



บริษัท เจริญโภคภัณฑ์อาหาร จำกัด (มหาชน)

CHAROEN POKPHAND FOODS PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED

ทะเบียนเลขที่ 0107537000246

To: Special Procedures Branch Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Date: 14 November 2025

Reference: AL OTH 133/2025

Subject: Response to Joint Communication from Special Procedures Concerning Allegations Involving Mr. Witoon Lianchamroon

Dear Chair Rapporteur and Mandate Holders,

Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (CPF) acknowledges receipt of the joint communication AL OTH 133/2025, dated 22 October 2025, from the Working Group on business and human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

CPF values the opportunity to engage in a constructive and transparent dialogue with the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council and holds their mandates in the highest regard. CPF appreciates this correspondence as an important opportunity to clarify factual information while reaffirming its strong commitment to respect human rights, uphold freedom of expression, and maintain constructive relations with civil society .

1. Additional Information and Comments on the Allegations

CPF wishes to express its concern regarding the allegation that the Company has “misused the law” against a human rights defender, Mr. Witoon Lianchamroon. CPF respects the vital role of human rights defenders and the importance of open dialogue on environmental issues. However, CPF respectfully submits that this particular allegation is factually inaccurate and legally unfounded. The Company therefore finds it necessary to clarify the factual and legal context to prevent further misunderstanding and to demonstrate that all actions taken were in full compliance with Thai law and due process.

CPF respectfully notes that its intent was not to limit or discourage public participation, but to correct material inaccuracies that had caused genuine confusion and reputational harm to the Company and its stakeholders. The materials Mr. Witoon published - including photographs of the Company’s farm, pond layout, and employees — were inaccurately and unjustifiably presented as depicting Yeesarn Farm, the breeding and nursery ponds for blackchin tilapia, and employees selecting blackchin tilapia eggs. In truth, the photographs in question are not of Yeesarn Farm; the ponds shown are unrelated to blackchin tilapia breeding or nursery operations; and the individuals pictured were not performing any such activities. These misrepresentations have caused confusion among the public and unwarranted reputational harm to the Company. CPF has already issued a public clarification supported by verifiable evidence to correct these inaccuracies.

The case was not initiated unilaterally by CPF, but proceeded through lawful and independent state mechanisms. The Company exercised its legitimate right to file a criminal complaint with the Royal Thai Police after suffering demonstrable harm from the

repeated dissemination of false and misleading information to the public. The case was subsequently reviewed by the Office of the Public Prosecutor, an independent and impartial state authority under the Thai judicial framework. During both stages, Mr. Witoon was afforded full opportunity to present his evidence and arguments. After a comprehensive review of submissions from both sides, the authorities determined that sufficient legal grounds existed for the case to proceed. This process demonstrates that the matter has been handled in accordance with Thai law and due process, and that Mr. Witoon's procedural rights have been fully respected. It is nevertheless regrettable that he has continued to circulate inaccurate statements about the Company while characterising the case as a "SLAPP," thereby creating misunderstanding among the public, causing reputational damage, and placing undue pressure on the judicial process.

At no point has the Company intended to silence or restrict Mr. Witoon's freedom of expression or advocacy. On the contrary, his continued public activities, expressions, and criticisms of the Company – including the BIOTHAI Facebook page and other media platforms – clearly demonstrates that his rights to express opinions and engage in advocacy remain fully intact. The legal proceedings instituted by CPF are not retaliatory in nature but represent a lawful and proportionate exercise of the Company's right to seek judicial remedy in response to demonstrably false information that has caused significant reputational and commercial harm. CPF has acted solely to protect its legitimate interests and reputation in accordance with the rule of law.

The Company also notes with concern that certain external commentaries — including a social-media post by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, who stated: *"I fear the baseless charges against him (in this regard, Mr. Witoon Lianchamroon) are a reprisal for his work on community rights and food security"* — and their subsequent citation by media and advocacy groups appear to have been made prior to the availability of the full judicial record and may not have taken into account verified case materials. Such commentaries when issued without access to verified case materials, may inadvertently affect public perceptions of judicial impartiality and fairness.

In the same vein, it has been unfair to the Company, which has been publicly portrayed as at fault before any judicial determination has been made, resulting in significant reputational harm and public misunderstanding. CPF respectfully notes that these interpretations, when based on incomplete or unverified information, risk eroding public confidence in the impartiality of national institutions and in the principles of due process that the UN system itself seeks to uphold.

CPF emphasises that, just as individuals have the right to defend themselves, companies likewise possess the right to seek legal remedy for harm suffered. The action taken by CPF is remedial, not punitive — intended to correct misinformation and obtain redress for reputational and commercial damage. Exercising this right in good faith should not be construed as intimidation or suppression of public participation.

