



**Decisions and Resolutions adopted
at the 117th Session of the
International Coffee Council**

19 – 23 September 2016

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1. The International Coffee Council, chaired by H.E. Mr Iván Romero-Martínez, met in London, United Kingdom from 19 to 23 September 2016. The Council Session took place exclusively on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 September in a change to the normal practice. The first three days were dedicated to the meetings of the other ICO bodies as well as the 6th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance.

In Memoriam: Mr Alexandre Fontana Beltrão (1924 – 2016)

2. The Council paid tribute to Mr Alexandre Fontana Beltrão, former Executive Director of the ICO from 1 April 1968 to 30 September 1994, for his outstanding contribution to the coffee sector.

3. In his opening remarks, the Chairman highlighted that this would be an important Session of the Council for the future of the ICO. He told Members that essential decisions regarding the results of the Strategic Review, the new premises for the Secretariat and the Executive Director's contract would all need to be made before the end of the week in order for the Organization to be fully prepared to adapt to changing market and political conditions and to work towards a sustainable coffee sector.

4. The Chairman noted that the Executive Director, Mr Robério Oliveira Silva was not attending the meeting due to being hospitalised following an accident. The Chairman wished him, on behalf of all Members, a speedy recovery.

5. The Chairman welcomed the Ministers and Ambassadors who were honouring the Members with their presence at the 117th Session of the Council including H.E. Mr Le Quoc Doanh, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for Vietnam. The Vice-Minister gave a speech to the Council about the Vietnamese coffee sector, focusing in particular on its achievements but also the significant challenges it still faces.¹

6. Finally, the Chairman welcomed delegates attending the meetings for the first time and representatives from non-member countries.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

7. The Council adopted the draft agenda contained in document [ICC-117-0 Rev. 2](#).

Item 2: Admission of observers

8. The Secretary introduced document [ICC-117-3](#) containing details of the observers approved by the Council in September 2015 for admission to Sessions in 2015/16 who had advised that they wished to attend the 117th Session of the Council. There were no new requests for observer status for this Session. The Council decided that, as per normal practice, items on finance would not be open to observers.

¹ The Vice Minister's speech was subsequently circulated as document ICC-117-11.

9. Document [ICC-117-3](#) also contains a list of observers who had been admitted to previous Sessions. It was suggested that these observers also be admitted to sessions in 2016/17. The Council approved the document.

Item 3: Votes and credentials

Item 3.1: Votes for coffee year 2015/16

10. The Council took note of the situation of outstanding payments affecting voting rights as at 15 September 2016 contained in document [ICC-117-1](#).

Item 3.2: Initial distribution of votes for coffee year 2016/17

11. Paragraph (6) of Article 12 of the ICA 2007 provides that the distribution of votes shall be determined by the Council at the beginning of each coffee year. Under the provisions of Article 12, the votes of exporting and importing Members are based on their exports and imports respectively in the preceding four calendar years. Document [ED-2221/16 Rev. 1](#) contains the statistical basis for the proposed distribution of votes. The Council took note of this information and approved the initial distribution of votes for 2016/17 contained in document [ICC-117-2](#).

Item 3.3: Credentials

12. The Secretary informed the Council that the credentials received from Members had been examined and generally found to be in good and due form. The Secretary requested that all Members who had not yet submitted the original copy of their credentials do so at their earliest convenience. The Council approved the verbal report on credentials.²

Item 4: International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007

Item 4.1: Report on membership of the ICA 2007

13. The Head of Operations reported that since the 116th Session of the Council in Ethiopia no new Members had joined the Organization.

14. With regard to non-members, she reported that Nepal had informed the Secretariat that its parliament should have a final hearing on the ICA 2007 by October. She also added that if everything proceeded as expected the Council would be able to look forward to welcoming Nepal to the 118th Session of the Council as a Member.

