

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ACTION ALLIANCE FOR RECYCLING BEVERAGE CARTONS ('AARC' / 'SOCIETY') HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AT 12:00 NOON VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING (ZOOM PLATFORM)**

**Time: 12 Noon – 12:45 P.M**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

NAME	ORGANISATION
Mr. Cassio Simoes	Tetra Pak India Private Limited (Tetra Pak)
Dr. Mukhopadhyay	CavinKare Private Limited
Mr. Hrishikesh	Dabur India Limited
Mr. Nitin Jagga	SIG Combibloc India Private Limited
Mr. Ashish Agarwal	Parle Agro Private Limited
Ms. Antara Kapoor	Varun Beverages Limited (represented by PepsiCo)
Mr. Ganesh Narayanswami	John Distilleries Private Limited
Mr. P. Raghunath	GLS Elopak Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Surojit Bose	Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (HCCB)

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:**

NAME	ORGANISATION
Dr. Praveen Aggarwal	CEO of AARC
Mr. Adnan Khateeb Ansari	Programme Coordinator of AARC
Mr. Sharad Sharma	Tetra Pak India Private Limited
Mr. Vinayak Mishra	Dabur India Limited
Mr. Tusar Pattnaik	Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. (HCCB)
Ms. Divya Pahwa & Mr. Hemant Yadav	Invitees

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Leave of absence was granted to the authorised representatives of the following members as no communication was received from them to attend the meeting:

- a. Radico Khaitan Ltd.
- b. JNTL Consumer Health (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- c. India Glycols Ltd.
- d. Halewood Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.
- e. Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Pvt. Ltd.
- f. Coca- Cola India Pvt. Ltd.

Further, leave of absence was also granted to the Statutory Auditors, i.e. M/s Ajay K. Sud & Associates due to their non-communication regarding attendance.

## 2. CHAIRMAN & QUORUM

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

Mr. Cassio Simoes was elected as Chairman of the Meeting.

All the members attended the meeting through audio-visual mode.

## 3. NOTICE & AGENDA OF MEETING

Dr. Aggarwal read the notice and agenda of 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to Members of the Society and it was taken as read. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up.

## 4. TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL REPORT AS ON MARCH 31, 2024

The Annual Report of the Society as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was presented to the Members for their consideration. Thereafter, a detailed discussion followed regarding the journey of the Society over the past financial year. Dr. Aggarwal highlighted the evolution of the Society's focus area, which initially prioritised Collection (70%), Awareness (20%) and Advocacy (10%). This focus has shifted to Collection (40%) and Advocacy (40%), with Awareness now at 20%. Looking ahead, the priorities will be Advocacy (50%), Awareness (25%) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (25%), addressing the current needs of the society.

The following activities were undertaken by AARC Secretariat-

### A. AWARENESS:

- Attended various industry and Government sessions and the information was shared with the members (Seminars include Virtual session with the dept. of environment, science technology & climate change, Himachal Pradesh; WeCare; the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEFCC), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Uttarakhand)
- Conducted workshop & exhibition in Delhi on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 which was attended by more than 150 participants which included representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Packing manufacturers, leading brands etc.). Summary recommendations were also presented

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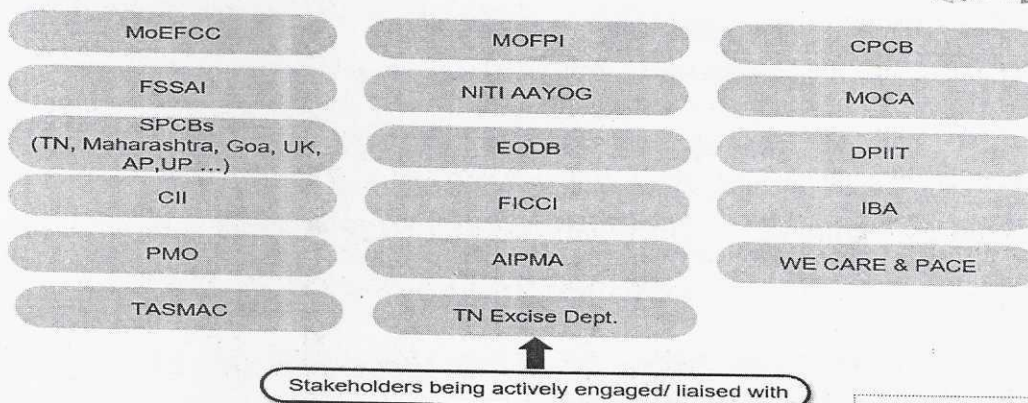


- Hosted a webinar in partnership with UNCRD & 3R Waste Foundation on the topic "Beverage Cartons Recycling Practices and Ecosystem for a Circular Economy: Solutions, Updates, and Challenges"
- Achieved a significant increase in the followers on Social Media platforms (Twitter, Instagram & Facebook) from June 2021 – 2024 and worked on 'Creative Impact' to craft a creative tonality for the brand that created an impact with high-quality meaningful designs basis of the insights of what our audience wants.

## B. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Aggarwal noted an increase in the number of stakeholders engaged to address various issues.

### ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS



Dr. Aggarwal informed that key advocacy issues were identified in the year 2022 which included Trade related issues (BIS certification for PE Imports (QCO); anti-dumping duty on Alu-foil); Lobbies instigating bans on cartons Promote usage of BC in AlcoBev; Food safety, packaging & labelling laws (greenwashing, sugar content, recycling codes); Recycled content; and many others and these issues were addressed in the FY 2023-24 with the help of few MC members.

