

**Request to Present Oral Statement at Public Meeting of Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products (March 29, 2010)**

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

March 18, 2010

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**Key issues to be addressed in the oral statement:**

- Update on the ICVB
- Challenges of 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring in Agriculture (rural environments with indistinct boundaries vs. factories) building off of Verité's factory experience
- Need to shift focus to accountability, capacity building and technical assistance for governments
- Value of multi-stakeholder approaches and challenges regarding various roles and responsibilities
- Update on Joint Working Group (JWG) and the way forward
- Challenging "operating environment" for governments (TVPR/EO list have eroded the incentives for nations like Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire)
- Sovereign nations each have distinct processes in politics, legislature, law, etc
- Role of independence and neutrality in multi-stakeholder environment. Who is considered independent and neutral? Can independence exist if one party (i.e. industry) is supporting the process financially? What other funding streams could improve the power dynamic?
- How to guarantee labor conditions given other contributing factors (gender discrimination, extreme poverty, increasing economic pressure, climate change, etc.)?