




PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WORK ITEM	
Date of proposal 3 September 2025	Reference number (to be given by CROSQ Secretariat)
Proposer SLBS	CROSQ/RTC/

A proposal for a new work item shall be submitted to the CROSQ Secretariat, which will assign it a reference number and process the proposal in accordance with the CROSQ Directives. The proposer of a new work item may be a member state of CROSQ via the National Standards Bureau, a regional technical committee or subcommittee, the Council on Trade and Economic Development, (COTED), the CROSQ Council, The CROSQ Executive Committee, the CROSQ Secretariat, or a national, regional or international organisation recognized by the CROSQ Council. Guidelines for proposing and justifying a new work item are given in the CROSQ Directive - Procedure for the Management of the Technical Work of CROSQ (DRAFT).

Proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

<p>Title of proposed deliverable: (in the case of an amendment, revision or a new part of an existing document, show the reference number and current title) Draft CARICOM Voluntary Sustainability Standard for Coconuts and Coconut Products.</p>
<p>Scope of the proposed deliverable.</p> <p>This standard specifies the sustainability requirements for the production of fresh and dry coconuts, water coconuts, coconut oil and products of processed coconut such as desiccated coconut.</p> <p>This standard does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) coconut plants b) other products, food or non-food where the coconut is used only as a flavouring.
<p>Purpose and justification of the proposal.</p> <p>The aim of this standard is to provide the producers of coconuts and coconut products in the CARICOM region with guidance on desirable sustainability metrics that will ensure sustainable development and future viability for the regional coconut value chain. This is desirable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Coconut Products such as coconut oil seeking entry into food and non-food markets where sustainable products are wanted and valued. 2. To increase producers and processors incomes through sales in such new markets. 3. To reap the benefits of improve environmental management in the CARICOM region and reduce the impact of climate change, where possible, thereby improving the long term viability of the coconut industry in the region. 4. To reap the benefits of better social conditions in the CARICOM region and renewing interest in production of coconuts. 5. To facilitate the use of a Caribbean Sustainability Mark, which would identify sustainably produced CARICOM Coconut Products. The use of such a market based instrument would facilitate sustainable consumption/use and develop high value international markets, while encouraging sustainable production and processing activities in CARICOM territories.
<p>If draft is attached to this proposal:</p> <p>Please select from one of the following options (note that if no option is selected, the default will be the first option):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Draft document will be registered as new project in the committee's work programme (stage 20.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft document can be registered as a Working Draft (WD – stage 20.20) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft document can be registered as a Committee Draft (CD – stage 30.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Draft document can be registered as a Draft CARICOM Regional Standard (DCRS – stage 40.00)
<p>Indication(s) of the preferred type or types of deliverable(s) to be produced</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARICOM Regional Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Specification <input type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available Specification <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Report</p>

Proposed development track X Fast track (12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> normal development (24.5 months)
Known patented items (see CROSQ directives, Part 1 Management of Technical work for important guidelines) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No if “yes”, provide full information as an annex
A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing CROSQ deliverables. The proposer should explain how the work differs from apparently similar work, or explain how duplication or conflict will be minimised <p>A CROSQ standard is presently being developed for the Coconut Value Chain. That standard may possibly consider areas and concerns affecting the production and development of the Coconut Value Chain within the CARICOM region. Sustainability concerns may well arise. However, it is anticipated that the treatment of these concerns will form a minor part of the standard, where as in this CARICOM Voluntary Sustainability Standard for Coconuts and Coconut Products sustainability requirements (Environmental, Social and Governance requirements) for producers and processors will form the basis of the standard. This standard is expected to be progressive ensuring major elements are completed before moving on to others. It is proposed that anyone completing all elements and progressing to conformity certification would be entitled to use the Product Label.</p>
A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels <p>RSPO Principles and Criteria. 2024. 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria for the sustainable cultivation of oil palms and the production of sustainable palm oil and oil palm products. 2.1.2 Scope. Version 4.0.</p> <p>ISO 14001:2015, <i>Environmental Management Systems. Requirements with guidance for use.</i></p> <p>ISO 26000:2010, <i>Guidance on Social Responsibility.</i></p> <p>ISO 37000:2021, <i>Governance of Organisation. Guidance.</i></p> <p>ISO/TS 26030:2019, <i>Social responsibility and sustainable development — Guidance on using ISO 26000:2010 in the food chain.</i></p> <p>ISO/TS 22002-1:2009(en), <i>Prerequisite programmes on food safety — Part 1: Food manufacturing</i></p> <p>IWA 48:2024(en) Framework for implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.</p> <p>The ISO 59000 family of standards on circular economy.</p>
A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small, medium and micro enterprises) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s) <p>The intended users of the CARICOM Voluntary Sustainability Standard for Coconut and Coconut products are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, medium and large size coconut producers and coconut product producers within the CARICOM region . • CARICOM Coconut and coconut product producers targeting high value markets who hold sustainability in high esteem e.g. European Union. <p>Additional stakeholders are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional governments who want to ensure their concerns for the viability and the sustainability of the coconut value chain are being addressed. • Regional buyers of coconuts and coconut products who want to ensure continued supply. • Importers and distributors within Caricom, of coconut and coconut products with sustainability concerns. • Consumers of coconut and coconut products who desire continuity of supply and would like to ensure that social, environmental and economical concerns of producers and processors are being monitored and addressed during the growth, production and distribution of such products. <p>The use of this standard would seek to alleviate viability and sustainability concerns of the above stakeholders and aim to ensure that coconuts and coconut products from CARICOM continues to be produced sustainably.</p>

Liaison organisations (list of relevant external international or Regional organisations or internal parties (or other CROSQ committees) to be engaged as liaisons in the development of the deliverable(s) UNIDO.
Preparatory work (at a minimum an outline should be included with the proposal) <input type="checkbox"/> A draft is attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An outline is attached <input type="checkbox"/> An existing document to serve as an initial basis The proposer or the proposer's organisation is prepared to undertake the preparatory work required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name and signature of Proposer (include contact information) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Name: Verne Emmanuel</div> <div>Organisation: Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div>Contact number(s): 7584530049</div> <div>Email: v.emmanuel@slbs.org</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> Signature:  </div> </div>
Supplementary information relating to the proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This proposal relates to a new CROSQ document <input type="checkbox"/> This proposal relates to the amendment of an existing CROSQ document <input type="checkbox"/> This proposal is for the revision of an existing CROSQ document <input type="checkbox"/> This proposal relates to the re-establishment of a cancelled project as an active project
Annex(es) are included with this proposal (give details) 1. Outline of Draft CARICOM VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD for COCONUTS AND COCONUT PRODUCTS.
Comments of the CROSQ TMC / Council (to be completed by the CROSQ Secretariat)
Signature CROSQ CEO