15. The Lao People's Democratic Republic continues to be in regular contact with the Secretariat. In June they noted that a decision from the Ministry of Industry and Trade

² The report was subsequently circulated, together with the List of Delegations, as document [ICC-117-14](#).

regarding the country's accession was still awaited. However, according to an email received by the Secretariat, the election of a new Prime Minister had given the Lao representative a sense of optimism and created an opportunity to bring coffee further up the government's agenda.

16. The representative of Papua New Guinea informed the Council that on 17 August 2016 the parliament had agreed to the ratification of the ICA 2007. Once the certificate of compliance had been received from the Speaker's Office, the representative would be in touch with the Executive Director and the deposit of an instrument should occur in the month following the 117th Session of the Council.

17. The Council took note of this information and approved the report on membership contained in document [ICC-117-4](#).

Item 4.2: Extension for the deposit of instruments

18. Document [WP-Council 268/16](#) contained a draft Resolution to extend to 29 September 2017 the time limit for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the 2007 ICA. The Chairman urged Members who had not yet ratified the Agreement to do so as soon as possible. With that in mind, the Council approved the draft Resolution which became [ICC Resolution 458](#), a copy of which is attached to these Decisions.

Item 5: Coffee market situation

19. The Head of Operations gave a presentation on the current coffee market outlook. After declining for 18 months, prices had increased slightly in the last six months. As a result, the ICO composite indicator's monthly average for September was just over 137 US cents/lb, up from 113 cents a year ago, and the highest value since February 2015. She mentioned that the dynamics in international exchange rates had been crucial in determining the movement of domestic coffee prices and their effect on the profitability of coffee growing. Despite recovering against the US dollar, coffee returns in Brazilian reals and Colombian pesos had actually increased. In Indonesia, the effect of lower prices had been partially mitigated, although they are still lower overall. She noted that this trend would also increase the cost of any imported inputs used in coffee production and could cause inflation that in turn would increase the cost of labour, which account for 60 to 70% of the overall cost of production.

20. In terms of coffee production, the ICO estimated total production in crop year 2015/16 at 147.1 million bags, which was slightly higher than last year. Arabica production was mostly unchanged, while total Robusta output was estimated up by 0.9%. However, this was still well below the production levels of 2012/13 and 2013/14.

21. Focusing on Brazil, the ICO predicted a significant recovery in the 2016/17 crop, which started in April, to around 55 million bags, after three consecutive years of lower output. Additionally, the Head of Operations reported that despite its lower production, Brazil had used some previously accumulated stocks to export around 36 million bags per year in crop years 2014 and 2015. In Colombia, production had been increasing steadily over the last four years, with monthly production for the first eleven months of 2015/16 up to nearly 13 million bags. Output had slowed slightly during the second ‘mitaca’ crop due to the effects of El Niño, but overall production this year should be at its highest level in many years. In Vietnam there had been some concerns about Robusta production due to severe effects to the coffee crops caused by drought.

22. Regarding world consumption, she reported that the ICO estimated world consumption for coffee year 2015/16 at around 151 million bags, showing a steady increase of around 1.1% compared to last year. This trend was expected to continue over time, with ongoing potential for growth in less developed market and producing countries. Furthermore, inventories in importing countries had been well replenished to 21.6 million bags, which represents their highest level in recent years, and would account for some 15 weeks of roasting activity. This had left the market well supplied with available coffee, and prevented prices from mounting any significant rally.

23. As a conclusion, the Head of Operations mentioned that the ICO had estimated a deficit in the market for the second consecutive year, which was being filled by stocks accumulated over the two previous years. As a consequence, the market had turned its attention to the 2016/17 crop. While Brazil was estimated higher, there were concerns over the supply of Robusta from Vietnam. Finally, she mentioned that this would result in the absorption of lower grade Arabica to fill a gap in the market, and would put pressure on Arabica availability, which in turn would potentially support prices in the future.

