



Statement by H.E. Jutta Paulina Urpilainen,
European Commissioner for International Partnerships
High Level Conference on Sustainable Cocoa in Ghana
30 June 2021

Dear President,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY**

Let me thank you for gathering here, and for your active involvement in Ghana's National Dialogue on Sustainable Cocoa.

The next Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue will take place in September. Ahead of that, let's take stock today and draw conclusions on the way forward. I will kick off with three brief points, bearing in mind Ghana and the EU's special relationship.

Firstly, let me reiterate our commitment to all three pillars of sustainable development: economy, society and environment. Our priority remains fighting child labour and deforestation. This must be linked to a fair cocoa price for farmers who should earn a decent living income. Because... price and sustainability are two sides of the same coin. We understand however that there is no "one size fits all".

Through dialogue, let's come to an agreement on sustainability practices to fit different contexts. This brings me to my second point. How do we envisage our future partnership on cocoa, especially commitments around child labour and deforestation?

The upcoming EU regulations on imported commodities will be important. They must not be considered a threat for cocoa producer countries, but as an opportunity to have a sustainable



product which also ensures a decent living income. Our objective is not to impose standards unilaterally but to come together, in a spirit of partnership, to an agreement that benefits everyone.

Final point. We want to provide support to help you implement that agreement.

This is why we are channelling lessons learnt from the Cocoa Talks and the National Dialogue into the programming of EU funds.

Dear friends,

I am confident that all our efforts will culminate in win-win solutions for all – including in the pockets of farmers and in the cocoa fields.

End.