## C. ADVOCACY

The following key challenges & opportunities were addressed during the year:

- Continuous engagements with MoEFCC & CPCB for industry's issues
- Engagement with CPCB to discuss industry's issues for EPR compliance
- Meeting with CPCB on risk of impairing the functionality of straws
- Uttarakhand: Safeguarding beverage cartons from a ban in the IMFL category
- Extension of the last date for EPR credit
- Advocacy with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) on the recyclability of paper-based beverage cartons
- Engagement with Uttarakhand & Goa related to Deposit Refund System (DRS)
- Engagements with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on raising import duties & create tariff barriers on paper products
- Engagement with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on standard for recycled content

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It was agreed to address the other agenda items first and then continue with this agenda item for further discussion.

Post discussion on agenda items 5, 6 and 7, the discussion on the annual report commenced again as below:

A brief discussion was held regarding the DRS. It was informed that the AARC team attended the meeting organised by Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. They contributed to key discussion points and subsequently submitted a representation to Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, urging active engagement in future stakeholder consultations. While Uttarakhand is in the process of drafting a plan, Goa has already initiated the adoption of DRS, though the timeline for its implementation remains unclear. The AARC secretariat is actively monitoring this situation.

Thereafter, detailed discussion was followed on several important matters including -

- Engagements with DPIIT regarding raising import duties & creating tariff barriers on paper products
- Updates from FSSAI concerning standards for recycled content
- Issues related to collection & recycling
- Secretariat updates, including the appointment of two Honorary Members- Cdr. Amitabha Ray & Mr. Jaideep Gokhale and addition of four new members to AARC.

It was agreed that the Annual Report would be circulated to all members for their review and consideration.

**5. TO CONFIRM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24**

The Audited Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2023-24, including the Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Receipts and Payments Account were presented to the Members for their consideration, which were already circulated to the members of Society along with the Notice of AGM dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 as Annexure 2.

Dr. Aggarwal informed the members that the Financial Statements were approved in the MC meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024. He provided a detailed analysis of the accounts and invited questions from the members.

Accordingly, the following resolution was passed unanimously: -

**"RESOLVED THAT** the Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Society, comprising the Balance Sheet as of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 and the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 and Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 together with notes attached thereto, be and are hereby taken on record."

**6. REAPPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITORS FOR FY 2024-25**

Dr. Aggarwal informed that in order to comply with the provision of regulation 8(k) of the Rule & Regulations of the Society, it is necessary to reappoint the Auditors for

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the ensuing year and fixing their remuneration. In this regard, it is hereby informed that AARC has received the proposal from M/s Ajay K. Sud & Associates, Chartered Accountants for their re-appointment at the revised fee of INR 75,000/- p.a. and the MC members had approved the same in the 2<sup>nd</sup> MC Meeting for Financial Year 2024-25 held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

Accordingly, following resolution was passed unanimously: -

**"RESOLVED THAT** M/s Ajay K. Sud & Associates, Chartered Accountants (FRN: 03939N) be and are hereby appointed as Statutory Auditors of the Society to hold office and audit the accounts for Financial Year 2024-25, at a revised annual fee of Rs. 75,000/- (Rupees Seventy-Five Thousand Only) payable in the year 2025."

**7. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR**

Dr. Praveen Aggarwal presented the budget estimates for the upcoming financial year, detailing projected income & expenses, administrative expenses and awareness project expenses.

He informed the members about that membership fees are expected to decrease from INR 84 lakhs to approximately INR 77 lakhs due to the exit of Inbrew Beverages and Karnataka Milk Federation. Also, Tetra Pak has contributed towards awareness project through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. A projected surplus of about INR 30 lakhs is anticipated.

It was noted that the current budget estimates exclude the cost of a full-time CEO, a position which was identified as necessary during the development of the 3-year plan for AARC. This may lead to a revision of the estimates, which will be shared with members later.

The members were also briefed on projected expenses, which include-

- a. Project management & coordination expenses and Social Media campaign expenses paid to Consocia Advisory Pvt. Ltd.
- b. Legal & other charges paid to KrayMan Consultants LLP & Mr. Jaideep Gokhale for the 3-year plan of AARC.

The members approved the budget estimates as presented.

Thereafter, with the permission of the Chairman, Agenda no. 4 *"To Consider the Annual Report as on March 31, 2024"* was again taken up for discussion.

Dr. Aggarwal noted that Cdr. Amitabha Ray expressed his intention to resign, which was accepted by the members.

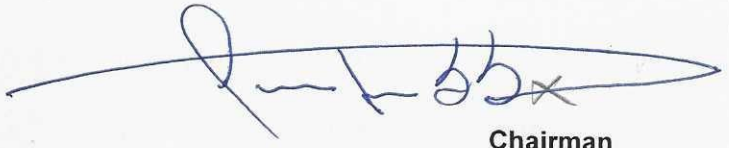
The members were briefed on the execution of the 3-year plan for AARC, as prepared by Mr. Jaideep Gokhale, with highlights presented for their consideration.

The members were informed about the CSR project undertaken by AARC in partnership with RUR which was funded by Tetra Pak with an amount of INR 55 lakhs. The key activities included eco education and mass communication efforts.

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## 8. OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

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



Chairman

Date: 18/Nov/24  
Place: DELHI-NCR

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