Item 6: World Coffee Conference

24. The Chairman of the Council asked the Head of Operations to read out a statement that had been sent to the Secretariat by the Director General of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Development and Marketing Authority.³

25. Following this, the Head of Operations presented document [ICC-117-5](#) and gave a report on the event on behalf of the Executive Director. With over 900 participants, the 4th World Coffee Conference had brought together representatives from both the private and public sectors from throughout the value chain and across the world. Attendees had been honoured by the presence of H.E Mr Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

³ This statement was subsequently circulated as document [ICC-117-12](#).

during the Opening Ceremony and H.E. Mrs Roman Tesfaye, First Lady of Ethiopia who had addressed the audience prior to the panel on Promoting Gender Equality for a Sustainable Coffee Sector.

26. The Conference had comprised 7 panels on a variety of topics relating to the overall Conference theme of ‘Nurturing Coffee Culture and Diversity’. Twenty-two panellists and moderators spoke and discussed the state of the coffee sector. Further resources such as speeches, photos and videos of the event can be found on the [ICO website](#).

27. Furthermore, document [ICC-117-5](#) provides a brief summary of each panel, along with key implications for the future work of the ICO and more specifically for the Strategic Review process that the Secretariat has undertaken. Four broad areas for the ICO to consider emerged from the Conference:

- (a) Information and research
- (b) Promoting best practices
- (c) Strengthening public-private partnerships
- (d) Advocacy

28. In terms of information and research, it was recognised that the ICO could foster market transparency by increasing its capture, analysis and dissemination of statistical information. This would help both consumers and producers to adjust to market trends and mitigate price volatility. It could conduct research into the economic sustainability of producers, for example by evaluating costs of production, and helping to identify where low prices have the most detrimental impact.

29. As part of its role in promoting best practices between Member countries the ICO can help disseminate information both within its membership and beyond, in order to share examples of successful initiatives. This could include information on risk management schemes, for example through the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance, or on initiatives to adapt to or mitigate climate change, such as NAMAs and NAPAs.

30. In its role as the pre-eminent intergovernmental Organization for coffee, the ICO can play a crucial role in promoting coordination and collaboration between the public and private sectors to tackle significant challenges such as climate change.

31. Finally, the ICO has an important role to play in advocating for issues such as gender equality and youth engagement. This is a cross-cutting issue that should be incorporated at all stages of the ICO’s work, for example through projects, forums and communications.

32. Members took note of the information provided by the Head of Operations contained in document [ICC-117-5](#).

Item 7: Studies

33. The Head of Operations presented the study contained in document [ICC-117-6](#) entitled 'Assessing the economic sustainability of coffee growing'. She explained that the starting point for the study had been the low prices observed in the coffee market. The ICO composite indicator price had been below its 10-year average since March 2015, leading to concerns over the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and the future supply of quality coffee. The study examines the profitability of coffee production in four countries (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador) over a ten-year period.

34. In terms of results, the Head of Operations reported that Colombia had seen positive operating profits in most years, although this picture changes significantly if the depreciation of the costs related to installation and/or renovation of crops is taken into account. Costa Rica had slightly worse results, with negative operating profits over the last four years. El Salvador had seen even worse results over the last four years due to the impact of coffee leaf rust, from which it has been struggling to recover. In Brazil, costs can be seen to be increasing consistently over the time period studied, although high productivity rates allowed most municipalities to remain profitable. As a result, the study concludes that farmers be provided with tools to mitigate price risks, and strengthen resilience against price shocks. Finally, in terms of next steps, it was emphasised that more and better data were needed, and it was hoped that this could be achieved by collaborating with other agencies, for example The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

35. The Head of Operations encouraged more Members to submit their cost of production data so that the Secretariat could perform a deeper analysis of the subject and draw conclusions that would be more representative of the entire market.

36. Additionally under this item the Executive Director of the Salvadorian Coffee Council, presented the country profile that had been prepared in conjunction with the Secretariat for his country. The profile contained in document [ICC-117-8](#) follows the guidelines established in [WP-Council 264/16](#). Accordingly, it lays out information about production, costs over the last five years, farmers' income, research and extension services, coffee processing, stakeholders, the marketing structure, roasting and domestic consumption, the performance of coffee exports, export regulations, macroeconomics, environmental challenges and the future for the Salvadorian coffee sector.

