



**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24 OF MANAGING COMMITTEE OF ACTION ALLIANCE FOR RECYCLING BEVERAGE CARTONS "AARC" HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023 AT 03:30 PM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

The meeting was held via video conferencing due to outbreak of COVID-19

**Time: 03:30 P.M to 04:30 P.M**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Mr. Ashutosh Manohar – Chairman of the Meeting	Tetra Pak India Private Limited (Tetra Pak)
Cdr. Amitabha Ray	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Private Limited (Schreiber)
Mr. Tusar Ranjan Pattnaik	Dabur India Limited (Dabur)
Mr. Ashish Agarwal	Parle Agro Private Limited (Parle)
Mr. Ganesh Narayanswami	John Distilleries Private Limited (JDL)

**SPECIAL INVITEES:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Dr. Praveen Aggarwal	CEO of AARC
Mr. Rajat Kumar & Mr. Nikhil Kumar	Volunteers of AARC
Mr. Cassio Simoes, Mr. Sharad Sharma & Ms. Nirjhara Rastogi	Tetra Pak India Private Limited (Tetra Pak)
Mr. Jay Prakash Sharma	Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Private Limited (Schreiber)
Ms. Supriya and Mr. Nitin	John Distilleries Private Limited (JDL)
Ms. Divya Pahwa & Mr. Hemant Yadav	Invitees

**1. QUORUM AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Dr. Praveen Aggarwal, CEO of AARC opened the meeting welcoming the Members of Management Committee and ascertained the quorum of the meeting.



Mr. Ashutosh Manohar was elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

Members of the Managing Committee attended the meeting through audio-visual mode.

No confirmation on attending the meeting was received from Ms. Swathi Reddy, Authorised Representative of Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and Mr. Rohan Mishra, Authorised Representative of Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd. Hence, leave of absence was granted.

The agenda for this meeting, as already circulated, was placed and read for discussion with the members.

**2. TO REVIEW & CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were placed for perusal and the same were read and confirmed.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF MR. CASSIO SIMOES AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF AARC IN PLACE OF MR. ASHUTOSH MANOHAR, WHO IS RETIRING FROM TETRA PAK AS MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Dr. Praveen Aggarwal apprised the members about the change of MD in Tetra Pak as Mr. Ashutosh Manohar had retired from the position of MD, followed by an illustrious corporate career of over four decades and in his place. Mr. Cassio Simoes has joined as Country head and MD of Tetra Pak. He then congratulated Mr. Cassio and warmly welcomed him at the meeting. He then apprised the members about Mr. Cassio's qualification, work experience and about his long tenure at Tetra Pak at global level. He further requested MC members to welcome him and confirm his appointment as new Chairman of AARC.

Thereafter, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

**“RESOLVED THAT** the consent of the members be and is hereby accorded to appoint Mr. Casio Simoes as the new Chairman of AARC, in place of Mr. Ashutosh Manohar due to his retirement as Managing Director of Tetra Pak India Pvt. Ltd.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** Mr. Casio Simoes be and is hereby appointed as the new Chairman from immediate effect and shall have the same office tenure as that of Mr. Ashutosh Manohar's, i.e., September 12, 2024.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the designated members of AARC be and are hereby authorized to do all such acts, deeds or things as may be necessary for the aforesaid purpose.”

Further, Dr. Aggarwal extended his gratitude and big thank you to Mr. Manohar for his guidance and support, on behalf of Managing Committee and he further appreciated Mr. Manohar for his tenure of 3 years as Chairman of AARC. On this, Mr. Manohar stated that it is important to stay together and represent the voice of paper based beverage cartons and do our EPR. He then thanked the members for all the support and encouragement.

Vice Chairman Cdr Amitabha Ray stated that Schreiber Dynamix is very grateful to Tetra Pak and the leadership that Mr. Manohar has provided. He then apprised about his association with Mr. Manohar and how Mr. Manohar had always proved to be a helping hand during tough time. He



expressed his deepest gratitude to Mr. Manohar. Cdr. Amitabha Ray then welcomed Mr. Cassio as the new Chairman of AARC and wished him all the best.

Dr. Aggarwal then requested Mr. Cassio to share his journey and experience.

