



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUN 18 2010

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

As required by section 3205(h) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is submitting this report describing the activities of the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products (Consultative Group) to the Committees on Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. Additionally, as directed in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, this report is provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Consultative Group Members: Since the previous submission of the Activity Report to Congress in October 2009, three government members, including the Chairperson, have been replaced with new members. Darci Vetter, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA, replaced Bud Philbrook as the Chairperson; Ann Wright, Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA, replaced John Ferrell; and Michael Posner, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State, replaced Karen Stewart. In addition, Rachelle Jackson, Director, Research and Development, STR Responsible Sourcing, Los Angeles, California, replaced Dorianne Beyer as the Group's member representing a Certification Organization (current membership list enclosed).

Consultative Group Meetings: The Consultative Group held its first meeting on November 16, 2009, and subsequently held monthly meetings from January through May of 2010. In addition, USDA held an open, public meeting at USDA headquarters on March 29, 2010, to provide an opportunity for public input. The public meeting was well attended, and included representatives from industry, nongovernmental organizations, and foreign government officials. The transcript of the public meeting and all submissions are available on the Foreign Agricultural Service website at:
http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/Child_labor/Childlabor.asp.

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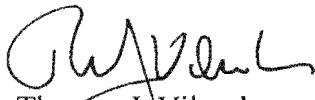
Consultative Group Next Steps: The Consultative Group has made substantial progress in meeting its charge and is expected to submit its recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture in the near future. Once the recommendations are submitted, it is envisioned that the Consultative Group will continue to meet over the ensuing year on an ad hoc basis as the guidelines themselves are being developed.

Final Guidelines: Within one year after receiving the Consultative Group's recommendations, the Secretary will develop and release guidelines for a voluntary initiative to enable entities to address issues raised by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

As noted above, USDA expects to receive the Consultative Group's final recommendations to the Secretary shortly and will convey this information to the Congress once available.

An identical report has been sent to Senators Chambliss, Kohl, and Brownback; Congressmen Peterson, Lucas, Kingston, and Berman; and Congresswomen DeLauro and Ros-Lehtinen.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary

Enclosure

Attachment

Members of the Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products

Last Name	First Name	Title and Organization	Category
Vetter	Darci	Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (Chairperson), Department of Agriculture	U.S. Government
Wright	Ann	Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture	U.S. Government
Polaski	Sandra	Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Labor	U.S. Government
Posner	Micheal	Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State	U.S. Government
Athreya	Bama	Executive Director International Labor Rights Forum Washington, D.C.	Nongovernment Organization (NGO)
Edmonds	Eric	Associate Professor of Economics Dartmouth University Hanover, NH	Academic/Research
Elliott	Kimberly	Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development Visiting Fellow, Peterson Institute Washington, D.C.	Academic/Research
Guyton	Bill	President World Cocoa Foundation Washington, D.C.	Agricultural Enterprise
Jackson	Rachelle	Director, Research and Development STR Responsible Sourcing Los Angeles, CA	Certification Organization
Macray	Dennis	Director, Ethical Sourcing and Global Responsibility Starbucks Coffee Co. Seattle, WA	Agricultural Enterprise
Potter	Edward	Director, Global Workplace Rights Coca Cola Co. Atlanta Georgia	Agricultural Enterprise
Roggensack	Margaret	Senior Advisor for Business and Human Rights Human Rights First Washington, D.C.	Nongovernment Organization (NGO)
Van Heerden	Auret	President and CEO Fair Labor Association Washington, D.C.	Nongovernment Organization (NGO)