37. Both the presentation given by the Head of Operations on the study and by the representative of El Salvador on the coffee profile are available on the [ICO's website](#).

38. The Chairman of the Council encouraged Members to engage with the Secretariat and provide the necessary data to facilitate the continuation of the analysis of the economic sustainability of coffee production. He also reminded Members that the Secretariat is ready and willing to work with any Member that would like to develop their country's coffee profile.

39. The Council took note of the study and the country coffee profile for El Salvador.

Item 8: National Coffee Policies

40. The Director General of the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) in Vietnam informed the Council about the advances made in implementing a policy for the sustainable development of the country's coffee sector. In particular, he outlined the challenges facing the sector and how the Secretariat and Members could assist Vietnam in tackling them.

41. The Council took note of the presentation which is available on the [ICO's website](#).

Item 9: International Coffee Day

42. On behalf of the Executive Director, the Head of Operations reported on the preparations for the second annual International Coffee Day (ICD) to be held on 1 October 2016.

43. The 2016 campaign would focus on ICD as a truly global celebration of coffee's journey from the farm to the cup. 'For the love of coffee' had been chosen as the campaign's slogan and would provide an opportunity to honour the men and women who grow and harvest the coffee that consumers enjoy worldwide.

44. As a means to reinvigorate and strengthen the ICD brand, a new animated logo had been designed in the four official languages which was presented together with the new website. Promotion for the campaign was already taking place across social media and would continue until the day itself. Four short videos had been developed appealing directly to the industry to create and submit their ICD 2016 event details to be featured on the website. A longer video had also been produced which Members were able to view during the meeting.

45. The Chairman of the Council congratulated all Members that celebrate their national coffee day on 1 October and encouraged them all to support ICD. He also informed Members that on International Coffee Day, the Central American Ambassadors based in London who are part of the Central American Integration System (SICA in Spanish), would be hosting a coffee cupping and tasting event during which participants would be able to sample coffees from throughout the region. The event would take place at the ICO and in addition to counting on the support of the Secretariat, the Ambassadors were pleased to be receiving advice and logistical support from the Speciality Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE).

46. Several Members thanked the Secretariat for its hard work. The representative from Brazil mentioned that his country would be widely promoting ICD across its network using the materials developed by the Secretariat.

Item 10: Session of the Council in Côte d’Ivoire

47. The Chairman of the Council reminded Members that in March of this year the Council approved the holding of a Session of the ICC in Côte d’Ivoire in either September 2017 or March 2018. He reported that on 24 March 2016 the Executive Director had received a letter from the Government of Côte d’Ivoire requesting that the 119th Session of the Council, i.e., the Session to be held in September 2017, take place in Abidjan. The Council approved this request.

48. The representative of Côte d’Ivoire thanked the Council for its endorsement of the 119th Session to be held from 25 to 29 September 2017 at the conference facilities of the Sofitel hotel in Abidjan. He reminded Members of the history of this initiative to hold a Council Session in Côte d’Ivoire. The idea was first mooted in 2008, with a proposal to hold a Session of the Council in the country the following year. However, preparations for the World Coffee Conference in Guatemala in 2010, amongst other reasons, meant that the Session in Côte d’Ivoire was postponed until 2011. Unfortunately it was then again postponed as political instability rendered the Session impossible. He noted, however, that this would be the second time that the Organization would hold its meetings in the country, the first being a meeting of the Executive Board from 27 February to 5 March 1969. Finally, before presenting some information on the country and showing a promotional video showcasing Côte d’Ivoire’s landscapes, peoples and tourist attractions, he reiterated to the Council how much of an honour and privilege it would be to welcome the Members to Abidjan in September 2017.

