

To:

NFOs
NAPP
CLAC
FTA
FLOCERT
Standard Committee
Fairtrade International

Melissa Duncan
Executive Director
Fairtrade International

4 December 2023

Subject: Approval of the suspension request of the requirement 3.5.4 in the Hired Labour Standard, limited to Sri Lanka.

Dear Fairtrade partners,

The Standards & Pricing Unit announces the decision related to the suspension request by the Network of Asia & Pacific Producers (NAPP), dated 19th October 2023, related to the extraordinary high inflation situation that Sri Lanka has experienced during the years 2021 and 2022.

In their capacity to decide on suspension requests, the Director of the Standards & Pricing Unit and the Chair of the Standards Committee approved **the suspension of the requirement 3.5.4. on wage level increase in the Fairtrade Standard for Hired Labour exclusively for Sri Lanka**. The approval activates the research phase of a review project to address the implications of inflation related to wage adjustments, the section of the requirement 3.5.4 and conduct consultation only on the inflation-related aspects of the requirement. The Project Assignment can be found on our website [here](#).

The suspension is valid for Sri Lanka, from the date of the publication of the project assignment with no end date. The suspension therefore is in place until a new improved requirement is approved by the Standards Committee following the Standard Operating Procedure for the Development of Fairtrade Standards ([SOP](#)).

For more information, please contact the Project Manager Andrea Urioste (a.urioste@fairtrade.net).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and the last name "Duncan" clearly distinguishable.

Melissa Duncan
Executive Director of Fairtrade International