CPF reaffirms that this case is neither baseless nor retaliatory but a lawful and necessary measure to protect the Company's rights under Thai law. The Company remains committed to transparency, due process, and constructive cooperation with the United Nations and trusts that the United Nations and its Special Procedures will continue to uphold the principles of impartiality, fairness, and respect for national judicial independence, ensuring that conclusions are grounded in verified facts rather than one-sided narratives that presume private-sector actors to be at fault.

2. Measure to investigate company involvement and CPF's Whistleblowing Mechanisms

As clarified above, **the case in question constitutes a legitimate legal action undertaken in good faith and in accordance with due process to seek a lawful remedy for tangible harm. It was never intended to silence or deter public participation and therefore does not constitute a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP).**

CPF's Human Rights Policy aligns with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the ILO Core Conventions, relevant international human-rights treaties, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). This policy underscores CPF's commitment to uphold the rights of all individuals across its operations and value chain, including freedom of opinion and expression.

The Company's grievance and whistleblowing mechanisms are designed to ensure transparency, fairness, and accessibility, and include the following:

- A Speak-Up and Whistleblower System that enables employees, suppliers, and stakeholders to report concerns confidentially and without retaliation;
- Regular multi-stakeholder dialogues with civil-society organisations, academia, and community representatives; and
- Oversight by the Corporate Governance and Sustainability Committee, ensuring fairness, good faith, and continuous improvement.

CPF also partners with Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN) and the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN), a membership-based organisation led by migrant workers, to strengthen independent grievance channels and ensure corrective actions are informed by credible third parties.

CPF regards open and transparent dialogue as central to responsible business conduct. Feedback from stakeholders helps the Company to continuously improve its practices and ensure that corrective actions contribute to positive outcomes for workers, communities, and society at large. In this same spirit, CPF welcomes the guidance and constructive advice of the Special Procedures and remains committed to further strengthening its human rights systems and contributing to the global advancement of responsible business conduct.

3. Commitment to Freedom of Expression and Stakeholder Engagement

CPF reaffirms its full respect for the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, consistent with Article 19 of UDHR and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Company recognizes that these rights must be exercised responsibly—grounded in fact and in respect for the rights and reputations of others.

In line with Article 19(3) of the ICCPR, CPF notes that the exercise of freedom of expression carries corresponding duties and responsibilities and does not extend to the dissemination of false or misleading information that may cause harm. The legal proceedings in question therefore do not relate to legitimate criticism, but concern the alleged dissemination of inaccurate information resulting in demonstrable harm.

CPF respectfully invites a fair, balanced, and evidence-based consideration of the case on its merits, consistent with the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders, to ensure objectivity, accuracy, and balance in the assessment.

4. CPF's Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) Framework

CPF has established a comprehensive Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) framework aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for human rights and environmental impacts across its global operations and value chain. This is not an ad hoc or reactive process but a systematic and ongoing management system embedded in the Company's sustainability strategy.

The framework applies to all employees, suppliers, contractors, business partners, subsidiaries, joint ventures, and investee companies, and extend to mergers and acquisitions to ensure that human rights considerations are integrated throughout business activities. CPF's HRDD process consists of eight steps — from policy commitment and risk assessment to tracking, communication, stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanism and remediation — enabling a proactive and transparent approach to managing human rights risks.

Since 2016, Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (CPF) has undertaken comprehensive human rights risk assessments across all its operational sites and Tier-1 suppliers — covering more than 3,000 suppliers in 17 countries. The 2024 assessment identified seven salient human rights issues across the Company's value chain. Five were found within CPF's own operations — employee health and safety, community health and safety, standard of living and access to water and sanitation, consumer health and safety, and supplier health and safety. Within Tier-1 suppliers, two additional salient issues were identified — working conditions and employee health and safety — reflecting CPF's ongoing commitment to respect and protect the rights and well-being of people throughout its extended supply chain.

CPF is committed to transparency and continual improvement in its human rights due diligence processes. The Company publicly discloses progress in accordance with the GRI Standards and the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework through its annual Sustainability Report and on its corporate website.

CPF is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, sourcing key raw materials from deforestation-free supply chains, and managing water responsibly across its operations and value chain. These commitments reflect CPF's recognition that climate, nature, and human rights are deeply interconnected, and that a safe, clean, and sustainable environment is fundamental to the rights to health and an adequate standard of living.