49. The Chairman of the Council asked the representative of Côte d’Ivoire to convey to the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, the Council’s congratulations and its pride in being able to hold its 119th Session in Côte d’Ivoire. The Council took note of the information reported by the representative of Côte d’Ivoire and included in the presentation and the video (both of which are available on the [ICO’s website](#)).

Item 11: Cooperation with other Agencies

50. Under this item the Head of Operations reported on three initiatives with other agencies: Vision 2020 with the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) with the World Bank, and The Global Conservation Strategy with World Coffee Research and The Global Crop Trust Initiative.

51. She began with an update on Vision 2020, the joint initiative with GCP which seeks to align the public and private sectors in working together for a sustainable coffee industry. An information session had been held earlier in the week to which all Members had been invited. Attendees had benefitted from the presence of the Interim Executive Director of the GCP. Information was given about: i) the Vision 2020 goals and workstreams, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); ii) how best to align national coffee strategies with Vision 2020; iii) the Theory of Change and Global Progress Framework which is being developed to establish concrete steps and measure progress towards a sustainable coffee sector; and iv) the next steps for enhanced public-private cooperation through Vision 2020 and beyond.

52. For the ICO, Vision 2020 is the first step towards the consolidation of private-public partnerships as a means to contribute to the implementation of projects for the benefit of coffee producing countries. Additionally, through Vision 2020, the ICO will contribute with its experience and convening power to improve policy in producing countries in order to tackle issues such as: the profitability of coffee growing, inclusion of youth and women and climate change.

53. Members also were informed that an up-dated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been prepared by the ICO and GCP for the Council's approval in March 2017. The reasons for preparing this up-dated MoU were given as follows:

- (a) The GCP had recently been created to take over the functions previously performed by the 4C Association and IDH under the Vision 2020 MoU.
- (b) The partners believe that the establishment in 2015 of the SDGs to be achieved by 2030, provided a framework to which Vision 2020 could contribute.
- (c) It presented the partners with an opportunity to rebrand Vision 2020 as Vision 2030.
- (d) The need for continued collaboration beyond the expiry of the current MoU.

54. Members had a lengthy debate about Vision 2020 particularly with regard to the proposed up-dated MoU. It was felt that the ICO needed to get its priorities and strategy established before collaborating with external partners. It was noted that several Members were concerned about the ICO losing its independence and sovereignty particularly due to the use of the word 'align'. However, it was also noted that Members were in favour of private public partnerships, such as Vision 2020, as they were a means of avoiding duplication of efforts and wasting resources. The Head of Operations reiterated to Members, that both the GCP and the ICO would remain independent and that they would carry on with their respective strategic review processes. The word 'align' would be replaced with 'cooperate' or 'take into account' as appropriate in the MoU and in future communications.

55. She assured Members that the Secretariat would do its utmost to guarantee consistency between the different documents relevant to this subject e.g., the Strategic Review documents, the Vision 2020 MoU and the SDGs.

56. The Chairman of the Council advised that further discussion would be given to the proposed MoU during the 118th Session of the Council. The Head of Operations agreed with Members' comments and reminded them that the MoU was being presented to allow them to undertake the necessary internal consultations. Members took note of the up-dated MoU and of the request to carry out the necessary consultations in order to be able to discuss, and if appropriate approve the MoU in March 2017.

57. The Head of Operations then reported that during the Projects Committee the representative from the World Bank had presented the EBA initiative.

58. EBA identifies, measures and compares agribusiness regulations globally, in order to inform policy making and regulatory developments. It focuses on the regulatory requirements that apply to agribusinesses trading in both domestic and export markets, such as memberships, licenses, and per-shipment documents. Agricultural products are selected for each country based on official export data. Coffee had been selected in seven of the 62 countries studied in 2016. Those seven were Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Peru and Uganda.

