

Call for expertise!

Public consultation on GCP's sustainability tools now open



BONN, GERMANY (19 May 2026). As the coffee sector faces increasingly complex challenges – from climate change and evolving regulations to rising market expectations and the need for greater alignment across sustainability initiatives – it is more important than ever that shared sustainability tools remain relevant, credible, and effective. In response, GCP's public consultation on the 2026 Review of the [Coffee Sustainability Reference Code](#) (Coffee SR Code) and [Equivalence Mechanism](#) (EM) is now open for input.

Coffee sector stakeholders from across the value chain are invited to share their expertise and perspectives, helping to ensure these sector-wide tools continue to support practical, aligned, and impactful approaches to coffee sustainability.

[➤ Jump straight to the consultation](#)
[➤ Access the consultation in other languages](#)

The review of both tools is taking place simultaneously to ensure coherence and continued relevance for GCP Members and the wider coffee sector, supporting comparability, supply chain efficiencies, and increasing uptake of sustainability practices. The process is led by GCP, guided by its Technical Committee and Advisory Task Force, and conducted in line with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice, contributing to GCP's 2030 Goal.

Designed to be transparent, inclusive, and evidence-based, the year-long process includes a robust technical analysis of both tools, alongside public consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement.

“We welcome the participation of stakeholders from across the coffee value chain and from around the world to bring their experience and expertise to this process. A rich diversity of voices will ensure these shared sustainability tools are fit-for-purpose, practical, and relevant.”

- Gabriel Chavez, GCP Manager Sustainable Sourcing -

The Coffee SR Code was developed as a common language for foundational sustainable coffee production, centered on economic prosperity, social well-being, and environmental stewardship. The EM is a framework that assesses whether sustainability systems align with the Reference Code, ensuring they meet minimum expectations for robust systems (including governance, standard-setting, assurance, data, and claims integrity).

Proposed updates to the Coffee SR Code include a stronger emphasis on continuous improvement, reinforcing the positioning of the Code as a shared baseline for sustainable coffee. The updated approach maintains a risk-based, context-driven framework to ensure flexibility and applicability across diverse production contexts.

Key updates proposed for the EM include improved clarity and structure, strengthened governance, transparency, and data integrity requirements, and clearer expectations around disclosure and accountability. The updated approach also reinforces a risk- and due diligence-based methodology that moves beyond “tick-box” compliance.

The [consultation survey](#) consists of 25 required questions covering high-level feedback and key substantive changes. A separate [technical survey](#) is available for stakeholders wishing to provide more detailed technical input on individual requirements.

The consultation will run for 30 days, ending on 19 June 2026. GCP will continue to publish key materials and updates throughout the process on the website – including details on specific technical adjustments – culminating in updated versions of both tools.

➤ Access the Consultation Toolkit



- Watch a [short introductory video](#)
- Find the webinar [guiding slides](#)
- Read through the [Summary of Changes](#)
- Review the [Consultation Draft](#)

The guiding slides and Summary of Changes are available in [English, Spanish, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia, & Vietnamese](#)

➤ Access the Surveys



Main Survey: Provide high-level and key substantive changes feedback. Available in [English, Spanish, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia, & Vietnamese](#)



Technical Survey: Provide detailed, requirement-specific feedback on the proposed updates to the Coffee SR Code and the EM Operational Criteria. This [survey](#) is available in English only.

For more information, get in touch with the GCP Team: info@globalcoffeeplatform.org