Mr. Cassio started sharing his journey beginning from the challenges that he faced in arranging the documents and visa for India. He apprised that he is a Brazilian and gave a brief about his qualification and work experience of over 20 years in detail. Most recently, he was holding the position of MD of Tetra Pak Andina besides having held various roles across different businesses at Tetra Pak over the past 20 years.

Mr. Cassio then expressed his views on environment, preservation etc. and appreciated the efforts of AARC for its objectives related to engagement with environmental issues.

#### **4. APPROVAL FOR THE ADMISSION OF JNTL CONSUMER HEALTH (INDIA) PVT. LTD. AS A NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER IN PLACE OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON PVT. LTD.**

Dr Aggarwal informed the Managing Committee members about the global restructuring of Johnson & Johnson wherein, the consumer health business of Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. had been demerged and transferred to a new legal entity under the name of “JNTL Consumer Health (India) Private Limited” through an approved Demerger Scheme w.e.f. January 2, 2023, without any change in control, ownership and management in the new entity. In this regard, AARC had received written request from Mr. Rakesh Sahni, authorised representative of Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. to transfer the membership to new legal entity, i.e., JNTL Consumer Health (India) Private Limited.

He further apprised that Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. had requested the Managing Committee members of AARC to transfer its membership to JNTL Consumer Health (India) Pvt. Ltd. since their business is in alignment with the objectives of AARC and also to waive-off the one-time subscription fee / joining fee given its long term relationship with AARC by way of exercising their powers as per Clause 10 of the MOA of AARC.

Thereafter, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

**“RESOLVED THAT** as per the prior written communication received from Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. through an email dated April 17, 2023, the consent of the members of Managing Committee be and is hereby accorded to consider and accept JNTL Consumer Health (India) Pvt. Ltd. as Associate Member of AARC in place of Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. as applicable to Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. without payment of one-time subscription fee / joining fee with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the membership of Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd. be and is hereby terminated with immediate effect, pursuant to the above arrangement.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution, certified as true, by any of the designated members of AARC be furnished in such Departments/ Authorities as and when required.”

#### **5. ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MOEFCC) AND CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

The members were briefed about the meetings held with the CPCB officials.



Dr. Aggarwal apprised that AARC had a meeting with Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary of CPCB on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 wherein crucial points from the industry's perspective were discussed with him including credit mechanism, concerns related to PWP registrations, state-specific waste processing by SPCBs and the confidentiality issue surrounding the upload of e-GST details within the EPR portal. Dr. Gargava gave patient listening to all the points put up by delegation. Further, after the meeting, AARC submitted representations with industry suggestions for the discussed challenges including separate category for beverage cartons as well as to enhance EPR implementation.

He further apprised that AARC had another meeting with Dr. Gargava on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 regarding the challenges faced by the industry concerning the upload of GST details and invoices on the centralized EPR platform for PIBOs.

Further, AARC delegation had a virtual meeting with Ms. Divya Sinha from CPCB on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, where several important matters were discussed especially the matter of wrapper thickness. Mr. Sharad explained that AARC especially discussed the matter of wrapper thickness and shared the expert opinions of Dr. D.D Kale on the same. Ms. Sinha acknowledged this issue and informed the delegation about CPCB's active consideration of the matter. Ms. Sinha confirmed that compostable straws do not fall under EPR regulations and it can be recycled based on industry-approved practices. Ms. Sinha expressed her agreement to investigate the matter of certain SPCBs compelling PIBOs to exclusively work with PWPs, rather than allowing them to engage with WMAs for waste collection. A summary of discussion points w.r.t. engagement with MoEFCC and CPCB has been attached herewith as **Annexure-A**.

Thereafter, members came forward and shared few practical difficulties they are facing on EPR issues. Dr. Aggarwal suggested that a con-call/ virtual call can be arranged in coming days to address and resolve these issues between Dabur, JDL and Parle, to which members also agreed.

