

## JOINT STATEMENT

### The EU Forced Labour Ban requires clear and effective remediation measures

We, the undersigned organisations, welcome the objectives of the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation (2022/0269 COD) on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market, the so-called 'EU Forced Labour Regulation'.

As Companies, Trade Unions, Civil Society Organisations, Certification Organisations and Multi-stakeholder Initiatives, we stress the need to have clear and effective provisions on remediation in the EU Forced Labour Regulation.

Remediation is a key step of human rights due diligence, as defined by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct (RBC). Provisions for remediation are also expected to be included in the EU Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CS3D).

Including remediation and other appropriate measures in the EU Forced Labour Regulation would enhance the legislation's effectiveness in eradicating forced labour from supply chains.

Remediation provisions regarding forced labour are crucial for providing remedy to victims of forced labour. At the same time, they can support companies in building meaningful long-term relations with their suppliers to address and prevent forced labour risks in their operations and supply chains.

Consequently, the EU Forced Labour Regulation should indicate the possibility for companies to take remedial actions depending on their involvement in an identified case of forced labour. These remedial actions should be aligned with the cause, contribution and linkage "involvement framework" set out in the UNGPs and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for RBC and expected to be included in the EU CS3D.

Competent authorities or the European Commission should be required to lift the withdrawal of the concerned products from the market if they establish that companies took action to remediate forced labour cases in line with the above-mentioned involvement framework.

Brussels, 26 February 2024

#### Companies and Business associations

AIM - European Brands Association



amfori



Caobisco



European Solar Manufacturing Council



First Solar



Responsible Business Alliance



Tony's Chocolonely



**Multi-stakeholder Initiatives**

Fair Wear



International Cocoa Initiative

**Trade Unions**

European Trade Union Confederation



**Civil Society Organisations**

Anti-Slavery International



Business & Human Rights Resource Centre



Clean Clothes Campaign European  
Coalition



Commerce Equitable France



Environmental Justice Foundation



Equo Garantito



Fair Trade Advocacy Office



FERN



Forum Fairer Handel



La Strada International



Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program



Shift



Social Awareness and Voluntary Education



Terre des Hommes International  
Federation



The Freedom Fund



The Remedy Project



**Certification Organisations**

Fairtrade International



Rainforest Alliance



World Fair Trade Organization - Europe

