



SUPPORTING INDUSTRY-WIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

"The Global Living Wage Coalition brings together Fairtrade International, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), GoodWeave International, Rainforest Alliance (RA) joining forces with UTZ, Social Accountability International (SAI), and Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), in partnership with the ISEAL Alliance and international living wage experts Dr. Richard Anker and Ms. Martha Anker. The GLWC comes together with the shared mission to improve workers' wages in the farms, factories, and supply chains participating in their respective certification systems and beyond, and with the long-term goal of all workers receiving a living wage.

Determining a living wage through calculations will not, alone, lead to its payment. However, it can provide trade unions, worker representatives, and the industry, important information on the costs faced by workers and their dependents, and it can help them form a basis for negotiations. We recognize that even with living wage benchmarks available and collective bargaining processes in place at individual sites, still too often workers are not receiving a living wage. Therefore, we support the call for sector-wide collective bargaining agreements to take place, and support efforts to catalyze industry-wide collective bargaining.

Through sector- or industry-wide collective bargaining it is possible to reach agreements that benefit all workers in the sector – including the most vulnerable – and allow for wages, overtime, working hours, and efficiencies all to be taken into account. In addition, by bargaining at the industry level the emphasis is on ensuring a more sustainable and fairer sector, and not just pockets within a sector or a country.

As owners of voluntary sustainability standards, we believe that the Anker methodology will help inform our codes and our discussions with producers and buyers. We are also working together to ensure the findings of the benchmarks are accessible to trade unions and local worker representatives in addition to other initiatives advancing collective wage bargaining. We hope that the benchmarking carried out will help all actors in the sectors we represent take significant and lasting steps towards the payment of a living wage."

For More information on the Work of The Global Living Wage Coalition, contact Michelle Bhattacharyya – Coordinator for the Global Living Wage Coalition at michelle@globallivingwage.org