

# 2018 INDEPENDENT LIMITED ASSURANCE REPORT

## to the Directors of Coca-Cola European Partners plc

DNV GL Business Assurance Services UK Limited (“DNV GL”, “us” or “we”) were engaged by Coca-Cola European Partners Great Britain Limited to provide limited assurance to Coca-Cola European Partners plc (“CCEP”) over Selected Information presented in CCEP’s [Corporate Data Tables](#) and [GRI Index](#) (together, the “Report”) for the reporting year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

### Our conclusion

Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Selected Information is not fairly stated and has not been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Criteria. We believe that the Report is prepared in accordance with the ‘Core’ option of the GRI Standards. This conclusion relates only to the Selected Information, and is to be read in the context of this Assurance Report, in particular the inherent limitations explained below.

Our observations and areas for improvement will be raised in a separate report to CCEP’s Management. Selected observations are provided below. These observations do not affect our conclusion set out above.

- 2018 marked the first full year’s implementation of CCEP’s sustainability strategy, This is Forward. The company is making good progress, with three commitments achieved two years early. We recommend CCEP continue to report transparently both the achievements and challenges the company encounters in delivering upon these commitments, and, given the pace of change in societal expectations on the issues This is

Forward addresses, consider how those targets already achieved can be refocussed to maintain CCEP’s level of ambition.

- We observed robust processes and systems for compiling environmental data from CCEP’s operations. Assumptions and estimations were made when required, and we observed these to be robust and consistently applied. We noted several metrics moved to actual data in 2018, improving the accuracy of overall environmental data. We found a limited number of errors and omissions and these were corrected prior to inclusion in the Report. We recommend CCEP include an automated ‘sense check’ validation at the point of operational site data entry, based on historical data, to further improve accuracy of their data.
- CCEP have developed a detailed packaging model to provide the level of granularity necessary for the business to identify opportunities to improve packaging recyclability and recycled content, and track performance against these commitments. Due to the complexity of the data required in the model, which draws upon county level recycling rates, packaging data from suppliers and sales data, a number of assumptions were made. We recommend CCEP continue to develop this model, and progressively improve accuracy to help identify the focus areas for improvement which will be required as CCEP approach the more challenging stages of meeting their packing commitments over the coming years.
- We note the water use intensity commitment is presenting a challenge for CCEP. This is partly as a

result of smaller packaging sizes impacting operational efficiencies, demonstrating how sustainability issues are often interlinked. We recommend CCEP take steps to ensure a systematic approach to product and packaging innovation and new product launches are carefully considered to identify how trade-offs might be balanced. Transparently discussing these challenges would further enhance credibility and demonstrate to stakeholders the complexity involved in achieving the ambitious This is Forward commitments.

### Selected information

The scope and boundary of our work is restricted to the key performance indicators included within the Report (the “Selected Information”):

A. The data included within the Report, marked with the symbol in the Report and listed below:

- UNESDA Sugar reduction vs. 2015 (%)
- Low/no calorie drinks as a % of total sales (%)
- Packaging that is 100% recyclable (%)
- Percentage of PET that is rPET (%)
- Management positions held by women (%)
- Total community investment contribution (EUR million)
- Manufacturing water use ratio (litre/litre of product produced)
- Scope 1 GHG emissions for CCEP – stationary combustion, mobile combustion, process emissions, and fugitive emissions (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Scope 2 GHG emissions for CCEP – purchased electricity, heat and steam, market and location based (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Scope 3 GHG emissions –from cold drinks equipment, third party distribution by rail and road, business travel by rail, air and road, waste and water (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)

- Manufacturing energy use ratio (MJ/litre of product produced)
- Percentage of electricity purchased from renewable sources (%)
- Spend with suppliers covered by SGPs (%)

B. Preparation of the Report in accordance with the 'Core' option of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards 2016.

To assess the Selected Information, which includes an assessment of the risk of material misstatement in the Report, we have used the following reporting criteria (the 'Criteria'): CCEP's [2018 Methodology](#) document, the [Our approach to reporting](#) section of the Report and the [Reporting Principles](#) for defining report quality as set out by the GRI Standard GRI 101: Foundation 2016. We have not performed any work, and do not express any conclusion, on any other information that may be published in the Report or on CCEP's website for the current reporting period or for previous periods.

### **Our competence, independence and quality control**

DNV GL established policies and procedures are designed to ensure that DNV GL, its personnel and, where applicable, others are subject to independence requirements (including personnel of other entities of DNV GL) and maintain independence where required by relevant ethical requirements. This engagement work was carried out by an independent team of sustainability assurance professionals. Our multi-disciplinary team consisted of professionals with a combination of environmental and sustainability assurance experience.

### **Standard and level of assurance**

We performed a **limited** assurance engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 revised –

'Assurance Engagements other than Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information' (revised), issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This standard requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the assurance engagement to obtain limited assurance.

DNV GL applies its own management standards and compliance policies for quality control, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021:2011 - Conformity Assessment Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement; and the level of assurance obtained is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. We planned and performed our work to obtain the evidence we considered sufficient to provide a basis for our opinion, so that the risk of this conclusion being in error is reduced but not reduced to very low.

### **Basis of our conclusion**

We are required to plan and perform our work in order to consider the risk of material misstatement of the Selected Information; our work included, but was not restricted to:

- Assessing the appropriateness of the Criteria for the Selected Information;
- Conducting interviews with CCEP's management to obtaining an understanding of the key processes, systems and controls in place to generate, aggregate and report the Selected Information;

- Site visits to Luneberg (Germany), Valencia (Spain), Wakefield (GB) to review process and systems for preparing site level data consolidated at CCEP's Head Office in Uxbridge (GB). We were free to choose sites and the selection criteria was on the basis of materiality and site coverage in previous assurance engagements;
- Performing limited substantive testing on a selective basis of the Selected Information to check that data had been appropriately measured, recorded, collated and reported;
- Reviewing that the evidence, measurements and their scope provided to us by CCEP for the Selected Information is prepared in line with the Criteria; and
- Reading the Report and narrative accompanying the Selected Information within it with regard to the Criteria.

### **Inherent limitations**

All assurance engagements are subject to inherent limitations as selective testing (sampling) may not detect errors, fraud or other irregularities. Non-financial data may be subject to greater inherent uncertainty than financial data, given the nature and methods used for calculating, estimating and determining such data. The selection of different, but acceptable, measurement techniques may result in different quantifications between different entities. Our assurance relies on the premise that the data and information provided to us by CCEP have been provided in good faith. DNV GL expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or an entity may make based on this Independent Limited Assurance Report.

## Responsibilities of the Directors of CCEP and DNV GL

The Directors of CCEP have sole responsibility for:

- Preparing and presenting the Selected information in accordance with the Criteria;
- Designing, implementing and maintaining effective internal controls over the information and data, resulting in the preparation of the Selected Information that is free from material misstatements;
- Measuring and reporting the Selected Information based on their established Criteria; and
- Contents and statements contained within the Report and the Criteria.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform our work to obtain limited assurance about whether the Selected Information has been prepared in accordance with the Criteria and to report to CCEP in the form of an independent limited assurance conclusion, based on the work performed and the evidence obtained. We have not been responsible for the preparation of the Report.

## DNV GL Business Assurance

DNV GL Business Assurance Services UK Limited is part of DNV GL – Business Assurance, a global provider of certification, verification, assessment and training services, helping customers to build sustainable business performance. [www.dnvgl.co.uk/BetterAssurance](http://www.dnvgl.co.uk/BetterAssurance)

## DNV GL Business Assurance Services UK Limited

London, UK  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2019