

## *Responses from Del Monte Philippines, Dole Philippines and the International Finance Corporation to Global Witness*

[Context for statements can be found here.](#)

Global Witness offered companies we met with following the launch of our investigation, 'Defending the Philippines' for updates on the actions taken to support and protect defenders in the six months since our report launch.

Their responses are published in full:

### **DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES INC**

"Global Witness' campaign late last year made clear to us how there could be a huge disconnect between how we see our company and how some sectors interpret our actions. One of our affiliates' watchwords is our being "Growers of Good." Being one of the good guys entails an organizational mindfulness and focus on enduring principles such as respect for human rights which we had always thought our company would never have issues on. The growth of our business, our evolving supply chain and the expanding reach of our operations require increased vigilance to ensure that the lives our businesses cross paths with are indeed enriched as stated in our company vision: *Nourishing Families and Enriching Lives*. Such vigilance needs to be articulated in a very clear policy, translated into concrete action steps within our company's existing business processes and ingrained in our culture.

Hence, we had embarked on a journey of reflecting on our beliefs as to who we are and what we stand for, including identifying areas of no compromise or zero tolerance. We are motivated as well by the prospect of our employees, customers, investors and business partners being very satisfied with our company's human rights track record and sustainability practices. We had taken pride in our practices as being in step with those of other responsible corporate citizens. However, we now take the challenge of reviewing our impact assessment and due diligence processes including areas of focus and monitoring frequency. It is true that we had internally reviewed these and made some changes, but beyond doing these by ourselves and with our existing lens, we have engaged (not without some discomfort as in any learning experience) with civil society and human rights experts and advocates. We want to be proactive, to the extent that we can, in preventing and responding to any reprisals against persons who voice out issues about any of the businesses our company is involved in. If all these mean that we would lead the way on business and human rights in the Philippines, then we will carry on."

### **DOLE PHILIPPINES**

"Even prior to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Dole Philippines, Inc. was already in the midst of re-examining its company purpose and the core principles that guide it in the

operation of its business. Such rethinking of its purpose as a producer of healthy food products is in line with Dole's goal of being more attune with the needs of its surrounding community and stakeholders.

Dole shall continue to be guided by its own Code of Conduct and shall adhere to the highest ethical standards and operate its business openly and honestly within the spirit and letter of existing laws.

Dole is committed to following the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights. As a socially-responsible corporate citizen, Dole fully respects the fundamental and internationally-recognized human rights. Dole looks forward to outlining more concrete company policies and programs in support of the UN Guiding Principles.

With respect specifically to violence perpetrated against environmental defenders as alleged in Global Witness' "Enemies of the State" report, Dole has undertaken a review of its internal processes to better ensure that it shall not be a party to any such reprisals or violence against environmental defenders and/or indigenous peoples. Additionally, it has implemented a regular dialogue among its employees who are members of indigenous groups to ensure that concerns from indigenous groups are constantly discussed with company representatives."

#### **THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)**

"Since releasing its public [Position Statement](#) on Non-Retaliation in October 2018, IFC has been tracking reprisals allegations more systematically and developing internal protocols and guidance for staff on reprisals screening, prevention, and response. In December 2019, IFC launched a new contextual risk tool to be included as part of IFC's Environmental and Social due diligence processes for all investments. In recognizing the importance of early prevention, a reprisals-specific dimension has been added to screen for project contexts with high risks of retaliation and violence. New guidance is also forthcoming on adapting stakeholder engagement practices and client grievance mechanisms in these situations, including in the rapidly emerging Covid-19 context.

When reprisal allegations are raised, IFC works within the scope of its role as a lender and investor to engage with its clients or other appropriate parties, make its position against reprisals clear, and take follow up action as and where needed. These efforts are being strengthened through the creation of a dedicated Stakeholder Grievance Response team, established in July 2019 as part of IFC's new Environment & Social Policy and Risk Department – which reports directly to IFC's CEO. This team and department are working to raise awareness and provide guidance to operational teams regarding retaliation risks and threats, with a focus on early prevention and engagement efforts.

We look forward to continued engagement and collaboration with Global Witness and other key stakeholders on this important and challenging topic."