

# SSC Steering Group Meeting

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Date: 30 August 2023 14:00-16:00 (BST)

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Attendees: 10 attendees (7 Steering Group; 3 Secretariat)

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## Summary – agenda, notes, decisions

A Steering Group meeting was held to discuss the draft strategy and 2023-24 workplan.

### 1. Strategy

Overall, it was felt that the draft strategic plan had a good format, structure, and flow. Refinements to the vision were discussed. It was proposed that the vision could be circulated to the wider membership.

- The format of the strategic plan document was approved.
- It was agreed that the document should be split into an external-facing strategy and a separate internal workplan.
- The content of the strategy section was broadly agreed, including the revised aims.

### 2. Workplan activities – priorities

Priority activities were discussed, particularly focusing resource on updates to the Codes versus supporting members with implementation.

Regarding a review of the Codes, it was suggested that each topic area could be represented by a Champion on the Codes Working Group, rather than via a Task Force. It was proposed that members could complete the Risk Assessment template and the information gathered could be used as a baseline for Code updates.

It was discussed that while the Codes require periodic updates to reflect progress and emerging topics, full implementation the Codes throughout supply chains requires some consistency. In relation to the scope of the Codes, it was suggested that a future discussion takes place regarding own-brand vs branded products.

It was suggested that traceability updates regarding the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) could be added to the Guidance (recommendations) rather than to the Codes (requirements). There was a proposal that the Guidance could be tiered (e.g., minimum best practice recommendations to meet the Codes, next steps, and leading examples).

It was suggested that implications from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) Green Claims Guidance and the CMA Draft Competition Guidance for the SSC ways of working and Codes could be investigated.

- It was agreed that the workplan activities need to be refined and streamlined, for a focused and realistic workplan.
- It was agreed that advocacy activities are lower priority for the 2023-24 workplan, compared to updating the Codes and supporting members with implementation.
- To agree the priority workplan activities, the Steering Group will further review the Codes and Guidance and feedback on key questions.

### 3. Workplan activities – timelines

It was proposed that the Codes could be updated first, and then the Guidance amended later. There was discussion regarding the amount of detail required at this stage for an update to the Codes, and that this will determine the expected timeline. It was noted that previous updates to the Codes involved public consultations, with standards holders, government, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) etc.

- To agree the timelines for updating the Codes and other workplan activities, the Steering Group will hold additional meetings to allow more in-depth discussion.