



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **STARBUCKS AND 2 SISTERS FOOD GROUP JOIN THE GLOBAL COALITION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE TO ADVANCE WELFARE IN GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS**

Starbucks and 2 Sisters Food Group have become the newest members of the Global Coalition for Animal Welfare (GCAW), signalling their continued commitment to improving the treatment of animals in global food supply chains.

The addition of Starbucks, the world's largest coffeehouse chain, and 2 Sisters Food Group, leading food manufacturer and largest chicken producer in the UK, to the GCAW membership further broadens the collective supply chain and geographic expertise within the Coalition.

GCAW is an industry-led global collaborative platform, established in 2018, and built to enable food companies to collectively address systemic barriers to improving animal welfare, and accelerate food industry progress on key welfare issues.

Its members include some of the largest and most well-known names in international foodservice, food retail and food production including Aramark, Compass Group, Elior Group, IKEA Food Services, Maple Leaf Foods, Nestlé, Sodexo, Tesco, The Cheesecake Factory, The Kroger Co., Tyson Foods, and Unilever. The addition of Starbucks and 2 Sisters Food Group brings the total

number of GCAW members to 14, who together represent in excess of \$590 billion in combined revenues<sup>1</sup>.

GCAW is currently focussed on three species-specific priority workstreams which aim to harness best practice and catalyse systemic change in the welfare of laying hens, broiler chickens and pigs. In April this year, GCAW joined forces with the Dutch Young Farmers' Association, NAJK, to support a 'Next generation pig farming' study tour to Scandinavia later in 2022. The study tour will focus on animal welfare and its interactions with, among other things, innovative housing and technology, supply chain, finance and regenerative agriculture.

**Dr Birte Nielsen, Independent Chair of GCAW said** “Starbucks and 2 Sisters Food Group join GCAW at a time when the coalition is embarking on a programme of expansion of its membership base and its species focus areas. The coalition has doubled in size from 7 to 14 members in the past 18 months and its members are making decisive progress on their collective objectives which recognise the inextricable link between improving the welfare of animals, building sustainable supply chains and delivering successful and resilient businesses. The coalition extends the warmest of welcomes to Starbucks and 2 Sisters Food Group as the newest members of GCAW.”

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately \$590.6 billion (USD) in combined revenues for financial year 2021. Source: GCAW member company annual reports.

## For further information

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## Notes to Editors

### About GCAW

1. [The Global Coalition for Animal Welfare \(GCAW\)](#) is the world's first food industry-led initiative aimed at advancing animal welfare globally. Launched in October 2018, the global platform unites major companies and animal welfare experts in improving animal welfare standards at scale and in meeting consumer demand for food products from animals reared in systems that promote good welfare.
2. The Coalition was developed by seven founder members: Aramark, Compass Group, Elior Group, IKEA Food Services, Nestlé, Sodexo, and Unilever. Members work with multi-disciplinary experts from academia, industry, inter-governmental organizations and civil society. The Coalition is convened and managed by an independent Secretariat (Chronos Sustainability Ltd).
3. GCAW is an initiative initially proposed by Sodexo, and launched in October 2018. Its seven founding member companies are among the largest names in global food production and food service: Aramark, Compass Group, Elior Group, IKEA Food Services, Nestlé, Sodexo and Unilever.
4. The Coalition is looking to expand its membership in order to broaden its supply chain and geographic representation. Starbucks and 2 Sisters Food Group take the total number of GCAW members to 14.

5. GCAW's principal objectives are to:
  - Provide a platform for food companies to work more closely with farm animal welfare experts to identify common objectives and drive improvements.
  - Prioritize welfare issues and develop roadmaps for industry change while supporting producers in implementing strong animal welfare practices.
  - Advance animal welfare knowledge globally through industry insights, bespoke research and partnerships for action.
6. GCAW members are currently working on three priority workstreams, with plans to expand in line with member interests.
  - (i) Laying Hen Welfare
  - (ii) Broiler Chicken Welfare
  - (iii) Pig Welfare

### **About Starbucks**

Since 1971, Starbucks Coffee Company has been committed to ethically sourcing and roasting high-quality arabica coffee. Today, with more than 34,000 stores worldwide, the company is the premier roaster and retailer of specialty coffee in the world. Through our unwavering commitment to excellence and our guiding principles, we bring the unique Starbucks Experience to life for every customer through every cup.

### **About 2 Sisters Food Group**

2 Sisters Food Group is a privately owned food manufacturing company with headquarters in Birmingham, England. Over the past 28 years, the company has evolved from a small-scale operation to a world-class diversified food manufacturer with strong market positions in Poultry, Ready Meals, Bakery and Frozen categories in the UK and Europe. Primarily a private label manufacturer for retailer and food service markets, the group employs more than 16,000 people and has annual sales exceeding £2.6 billion. The company focuses on delivering the highest quality products to customers and is proud of the role it plays in helping to feed the nation every day.

### **About GCAW's Independent Chair, Dr Birte L Nielsen**

Dr Birte L Nielsen is the Assistant Scientific Director of UFAW – the International Animal Welfare Science Society – and the Humane Slaughter Association and Chair of the Global Coalition for Animal Welfare. For nearly three decades, she has carried out work in farm animal welfare through research in basic and applied ethology, the latter also including laboratory animals. Birte has worked with and published on a variety of species, including pigs, cows, chickens, horses, and rats.

Birte has participated in numerous expert panels and working groups, including chairing the Danish Animal Welfare Council, and as member of an FAO expert panel as well as the Animal Welfare working group at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (Anses). She has also served as President of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), and as President of the Ethics Committee for the use of Animals in Research (Comethea) for INRAE-Jouy and AgroParisTech.

### **About Chronos Sustainability, GCAW secretariat**

[Chronos Sustainability](https://www.chronossustainability.com) is an international team of professionals with a track record of delivering transformative, systemic change in the social and environmental performance of key industry sectors. Chronos works in partnership with institutional investors, industry networks, companies, governments, regulators and civil society organisations on issues as diverse as climate change, responsible investment, oceans management, animal welfare and human rights. In 2020, Environmental Finance named Chronos winners of the ESG Initiative of the Year at its annual Responsible Investment Awards.

[www.chronossustainability.com](https://www.chronossustainability.com)

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