59. As EBA continues to expand its work, the Head of Operations explained that the World Bank was looking at how it could collaborate with the ICO in the future. The World Bank believes it would be highly beneficial to work with ICO Members as part of its effort to develop indicators that are relevant to the production, marketing and export of coffee beans. Members could also assist with the gathering of information on the regulatory obstacles faced by agribusinesses in these contexts.

60. In return for this input, EBA annual reports could be used by governments to inform policymaking and trigger reforms based on the examples of other countries and the outcomes they wish to achieve. In this way, EBA would assist Members in strengthening the global coffee sector and promoting its sustainable expansion. Further details are contained in Document [PJ-106/16](#).

61. The representative of Sierra Leone expressed her country's interest in collaborating with the World Bank on EBA.

62. Finally, the Head of Operations gave a brief summary of The Global Conservation Strategy which was presented to both the Projects Committee and the PSCB by the

representative of World Coffee Research (WCR).⁴ The Head of Operations encouraged Members to read document [PJ-105/16](#) which contains more details and to begin conversations with World Coffee Research and The Crop Trust which the Secretariat could facilitate.

63. Members took note of all three initiatives.

Item 12: Reports by the Chairmen of ICO bodies

Item 12.1: Private Sector Consultative Board

64. The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) met for its 43rd meeting on Tuesday 20 September 2016.⁵ The Head of Operations, on behalf of the Chairman of the Board, informed the Council that following an update on International Coffee Day, and viewing of the new ICD video the Board received updates from the China Coffee Association, the Indonesia Coffee Exporters Association (GAEKI), the All Japan Coffee Association (AJCA) and the International Women’s Coffee Alliance (IWCA) on their plans for ICD.

65. The Board had then heard two presentations. The first had been from Joanna Scott of the Institute for Scientific Information on Coffee (ISIC) who updated the Board on the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) Scientific Review of Coffee and Cancer. Out of the various potential outcomes, the finding that coffee was classified as group 3, “not classifiable as carcinogenic to humans”, was the most positive. The IARC review concluded that there was no clear association between coffee and cancer, and in certain cases found evidence that drinking coffee may actually reduce the occurrence of certain cancers. IARC did find that drinking very hot beverages (over 65 degrees) was “probably carcinogenic to humans”, but it was very unlikely that consumers would be able to drink coffee at such very hot temperatures. Advance preparation by ISIC had allowed significant positive media coverage of the IARC announcement, and should make issues pertaining to coffee and health easier to approach in the future.

66. The second presentation was from WCR and the Crop Trust on a Global Conservation Strategy for Coffee Genetic Resources. It highlighted the need to preserve genetic diversity of coffee, and the lack of resources currently available to do that. Several germplasm collections are stored at the national level, but there is no mechanism for sharing and preserving these materials. As a call to action, it was hoped that Members would take this information back to their national governments and institutions to discuss the importance of this problem, and how to work together with WCR and the Crop Trust to make these genetic resources available.

⁴ Further details can be found under Item 12 of this document and in the reports of both the Projects Committee and PSCB (documents [PJ-108/16](#) and [PSCB-150/16](#) respectively).

⁵ The report of this meeting was subsequently circulated as [PSCB-150/16](#).

67. Finally, the Board had nominated Mr Ramaz Chanturiya, of the Russian Association of Tea and Coffee Producers as Chairman for the next coffee year, and Mr Alejandro Keller, of Anacafe, as the Vice-Chairman. The Council took note of the Head of Operations' report and the office-holders for coffee year 2016/17.

Item 12.2: Promotion and Market Development Committee

68. The Promotion and Market Development Committee met for its 12th meeting on Monday 19 September 2016.⁶ The Chairperson informed the Council that the Head of Operations had presented International Coffee Day as she had done to the Council. During the Committee meeting, Members had had several questions, most notably about the Secretariat's role in ICD, its resources and future activities. The Head of Operations had explained that the Secretariat's role and therefore financial investment came in the form of four activities for 2016:

- (a) A redesigned website which would be used every year from 2016 onwards to promote ICD and serve as a repository for the events submitted from around the world celebrating ICD.
- (b) A new logo to tie in with the look and feel of the redesigned website.
- (c) Five new videos – four short promotional videos and one longer video.
- (d) Advertising on social media.

