



## Modern Slavery Statement

ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd (“**ECOM**”) is proud of the steps it has and continues to take to combat slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains. It is a fundamental policy of the ECOM group (the “**ECOM Group**”) to conduct its business with honesty and integrity and in accordance with the highest legal and ethical standards.

We are a global commodity trading and processing company specializing in coffee, cocoa and cotton, in major producing and consuming countries, with ancillary agricultural operations in speciality commodities. ECOM has its head office in Switzerland but operates in over 40 countries with over 5,400 permanent employees worldwide.

### **OUR BUSINESS**

Our business is organised into three business units; (i) Integrated Supply Chain and Physical Trade; (ii) Market Trade and Business Support; and (iii) Production and Processing.

### **OUR SUPPLY CHAINS**

Our supply chains cover origination, primary processing, export, secondary processing and merchandising globally.

We acknowledge that we operate worldwide in a number of high risk countries for modern slavery and human trafficking. In addition, we employ temporary and seasonal workers which further increase the risk of us operating a supply chain susceptible to modern slavery or human trafficking. We continuously work with our business partners and clients around the world to eliminate modern slavery or human trafficking from our supply chains.

### **OUR POLICIES ON SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. In order to become the preferred buyer for our suppliers and preferred seller for our clients ECOM seeks to comply with applicable laws and to work with farmers to improve crops over the long term. This goes hand in hand with compliance of modern slavery laws around the world. This policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our supply chains.

Our managers are responsible for ensuring that employees under their supervision are familiar with our policies and for promoting compliance. Our policies state that the ECOM Group will not employ forced labour, which is defined as involuntary or compulsory labour, such as indentured labour, bonded labour or similar labour-contracting arrangements. We make enquiries of our suppliers about the possibility of its existence within the supply chain and work to eliminate the same.

Together with a number of international companies, ECOM has a strategic ambition to improve the livelihoods of farmers and their economic opportunities by increasing



productivity and advancing community development. The focus on improving communities will help to reduce any instances of modern slavery.

## **OUR TRAINING**

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we provide annual training to our staff through ECOM's Sustainable Management Services ("SMS") initiatives at origin level and at other points in the supply chain. SMS looks to improve farmer yields through improving farming practices and/or the introduction of certifications or traceability programs. Not only does certification or verification improve farmer profits but it also allows our customers to rely on the traceability of the cocoa and coffee beans in their supply chains. In addition, we are seeking to raise awareness internally of our SMS activities and associated SMS Code, ECOM Supplier Code of Conduct and general approach to the eradication of modern slavery through a training program aimed at top and middle management globally.

## **OUR DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES FOR SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

As part of our initiative to identify and mitigate risk we have in place a Social Environmental Management System (SEMS) to ensure that our:

- sustainable practices are aligned with and support our business objectives;
- own facilities are compliant with legal requirements and international expectations;
- procurement supports improvement in production and discourages unsustainable and inappropriate practices. We anticipate and mitigate negative social and environmental consequences of our business and that affect our business.

SEMS is a management tool used globally on an annual basis within ECOM to assess environmental, safety and social compliance of owned or operated locations and details on environmental and social issues in the supply chain. If there are any issues relating to modern slavery at ECOM owned or operated locations or within a supply chain these should be flagged through SEMS.

## **OUR SUPPLIERS' ADHERENCE TO OUR VALUES**

ECOM does not tolerate any forms of slavery and human trafficking. To ensure all those in our supply chain and contractors comply with our values we have in place a Supplier Code of Conduct which highlights our commitment to eradicate modern slavery and the expectation on our suppliers to maintain the same high standards. By accepting our Supplier Code of Conduct, ECOM is entitled to audit a supplier's practices to ensure compliance.

ECOM will avoid buying from and selling to parties discovered to be acting in violation of national environmental and social legislation (specifically including improper labour practices).



## **SUSTAINABILITY AND TRACEABILITY**

Certification or verification against widely accepted schemes for sustainable agriculture is viewed by ECOM as one of the most effective ways to advance the supply of sustainable products. ECOM works with certification schemes and encourages the development of supply of certified production. This enables ECOM to be confident that suppliers certifying sustainable practices are using ethical and accepted methods; for example, Fairtrade strictly prohibits slave and child labour. Our SMS initiatives seek to expand the use of certifications and traceability primarily within the cocoa markets but also in coffee. The SMS programs look to recruit farmers to programs backed by ECOM and its clients. Through SMS programs at origin level, SMS looks to improve farmer yields through support and provision of equipment, thus improving farming practices. The SMS programs focus on certification and/or traceability which allow transparency of our SMS supply chains and, in our view, are a highly effective way to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking from our supply chains.

## **WHISTLEBLOWING**

ECOM has a procedure in place for resolving complaints (both internal and external), including those relating to modern slavery. ECOM will process any such complaint in line with this procedure. It is our stated intent that complainants be acknowledged and taken seriously; there is a mechanism in place to allow for the protection of a complainant and for any complaint to be made and handled anonymously.

## **OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN COMBATING SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

We use the following indicators to measure how effective we have been to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our business or supply chains:

- Each year an internal audit is conducted to ensure that local policies align with ECOM Group policies.
- Spot checks for suppliers in higher risk countries; on the basis that it is not feasible to audit every supplier.

We are satisfied of the effectiveness of the steps we have taken this year to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains and we intend to continue these steps to continue to combat slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015 and covers the UK entities ECOM Agrotrade Limited, ECOM Agrotrade Holdings Limited, East Africa Coffee Co. LLP and VA&E Trading LLP, the US's Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act 2015 and the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act 2010, and it constitutes the ECOM Group's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 December 2017.

**ECOM Agroindustrial Corp. Ltd**