## **6. AARC'S INITIATIVE TO GET THE WAIVER OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR CENTRAL FOOD TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CFTRI) APPROVALS IN KARNATAKA**

Dr. Aggarwal briefed the members about the operational challenges to the industry in Karnataka due to mandatory obtaining of Test Report by Distilleries regarding the packaging material of all brands of liquor and getting approval from CFTRI. He requested Mr. Sharad to throw some light on this matter. Mr. Sharad apprised the members that due to the mention of "brand wise" and "size wise" test report, every time if the manufacturers changes the size or brand (design change/text change/ logo change), they have to undergo the testing of packaging materials, which usually takes 3-4 months resulting in the delayed launch of the product in the market. The CFTRI approval is required to check the Migration of heavy metals or substances from the food contact layer of the packaging material which should happen when there is a change in the specification of packaging material, and not at the time of print design change of the packaging material. In this connection, AARC had written to the Commissioner of Excise Policy to issue the necessary amendments or circular to waive off the separate CFTRI approvals which will help the industry in providing ease of doing business.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE OF AARC**

Mr. Rajat Kumar apprised the MC members about the on-going membership drive of AARC. He stated that AARC has been approaching the Brand Owners as well as Producers to join AARC



and in past 3-4 months have reached out to couple of industry members which includes the following:

- India Glycols Ltd. (IGL)

He apprised that IGL is a leading Alcoholic Beverage Company based out of Uttar Pradesh and had applied to become a member of AARC as an Associate Member. The membership request was approved by MC over the mail. He then requested the members to ratify the induction of IGL in AARC as an associate member. It was taken as approved by all the members.

- Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB)

He informed that HCCB had shared their Membership form to become an Associate Member. He requested members to approve this request and the same was taken as Approved.

- GLS Elopak

He apprised that GLS Elopak had confirmed their joining as a Producer in AARC and currently they are in the process of taking internal approvals for the same. AARC team had multiple rounds of discussion with Elopak team and had been taking regular follow-up for joining AARC. He added that they are expecting their joining by next month.

- Inbrew Beverages

He apprised that they have also been engaged with Inbrew Beverages to join AARC and has a meeting with their Sustainability team at their office. It was informed that they will be initiating the joining procedure in July and may join by next quarter.

All the members appreciated the efforts of AARC team.

## **8. THE OUTCOME OF THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE NAINITAL HIGH COURT REGARDING BEVERAGE CARTONS IN THE INDIAN-MADE FOREIGN LIQUOR (IMFL) CATEGORY**

Dr. Aggarwal informed that members about the proceedings of Nainital High Court dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 pertaining to a ban on beverage cartons for liquor sales in Uttarakhand. AARC collaborated with Tetra Pak to take-up this matter and they appointed Trust Legal, a reputable law firm, specializing in environmental law, to handle this case. This legal action was triggered by the liquor excise authority's intention to promote cartons as a packaging option. AARC promptly responded to this development by informing the MC and obtaining approval to peruse the matter in court.

Mr. Sharad Sharma shared that as a result of AARC's proactive efforts, the court reversed the interim ban on cartons and mandated the implementation of a QR code labelling system and a deposit refund scheme of INR 10 per package for liquor packages (both plastics and cartons) sold within the State. Dr. Aggarwal stated that this positive development was achieved through quick action, collaboration with Tetra Pak, and effective engagement and guidance provided to the State Legal Counsel.

One of the members suggested that wherever there is approval from the state government/ excise departments for beverage carton packages for packaging liquor, AARC should meet the



Government officials much often and to brief them about the credibility, recyclable structure of the cartons and to ensure that they have these credentials while making the policy every year, to which Dr. Aggarwal also agreed.

#### **9. THE PROPOSED WORKSHOP AT THE CENTER AND STATE LEVEL WITH GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS**

Dr. Aggarwal apprised the MC members that AARC had been planning to conduct physical workshop to create awareness about the sustainable packaging format like Beverage Cartons and regulatory landscape for the EPR requirement, efforts by Industry to create ecosystem, challenges and opportunities for the Used Beverage Cartons. He further added that they are planning to host their first workshop in Delhi at the end of July post confirmation from the senior officials from CPCB and MoEFCC. Also, recyclers are being approached to be present and exhibit their stalls at the workshop.

He further apprised that similar state level workshops are being planned with the Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board after workshop at Center.

#### **10. VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairman wished AARC and MC members all the very best and stated that AARC should get the desired attention and appreciation that it deserves and wished that AARC may continue to flourish.

Dr. Aggarwal, on behalf of MC members, gave his prestigious wishes to the Chairman for his next phase of life.

Mr. Cassio appreciated and expressed his pleasure in taking this valuable position from Mr. Manohar.

There being no other business to transact, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Date:**

**Place:**

**Chairman**