To deliver on these ambitions, CPF embeds environmental and social considerations into its Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) process. The Company's HRDD identifies and addresses risks related to water, pollution, and waste alongside labour and community impacts, ensuring that actions to mitigate environmental harm also strengthen human rights outcomes across the value chain.

Partnership and dialogue are central to CPF's HRDD approach. Since 2017, CPF has worked with the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN) and, in later years,

with the Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) — trusted civil-society and worker organisations that serve as independent engagement and grievance channels. Building on the success of these collaborations, CPF seeks to expand its partnerships to a broader ecosystem of stakeholders — including NGOs, academia, communities, and human rights defenders — to co-create sustainable solutions, enable direct and constructive dialogue, and ensure timely escalation of concerns. In this spirit, CPF encourages human rights defenders to be actively included in stakeholder engagement processes, fostering openness, mutual understanding, and shared accountability to drive lasting, positive impacts for people, communities, and ecosystems across its value chain.

5. Policies for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

CPF acknowledges the important and legitimate role of human rights defenders and civil society actors in promoting and protecting human rights across business operations and supply chains. The Company's Human Rights Policy affirms CPF's commitment to respect internationally recognised human rights and to ensure fair and equal treatment for all employees and stakeholders. It also establishes communication and grievance mechanisms that allow individuals to raise concerns and seek remedy safely and accessibly.

At Group level, the Charoen Pokphand Group's Human Rights and Labour Practices Policy explicitly opposes any form of intimidation, harassment, or retaliation against individuals or organisations that promote or defend human rights. CPF is guided by this group-wide principle and is currently reviewing its own Human Rights Policy to ensure stronger alignment, including an explicit reference to the protection of human rights defenders.

The policy review will also take into account the UN Working Group's 2021 *Guidance on Ensuring Respect for Human Rights Defenders (A/HRC/47/39/Add.2)* to ensure alignment with international good practice. This process will further strengthen CPF's non-retaliation commitment and reflects the Company's dedication to transparency, constructive dialogue, and continual improvement in its human rights due diligence system.

6. Access to Effective Remedy

Consistent with Principles 22 and 31 of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), CPF maintains a multi-layered approach that combines operational-level grievance mechanisms (OGMs) with full respect for state-based judicial remedies.

CPF's flagship grievance mechanism — the Labour Voices Hotline, operated independently by the Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN) — fully meets the UNGP effectiveness criteria of legitimacy, accessibility, predictability, and rights-compatibility. Operating 24 hours a day in Thai, Myanmar, and Khmer, the hotline is made available for more than 26,000 workers across CPF's operations in Thailand.

CPF and LPN continuously monitor the hotline's performance, promote worker awareness and confidence in using the channel, and ensure that all concerns are handled promptly, confidentially, and without retaliation. The Company views this independent mechanism as a cornerstone of its human rights' due diligence, supporting early identification of risks and enabling responsive engagement with workers and affected stakeholders.

Additional channels include the Speak-Up and Whistleblower System as well as community grievance mechanisms accessible to suppliers, contractors, and local stakeholders. Oversight rests with the Audit and Risk Management Committee at Board level, supported by the internal audit department, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continual improvement. In 2024, the Speak-Up system handled 173 reports, all of which were reviewed and resolved under the supervision of this Committee.

Where impacts are identified, CPF provides appropriate remedies — including corrective actions, restitution, and systemic improvements — and publicly discloses progress in its annual Sustainability Report. These OGMs complement, rather than replace, judicial mechanisms, which remain central to fairness and the rule of law.

CPF reaffirms that operational mechanisms are essential for resolving workplace and community concerns promptly, but they do not restrict access to independent judicial remedies. Upholding the rule of law — including the right of individuals, civil-society actors, and companies to seek legal redress — remains central to CPF's commitment to fairness, accountability, and the protection of human rights.

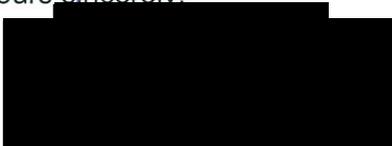
Conclusions

Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited (CPF) respectfully reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the rule of law, and internationally recognised human rights standards. The Company reiterates that its actions in the matter concerned were undertaken in good faith and in accordance with due process, representing a legitimate exercise of legal rights rather than any form of intimidation or reprisal. The Company trusts that any assessment of this matter will be guided by impartiality, objectivity, and verified facts, with full respect for judicial independence and fairness to all parties concerned.

We remain open to further dialogue with the United Nation Special Procedures and welcome cooperation to strengthen business respect for human rights, promote trust and build a shared foundation for sustainable development.

CPF avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



(Mr. Prasit Boondoungprasert)

Chief Executive Officer

Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited