



Media release

Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions

Vevey, 1 July 2026

For the first time, the two Swiss Platforms for Sustainable Cocoa and Coffee have held their annual meetings jointly. The event took stock of the progress made by the Platforms and their members. The focus was on how common challenges – such as climate change and human rights risks – can be tackled in a coordinated manner.

The cocoa and coffee sectors face similar challenges, such as human rights risks and climate change. The first joint annual meeting of the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa and the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform, held on 1 July 2026, focused on these shared challenges and coordinated solutions.

Around 200 representatives from business, civil society, research and the public sector gathered in Vevey for the annual general meeting of the Swiss Cocoa and Coffee Platforms. The event was hosted by Nestlé, a founding member of both Platforms. In her opening remarks, Antje Shaw, Head of Sustainability – Coffee Strategic Business Unit at Nestlé, said: “Together with our teams, we support producers in implementing regenerative practices, providing technical assistance, training and financial support to help them become more resilient and to secure our supply chains in the long term. Regenerative agriculture improves soil health and productivity, whilst also bringing about economic and social benefits.”

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has been supporting both Platforms since their inception. SECO announced that it would provide even greater financial support to the Platforms in future, to facilitate innovative solutions in collaboration with the private sector and local stakeholders in the producing countries. In his keynote speech, Ivo Germann, Head of SECO’s Directorate for Foreign Trade, praised the contribution of multi-stakeholder initiatives to the sustainable development of global supply chains: “The Cocoa and Coffee Platforms are effective tools for tackling the challenges in value chains that are of strategic importance to Switzerland. They are based on the principle of dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders, a principle that has proven its worth here in Switzerland.”

The discussion on the implementation of both Platforms’ 2030 Roadmaps highlighted that cross-sectoral cooperation can yield joint solutions to the most pressing problems facing the coffee and cocoa sectors.

The subsequent panel discussion focused on how a sustainable future can be achieved for communities that grow cocoa and coffee. In the thematic breakout sessions, participants also discussed concrete approaches to improving producers' incomes and wages, nature-based solutions for coffee and cocoa cultivation, and joint approaches to managing human rights risks.

Assessment as a basis for progress

Where do the members of the two Platforms stand in terms of their activities to promote greater sustainability? At the annual general meeting, they discussed the results of a recent survey. Thanks to the high level of participation in the member surveys, both Platforms gained important insights into the status of their members' sustainability efforts.

The assessment shows that living incomes are the top priority, but that implementing them poses the greatest challenge. The assessment provides a vital data foundation for measuring progress and driving forward measures, such as the stronger integration of pricing mechanisms based on living income benchmarks. Members have made the most progress in areas such as human rights due diligence and protection against deforestation. Furthermore, for the first time, members have set out the level of ambition they aim to achieve by 2028.

The findings from the assessment will help both Platforms to provide targeted support to their members, drive forward the implementation of their 2030 roadmaps and strengthen collaboration along the value chains. The Platforms will publish a report on this assessment in late summer.

Share of sustainable cocoa imports on the rise

Every year, the Cocoa Platform publishes import statistics showing the proportion of sustainable cocoa out of total imports into Switzerland. In 2025, 92% of the cocoa bean equivalents imported into Switzerland came from sustainable production. This volume is either certified to internationally recognised standards such as Fairtrade Max Havelaar or Rainforest Alliance, or comes from companies' own programmes that are verified by independent third parties. Compared with the previous year, 2024, this represents an increase of 8 percentage points.

The Cocoa Platform is proud of this result. Companies' certification and verification programmes make an important contribution to promoting more sustainable production practices. The Platform will continue its efforts to achieve 100% by 2030. However, to effectively address the social and environmental challenges in cocoa-producing countries and achieve genuine sustainability, more ambitious targets must be pursued, and solutions developed that go beyond certification. This requires joint efforts across the entire sector, as well as enhanced collaboration throughout the value chain.

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Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa

The **multi-stakeholder initiative** brings together organisations based in Switzerland that are relevant to the cocoa value chain, including chocolate manufacturers, cocoa traders and importers, the retail sector, the public sector, non-governmental organisations and research institutes. Our members account for 94% of all cocoa products imported into Switzerland.

The **more than 100 members** of the Cocoa Platform pool their knowledge and efforts to promote greater sustainability in the cocoa value chain. They aim to improve the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families, protect natural resources, and create a viable and resilient cocoa value chain for present and future generations.

www.kakaoplattform.ch



Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform

The Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform brings together **over 75 members** from the private sector, research, civil society and the public sector to promote sustainability throughout the coffee value chain.

Through dialogue, knowledge exchange and joint projects, this **multi-stakeholder initiative** promotes cooperation within the Swiss coffee sector and with international partners. In coffee-growing countries, it works with its members and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) to implement projects that improve the living conditions of coffee farmers and strengthen sustainable production systems.

www.coffeepattform.ch