



Decision by the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development

on the UNICEF Junior Ambassador 2013 project “SchokoFair – Stop child labour!”

The Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development (PBNE) welcomes the commitment of many initiatives such as ‘SchokoFair’ or the ‘German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa’ to the campaign for sustainable cocoa farming. They are an important emblem of conscious consumption in a globalised society.

Germany is number two in the global chocolate consumption stakes. The high demand means we consume around ten percent of the world’s cocoa crop. We therefore have a particular responsibility and need to examine more closely the circumstances in which our groceries are produced. Often, people on cocoa plantations have to work under circumstances that are forbidden by international standards – with children particularly affected.

The members of the Parliamentary Advisory Council thus view the creation of the ‘German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa’ as an important step. The alliance aims to promote sustainable cocoa farming and brings together around 80 members from industry, trade, policy-making and civil society. The initiative is the result of a cooperation between the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The members of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development are committed to establishing fair working conditions worldwide. The council rejects the manufacture of products with no regard for human rights. The core labour standards of the UN’s International Labour Organization (ILO) must be adhered to in all working conditions. Sustainable development starts at a local level, which is why the members of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development are calling on consumers to be aware of their responsibility and to consider fair trade products to a greater extent when shopping. Public institutions should lead by example in this respect.

The members of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development call on the Federal Government to actively join the fight against child labour abuse and child trafficking. Transparency and checks in the production and supply chain play a key role in this. Here, the Council calls on the Federal Government to examine the extent to which legislation at a national and European level can be applied constructively to protect children’s rights.