

## CAOBISCO Statement Due Diligence

**CAOBISCO members are committed to ensuring that their products are manufactured responsibly and to the highest standards, minimising environmental impact and respecting the human rights of those in their value chains.**

Many of CAOBISCO members have private initiatives that empower farmers and their communities to improve their income, become more productive and climate-resilient, protect the environment, combat deforestation, and respect human rights in the supply chain. These initiatives need to be accompanied by due diligence systems in order to identify and address social and environmental risks and impacts, seeking greater transparency along the supply chain.

CAOBISCO members support an EU-wide due diligence approach, aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>1</sup>, and with the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains<sup>2</sup>. Members support a comprehensive EU strategy that creates the enabling environment required to make progress. The EU must engage in dialogue with the respective origin countries to create the right framework of agreement needed to drive change.

CAOBISCO believes due diligence is a shared responsibility for all supply chain actors, who must act collectively to achieve a sustainable industry from “farm to fork” and to address systemic environmental and human rights issues.

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**CAOBISCO is the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe.** We proudly represent more than 13 000 European chocolate, biscuits and confectionery manufacturing companies, 99% of which are SMEs. The sector is a large employer and a major player in the European economy, with over 400 000 direct employees and an annual turnover of almost €70 billion. Our industry has many assets, including a very rich heritage of European savoir-faire and tradition. Chocolate, biscuits and confectionery products, primarily intended as treats, allow people to experience and share exceptional moments of indulgence and joy.

*Providing treats that are responsibly produced and mindfully enjoyed is the philosophy that drives our industry. To highlight this engagement, CAOBISCO has launched the Treatwell initiative<sup>3</sup> to serve as a platform for people looking to understand the history and cultural importance of the chocolate, biscuits and confectionery industry, and the different ways in which we are making a positive impact on the world, and the communities we engage with.*

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, New York and Geneva, 2011

<sup>2</sup> OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains, Paris, 2016

<sup>3</sup> <https://treatwell.caobisco.eu/>