

## S.7 Coalition on Living Incomes by 2030

### **1. What, in brief, is the solution?**

This solution aligns and strengthens efforts and the collective contribution to establishing global living incomes in the food and agriculture sector. Building on existing initiatives as well as providing a platform to co-design and co-deliver additional initiatives, the proposed six pillars of action will include a commitment to living wage supported by a suite of strategic interventions that address barriers and enablers to living incomes:

- A Voluntary Commitment to 100% Living Wage by 2030 and support for the implementation of the IDH Roadmap.
- Advocacy to shape social welfare and job creation policies – the necessary social safety-nets that influence how living wages are determined as well as how living incomes are met.
- Quantify collective private sector community and R&D investments from the food and agriculture sector, to better understand the contribution to and role of the critical foundations that enable a living wage (access to health, education, infrastructure, technical assistance).
- Strengthen company human rights policy and practice with a spotlight on land-tenure and rights to collective bargaining – as pre-requisites to living incomes.
- Enable better access to finance and markets – key enablers of realizing living incomes.

### **2. What was/were the source(s) from which this solution emerged?**

Data shows us that persistent income polarization and wage stagnation is a key driver of inequality – alongside the rising costs of essential services, work fragility and transition, persistent gender and race gaps and failing safety nets. WBCSD's Vision 2050 Report identifies inequality, together with the climate emergency and nature loss, as one of the three most pressing challenges facing our society globally. At least four of the 10 “clear and present dangers” identified in Economic Forum's 2021 Global Risks Report are inequality related, including livelihood crises, widespread youth disillusionment, and erosion of social cohesion.

### **3. What problem is it trying to address within food systems?**

Inequality is emerging as one of the most pressing challenges facing society. It threatens our collective ability to meet the SDGs, in particular SDG1 on No Poverty and SDG2 on Zero Hunger. Addressing inequality is also essential to building a sustainable food system: as stated in the Action Track 4 final Discussion Paper, ‘Food system transformation that does not address inequalities and specific vulnerabilities risks reinforcing and deepening inequalities and undermining the resilience of food systems’.

### **4. Why is addressing that problem important for achieving the goal of your working group?**

Understanding a food systems' local or regional context is critical to identifying its' relevant drivers and levers. A ‘territorial perspective’ – *embracing integrated landscape management, as well as the socio-economic dimensions of the use of natural resources, connects local, regional, national and international scales as well as urban and rural areas* – enables a truly systemic response. *It promotes more social participation and allows policymakers to close information gaps and make better-informed decisions*

*across different sectors (ref. Egal et.al., Territorial Food Systems for Sustainable Development: Issue Brief for UN Food Systems Summit).*

The challenges to securing global living incomes can be best addressed through a territorial approach to food systems and through partnership/leadership from local and regional governments: *local socio-economic, cultural, political and institutional contexts are best addressed at the territorial level.* This proposed solution, therefore, has a close and critical alignment with the working group on ‘localizing food systems’.

#### **5. How can this solution address that problem (theory of change)?**

There are 2 critical components of this solution: convening the relevant mix of cross-sector actors that bring the necessary and shared insights experience and resources; a mix of interventions that tackle the strategic barriers as well as raise the bar (a voluntary commitment to living wage).

#### **6. Why does this solution align to the definition and criteria for a ‘game changing solution’ developed by the Summit?**

This proposed solution fits particularly closely to the following 3 criteria:

- Have positive effects on ensuring equitable livelihood opportunities, advancing human health, and regenerating environmental integrity, with focus on youth, women, marginalized and disabled populations.
- Be implementable at a sufficient scale to reach a large portion of the population with clear, timely and verifiable outcomes that produce significant impacts by 2030.
- Promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in food consumption and production systems.

#### **7. Existing evidence supporting the argument that this solution will work, or at least achieve the initial outcomes**

This solution is based on extensive data and action to-date as well as growing momentum and has been designed to foster new commitments to living wage whilst at the same time tackle the barriers to securing global living incomes.

Specific sources of extensive and robust intel that inform the coalition’s structure and pillars of action are drawn from WBCSD member sustainability strategies, IDH and the Living Wage Roadmap, ISEAL/GIZ Community of Practice on Living Incomes and the Global Living Wage Coalition.

#### **8. What is the current and/or likely political support for this idea?**

The urgency of building more Equitable Value Distribution across food and agri value-chains is gaining in profile and momentum. The World Food Programme’s latest ‘State of Nutrition and Food Security in the World’ report estimates that the pandemic will add over 100 million people to the total number of those undernourished worldwide and the World Bank estimates that a further 100 million people will be living in extreme poverty – both by the end of 2020. Our collective efforts to achieve the Global Goals related to poverty, food security and inequality have been significantly set back. The impacts of COVID-19 have indirectly been socially and economically devastating and have seriously exacerbated these inequalities.

Living incomes are a key solution to tackling rising inequality. Successful examples which demonstrate the commitment from key growing jurisdictions include those cited by #20 submitted into Wave 1 such as the *Living Income Differential (LID) in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana that ensures a decent revenue to local farmers. Building on this initiative the European Union engaged in a partnership with Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon to link this price increase to further actions aiming at reinforcing the overall sustainability of cocoa production, and particularly halting deforestation and eradicating child labour in cocoa production. Other examples include the Costa Rican law dictating the split of the added value in the coffee branch or the "Interprofessions" in France that regroup various actors from producers to distributors in a given value chain.*

**9. Are there certain contexts for which this solution is particularly well suited, or, not well-suited?**

This solution has broad application given the extent of the global living income challenge and range of engaged actors. In order to prioritise, key impact areas where the greatest investment and contribution are needed will be identified by identifying the overlap in presence of 'champions' from both the private and public sectors.