

Chairman of the DLC sustainable development committee and Chief executive officer's statement

Global thinking, local action: well prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead

“With our Growing Responsibly model now integrated into how we do business, I have no doubt that our collective efforts as a Group, together with our stakeholders, will continue to meet the challenges and guide our responsible growth and ongoing success.”

David Hathorn
Chief executive officer



“It’s a time of collaboration, collective action and holistic thinking, with an increased expectation for business to play a more active role. Our approach is well aligned with the current global sustainable development agenda and provides a strong foundation for future sustainable profitable growth.”

Stephen Harris
Chairman of the DLC sustainable
development committee

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We introduced our Growing Responsibly model in our 2015 report and have spent the past year rolling it out across our businesses, engaging our leaders and embedding it into our day-to-day business activities. As the external environment and stakeholder expectations continue to evolve, we've also strengthened the Group-wide sustainability policies that underpin our approach.

Global initiatives and the drive for transparency

2015 saw the initiation of two important global actions: the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal in Paris during COP21 and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) that will frame the sustainable development agenda to 2030.

While growing responsibly has long been our philosophy, our Growing Responsibly model has helped focus our efforts on delivering 16 clearly defined commitments to 2020¹ and beyond, across 10 action areas that span our entire value chain.

The model gives us the opportunity to share what we're doing as a Group and provides a dashboard for our businesses and local operations to drive and monitor progress in the areas most relevant to them. Appreciating the important role business must play in the global sustainability agenda, we have and will continue to demonstrate strong links between our commitments and the UN SDGs.

Working together to achieve scale and impact

Collaboration and our ongoing participation in global platforms and agendas remain central to our approach. Our strategic partnerships continue to strengthen – particularly our three-year global partnership with WWF. Together, we published our Cascading Use of Wood report, supported the launch of the WWF Boreal Forest Platform (BFP) in Russia, and celebrated the ongoing success of the WWF-Mondi Wetlands Programme (WWF-MWP) which marked its 25th anniversary this year. As we approach the end of this three-year period, we're currently discussing the possibility of a next phase of our long-standing collaboration.

We also contributed to the Natural Capital Protocol, WBCSD's Social Capital Protocol and CISL's² Natural Capital Leadership Platform. We continued to collaborate with global academic partners and to engage with our customers, working together to develop joint solutions that offer them and ourselves a competitive advantage. It's encouraging that investors are increasingly looking to integrate sustainability into their business decisions. It makes good business sense, and it's how we do things at Mondi.

Addressing the UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015 will be a key focus in 2017 as we maintain our ongoing commitment to transparency and the role that business must play in supporting human rights across the supply chain.

A strong safety culture

We're extremely pleased that we had no fatalities or life-altering injuries at Mondi in 2016, however are deeply saddened by a fatality in our South African forestry operations in February 2017.

While good progress has been made in 2016 in strengthening our safety culture, our journey is far from over. We will continue to focus on eliminating fatal and life-altering injuries at our operations with our increasingly engaged and risk-focused businesses committed to identifying and engineering out their top risks.

Listening and learning from our people

Feedback from our latest Group employee survey in 2015 shaped much of the work that followed in 2016. We learned that we needed to work together more often and more effectively across our businesses.

Our employees also want us to strengthen informal, day-to-day recognition and encourage more frequent and personal feedback. We also need to empower all our operations to deliver local goals, while contributing to global strategy and priorities.

In terms of progress, we still have some way to go but we're taking positive steps all the time. We're focused on employee training and engagement, increasing feedback from our leaders across the business, and running collaboration-themed workshops and events across various operations and offices.

Gearing up to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead

As we look to the coming year, we'll continue to train and engage our people and to use supporting science to help refine our Growing Responsibly commitment metrics where necessary. Participating in global platforms and agendas, strengthening links to the UN SDGs and other global initiatives – and continuing to think globally while acting locally will be key.



Stephen Harris visits our Syktyvkar operations (Russia)

1 Our climate commitment runs to 2030

2 Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
www.cisl.cam.ac.uk