

Document: Declaration of Abu Dhabi Status Update

Date: 26 January 2015



The [Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through Good Agricultural Practices](#) is an open call for global collaboration to find new approaches that will make it easier, more cost effective, and more attractive for farmers worldwide to adopt safe, responsible and sustainable production practices. The Declaration of Abu Dhabi unites public and private partners committed to developing and adopting three important measures:

- A common set of good agricultural practices.
- A system for uniquely identifying every farm that is recognized by all stakeholders.
- A mechanism for securing the commitment and reporting by supply chain partners.

The common set of practices builds upon established and ongoing work in all aspects of good agriculture and aquaculture practices, including food safety, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility. The common set of practices will draw upon existing standards and assessment tools. The resulting resource will provide broad, consistent, open-source language for sustainability criteria, applicable to farms of all sizes worldwide.

The Declaration of Abu Dhabi was successfully launched on 28 October at the [GLOBALG.A.P. SUMMIT2014](#) with a panel discussion and formal signing ceremony, supporting video message from the [UN Global Compact](#) and a dedicated [music video](#). The [initiating signatories](#) included 38 organizations representing producer groups, manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, standards setters, product and service providers, academic and civil society organizations. The signatories' collaboration convened its inaugural meeting on 29 October to discuss goals, interim period governance and next steps. The collaboration approved an Interim Steering Committee, chamber structure, three technical committees and other supporting opportunities for signatories to play to ensure the successful development of the initiative.

The "interim period" is defined as the period between the launch and the establishment of the first official Steering Committee comprised of democratically elected representatives from each chamber. It is anticipated to last approximately half a year.

The Interim Steering Committee is comprised of the initiating partners: International Trade Centre, Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform and GLOBALG.A.P. Its responsibilities include: pursuing seed funding; building the multi-stakeholder and representative collaboration of signatories; organizing the first signatory assembly and initiating the technical work of building the three pillars.

Each signatory is classified in one of six chambers. Any signatory may run for a steering committee position on behalf of his or her chamber: producers; buyers; governmental and inter-governmental organizations; assessment/scheme owners/labels; product and service providers; civil society and academic organizations.

Signatories may volunteer to participate in any or all Technical Committees. The three technical committees mirror the three pillars of the Declaration: 1) Common set of good agricultural practices; 2) Unique farm identification system; 3) Mechanism for consistent reporting.

Signatories are motivated by the goals and eager to participate. In November and December, the overwhelming majority of signatories committed one or more staff members to participate on the interim technical committees and other supporting roles. The Interim Steering Committee met with volunteer leaders for each of the interim Technical Committees to initiate the technical work at the core of the Declaration. The Technical Committees begin convening via webinar in January. The Interim Steering Committee will convene an informational session and signatory gathering at the [GFIA Summit 2015](#) in Abu Dhabi in March, and is seeking funding to support an in-person multi-day working meeting for the Technical Committees later in 2015.

For questions regarding the Declaration of Abu Dhabi, please contact:

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