

Forever Chocolate Progress Report 2021/22

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“How do we drive progress and transformative action across the entire cocoa supply chain? The answer lies in **multi-stakeholder coordinated action**, in shaping policy and action together.”

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our sixth Forever Chocolate Progress Report. It's been a year of collaboration, achievement and valuable partnerships. A year that once again underlined what impact can be created when key stakeholders join forces and work together for a fully sustainable cocoa sector.

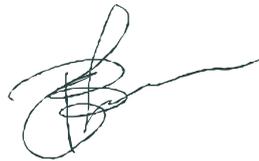
Our key achievements for 2021/22 reflect our tangible impact on the ground. To name one, this year, we increased the proportion of products sold containing 100% sustainable cocoa or chocolate to 49.4%. This is the equivalent of one in two products we sell. This is a tremendous achievement made possible by our customers and our suppliers committed to a sustainable cocoa supply chain.

Through collaboration with some of our global customers, we've developed programs aiming to offer subsidized soil inputs and paid labor teams to support farmers with the cost of production. These programs were ramped up across 8,000 hectares in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Under our Zero Child Labor pillar, we have placed a lot of emphasis on a child-centric approach, reaching 80.6% of the farmer groups in our direct supply chain that have child-labor-focused due diligence systems in place. We have also supported CLEF (Child Learning and Education Facility), an innovative public-private partnership focused on scaling investments to improve access to quality education in Côte d'Ivoire.

This year has also been a year of reflection – how do we move the needle beyond our direct supply chain? How do we drive progress and transformative action across the entire cocoa supply chain? The answer lies in multi-stakeholder coordinated action, in shaping policy and action together. We are proud to be a leading industry voice in these developments. Together with other companies, industry associations and NGOs, we have publicly endorsed legislation on human rights and environmental due diligence for the cocoa sector. It is gratifying to see that our advocacy efforts are yielding results – the upcoming EU legislation will provide an impetus to strengthen an enabling environment, as well as the market pull, for sustainable cocoa.

Legislation, however, is no carte blanche for companies to lose ambition. While governments raise the floor, we want to continue to raise the ceiling. Halfway through the Forever Chocolate timeline, we have reflected in the past year on the impact we generated since 2016, and on what we aim to achieve in the years to come, towards 2025 and beyond. Keeping pace with the constantly evolving sustainability landscape, regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectations, while using our ongoing Forever Chocolate targets for 2025 as a springboard, we will present a set of sharpened targets in spring 2023. Our purpose is to continue driving change at scale, elevate ambition in the sector and recalibrate targets to integrate recognised sustainability standards.

I would like to thank our employees, partners, suppliers and customers for embracing our sustainability pathway – all our accomplishments were possible only with their dedication and passion. I warmly invite other stakeholders to join the Forever Chocolate movement. Together, we can make sustainable chocolate the norm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Boone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Boone