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PRESS RELEASE

The Agri-Digital Age

Geneva, 4 February 2025 — In an exciting seminar attended by key players from across global agricultural commodity trading, industry leaders came together to present current trends, legal advances and to publicly sign an official letter promoting the advancement of digitalisation across the sector.

The signing of this letter signals the enthusiasm and commitment of all stakeholders to drive forward digital initiatives, including e-Bills of Lading receiving the same legal status as paper ones. By embracing various technologies, the sector aims to encourage innovation, safety and transparency; improving operational efficiency, lowering cost and risk and strengthening the resilience of global food and agricultural supply chains which unites us all.

The event brought together stakeholders from all corners of the sector, including trading houses, banks, law firms, and digital platform providers. This collective show of support underscores the industry's dedication to adopting innovative technologies that streamline operations and unlock value across the entire trade ecosystem.

One of the key messages: "The move to electronic documents will empower our businesses with more efficient processes, more control, and instant transfer of cargo ownership, allowing for reliable collaboration between all participants in the chain." said Paul Harrison, President of Gafta.

With 35 companies already signed up, demonstrates the commitment and the importance of this change for our industry. This show of commitment affirms that digitalisation offers numerous benefits, including faster and more secure transactions, improved traceability, and lower operational costs. With technological advancements and legal developments, the industry is well-positioned to make this transformative shift.

We need to move the industry into the agri digital age.

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Signatories in attached letter

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Signatories of the letter: Agrocorp, CEO, Vijay Iyengar Amber, CEO, Mauro Ambrosio Archer Daniels Midland, President Asia Pacific & Global Trade, Gary McGuigan Amaggi International, Director, Gunnar Nebelung Ameropa, CEO, Josh Zacharas Arasco, CEO, Ghaida Alshehri Barnett – R&H Hall, Commercial Director, John Bergin Bunge, Christos Dimopoulos, Co-President for Agribusiness and Jeremy Cheon, Sr. **Director Global Trade Execution BTG Pactual Commodities, Felipe Mandia, CFO** Cargill, World Trading leader, Alex Sanflieu CHS, Chris Pothen Senior Vice President International business CBH Group, CEO, Ben Macnamara Cefetra, CEO, Daan Vriens CHS, Executive VP/COO of Global Agriculture **CIS Commodity Inspection Services, CEO, Martijn Sinke** COFCO Resources SA, Marcelo Martins, Managing Director for Grains & Oilseeds, Nicole Bavaud, Global Head of Operations for Grains & Oilseeds **Comex McKinnon, Managing Director, Rory Donnelly** Control International S.A., President, Veronica van Tooren Cotecna, Vice President Agriculture Business Line & Europe Commodities, Torsten Sievers, Covantis, CEO, Petya Sechanova Crédit Agricole CIB Head of International Trade & Transaction Banking (ITB), David Renouve and Vincent Friedblatt, Head of Innovation for the Global Trade & Commodities **ETG Commodities, COO, Nicolas Janssens** FKS group, CFO / Director, Gay Shyr Yan Fortuna DMCC, CEO, Ashraf El Attal Graincorp, General Manager International Trading, Brad Glass Louis Dreyfus Company, Global Chief Operations Officer, Juan Jose Blanchard ProOrganica, Head of Commercial, Oksana Kovalenko Richardson Intl, Sr Vice President, Corporate Affairs and General Council, Jean Marc Reust Riera Roura, President, Ramon Nadal Riera Saybolt International B. V., President, Peter Boks SEABOARD, CEO, Johan Stevn SGS, Executive Board Member, Egidijus Jokubauskas, Soufflet by Invivo, CEO, Jean-Francois Lepy Viterra, Global Head of Trading Operations, Lucas Dorrestein