



PRESS RELEASE

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UNION FOR ETHICAL BIOTRADE CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE REVISION OF ITS STANDARD FOR NATURAL INGREDIENTS

GENEVA – The Union for Ethical BioTrade has launched a formal revision process for its standard, currently used by members as a roadmap for achieving greater social, environmental, and economic sustainability. The Union announced the revision phase in early July and is actively encouraging all stakeholders to participate in this consultation process in an effort to further the institution's objectives to promote the 'Sourcing with Respect' of biodiversity ingredients. A special effort is underway to obtain business feedback on the standard.

The Union for Ethical BioTrade's standard – the Verification Framework on Native Natural Ingredients – originally stems from the seven Principles and Criteria developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's BioTrade Initiative. The Verification Framework is an important tool used to analyze a member's conduct, develop individual work plans for members, and guide companies towards compliance with the Ethical BioTrade Principles and Criteria.

An international standard, the Verification Framework was designed in accordance to the requirements stipulated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL). Membership to ISEAL was granted to the Union for Ethical BioTrade on 24 June 2009 making it the first organization, without a connection to a founding member, to obtain full membership since ISEAL's establishment. The Union joins ISEAL's members as a leader in its field committed to creating solid and credible standard systems.

Transparency and the active participation of all stakeholders are strongly supported by the Union for Ethical BioTrade and interested businesses are encouraged to engage in the revision process of the Verification Framework. For more information on how to get involved in this consultation phase, please visit the Union's website at www.ethicalbiotrade.org.

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The Union for Ethical BioTrade is a non-profit association that promotes the 'Sourcing with Respect' of ingredients that come from native biodiversity. Members commit to gradually ensuring that their sourcing practices promote the conservation of biodiversity, respect traditional knowledge, and assure the equitable sharing of benefits all along the supply chain.

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