Statement in response to questions raised at Unilever’s Annual General Meeting on 3 May 2023: how is Unilever working to deliver its current climate change targets, and how/when will new targets be set?

Climate change is one of the biggest risks to Unilever’s business. It threatens our whole value chain – from how we grow our raw materials, to whether clean water is available for consumers to use our products. Climate action at operational, value chain, brand and societal levels is therefore a fundamental part of the Unilever Compass.

We have set ourselves a number of science-based climate targets, including a 100% reduction in our operational emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions across our value chain by 2039. Two years ago, we were one of the first companies of our size to put a Climate Transition Action Plan to a shareholder vote. The Climate Transition Action Plan received a 99.59% of votes in favour and we have committed to updating it every three years.

We are currently completing a review of our existing value chain target, which is to halve the emissions from our products across their value chain, on a per-consumer use basis, by 2030. This review and the new value chain target will be informed by the development of emissions reduction roadmaps for each of our five Business Groups. These roadmaps identify the major reduction levers available to each Business Group and how these can be pulled to maximum effect.

We intend to submit an updated value chain target for 2030 that reflects these roadmaps, along with our net zero target, to the Science-Based Targets Initiative for validation later this year. Following this process, an update on our climate targets will be included in the second iteration of our Climate Transition Action Plan, and shareholders will have an advisory vote on this plan this time next year.