the feedback.

In the absence of any objections, Marina Born confirms that the Executive Board rejects the resolution.

The RTRS Executive Board resolves the following:

"The Beyond 2020" RTRS Strategy Project Draft 1 is rejected (by consensus)."

In view of the limited time available for this meeting, the Executive Board members decide to postpone the update on the discussions related to the Working Group on the stepwise approach standard, until the next Executive Board meeting.

### *14. Any other business.*

The Executive Board members decide not to discuss any other business.

### *15. Closing.*

The meeting is closed on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 18:00 CEST time.

Marina Born

RTRS President

Marcelo Visconti

Executive Director of RTRS