

Rules of procedure for the LI Fair Trade Working Group

[1] Objectives of the Working Group

1.1 In line with the Morocco Declaration on Fair Trade (2019), the Fair Trade Working Group will deliver liberals' answers to fair and sustainable trade. Based on our core liberal principles – individual freedom, freedom of choice and rule of law, we aim to set a liberal agenda on fair trade. The core objectives of the committee are:

- i. To provide a platform and support for our members, and through this influence international decision making, specifically through the UN, and support local initiatives, as international cooperation is key in supporting the promotion of fair trade values.
- ii. To implement and translate the goals of the LI Morocco Declaration into action as it is considered as a starting point for all initiatives.
- iii. To build LI as a credible actor in the international trade community and efficiently influence and solidify positions on fair and sustainable trade among LI members.
- iv. To be a network that speaks on behalf of LI and support LI members in their efforts to promote fair and sustainable trade policies.

1.2 To deliver on these, core priority working areas have been outlined. These are subject to be reworked based on the expert papers received by the membership and partners. The core priority working areas are as following:

- i. Digitalisation: trade in the digital era;
- ii. Fair trade, direct investment and integrated markets;
- iii. Strengthening multilateralism.

[2] Composition of the Working Group

2.1 The Fair Trade Working Group shall be composed of:

- i. 1 Chair
- ii. 5 Vice Chairs

2.2 Serving term:

- i. Each serving term on the working group is 18 months, with the right of re-election.
- ii. No member on the LI Fair Trade Working Group shall serve for more than three consecutive terms.
- iii. The membership of the LI Fair Trade Working Group shall be confirmed by the First LI Executive Committee that meets after the Congress.
- iv. In the event of any of the Members of the Fair Trade Working Group retiring during his/her term of office the vacancy shall be filled by the LI Bureau and confirmed by the Executive Committee immediately following.

[3] Criteria for Membership

- 3.1** A member of the LI Fair Trade Working Group shall have the necessary expertise in the field of international trade.
- 3.2** A member of the LI Fair Trade Working Group shall have the time and resources to contribute to the work of the committee.

[4] Nomination procedure

- 4.1** Each member party, group or cooperating organisation of Liberal International has the right to nominate one candidate.
- 4.2** All nominations for membership shall be presented to the LI Bureau, which reviews the nominations for compliance. All applications that meet the criteria will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for a decision.
- 4.3** The Executive Committee shall vote on the membership of the Fair Trade Working Group.

[5] Quorum Requirement

- 5.1** The quorum for the adoption of resolutions/decisions is a simple majority of committee members. This can be waived at the beginning of a session, by decision of the Chair

[6] Reporting

- 6.1** The Chair, assisted by the working group officer, shall prepare the provisional agenda for each meeting as well as a draft report on the meeting.
- 6.2** Members may propose additions or changes to the provisional agenda, in writing, to the secretariat within one week of receiving the provisional agenda, and these additions or changes shall be included in a revised provisional agenda by the working group officer in agreement with the Chair.
- 6.3** The Fair Trade Working Group shall, at the beginning of each meeting, adopt the meeting agenda.

[7] Working Language

- 7.1** English shall be the working language of the Fair Trade Working Group.

[8] Overriding Authority of the Political Bureau

8.1 In the event of any conflict between decisions of the Fair Trade Working Group and the Bureau, the Bureau shall take precedence.

[9] Amendments to Rules of Procedure

9.1 The rules of procedure may be amended by a two thirds majority during working group meetings, in agreement with the Chair.

[10] Expert groups, subcommittees, panels and thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups

10.1 The Fair Trade Working Group may establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc sub-working groups, to help execute the work of the working group in guiding the implementation of the focus points, as appropriate, in an advisory role, and that report to the working group.

10.2 In establishing any expert group, subcommittee, panel, thematic advisory group or task-focused ad hoc sub-working group, the working group will determine an appropriate number of members and ensure that members have appropriate expertise in the relevant field of work.

[11] Conflict of interest and confidentiality

11.1 Fair Trade Working Group members must promptly disclose, and recuse themselves from, any deliberations or decision-making where their personal or financial interests may be affected, in order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of one.

11.2 Further, working group members should not disclose any confidential information they receive in the course of their duties, even after leaving the Working Group.