69. The Head of Operations had stressed that in the light of the Secretariat's resources, the focus for ICD 2016 had been the online campaign which had the possibility of reaching thousands of people with very little cost. She had mentioned, however, that the Secretariat would be looking into new revenue flows in order to be able to increase its budget for ICD. Creating more alliances and ties with the industry could also help with this issue.

70. In the future she suggested that:

- (a) ICD could become the day for the coffee industry to report its progress on the path to a sustainable sector.
- (b) Beginning on 1 October the ICO adopt a year-long focus theme for the industry.
- (c) ICD be used to promote domestic consumption in both producing and consuming countries.

⁶ The report of this meeting was subsequently circulated as [PM-50/16](#).

71. The campaign for ICD 2017 would continue the activities already undertaken in the previous two years and in particular aim to increase alliances within the industry, including with coffee retailers.

72. One Member had commented that social media activity should take place year round to promote the celebration and that the ICO should be present at coffee fairs and events throughout the year. He also wanted to suggest that ICD be used as a platform to raise awareness around the world of the difficulties that the coffee industry is facing.

73. The Chairperson then informed the Council that the President and CEO of the National Coffee Association of the United States had presented the results of the latest national coffee drinking survey, the results of which are not only contained in a paper report but also on a dedicated website where users can use the data to generate their own reports depending on their specific interests. A copy of this presentation is available on the [ICO's website](#).

74. Following this, the Committee had heard from the Executive Director of the Speciality Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE) who explained the premise of the World of Coffee and how over the years it had become Europe's most important coffee event. He pointed out the broad nature of the activities that take place at World of Coffee: it is not simply a trade show but rather plays host to several other events such as the Barista Championship, educational seminars, social opportunities and, for the first time this year, a sustainability forum. Under this item of the agenda the Head of Operations had also told the Committee about the latest two sessions of the event series 'The Coffee Sessions' which the ICO co-hosts with SCAE. More information about these events, including videos of the sessions, can be found on the [ICO's website](#).

75. Under Other Business, the Chairperson reported that she had supported the suggestion that ICD be used as a platform to raise awareness of the difficulties that the coffee industry is facing. However, she also mentioned her belief that this is the role of the Committee. The Committee should be used as a platform for voicing issues within the coffee sector and a space for sharing issues that can then be used in lobbying and advocacy in the industry.

76. Finally, she had highlighted several difficulties that she as Chairperson of the Committee had faced. As she did not believe they were unique to the Promotion and Marketing Development Committee she shared them with the Council so that all Members could consider how this can be improved. She recounted that the first problem was related to the Chairpersons' mandates. In the March Sessions all Chairpersons are elected and expected to chair their first meeting, without any time to prepare. As a result, the Chairpersons only have the September meetings to provide the Council with their expertise. To help remedy this, she suggested that the Chairpersons' mandate be extended to two years.

Another point she highlighted was the need for Members who are nominated to the Committee to fully participate and engage not only during the meetings, but also in between the meetings. She stressed that Committee Members' input was key to the development of the agenda, the discussions taking place during the meetings and also the activities that the Secretariat undertakes on behalf of the Members.

77. The Chairman of the Council agreed with her observations with regard to the mandates of the chairpersons and the need for the Committees to be active in between meetings. He recommended that these suggestions be incorporated into the Strategic Review.

78. The Council took note of this report.

Item 12.3: Statistics Committee

79. The Statistics Committee met for its 11th meeting on Tuesday, 20 September 2016.⁷ The Chairman reported that he had worked with the Secretariat to refresh the Agenda, introducing some new items in order to make the Committee more informative for Members.

80. The Head of Operations had presented a coffee market report covering the same material as was presented to the Council under Item 5 but extended by comparing the market to another commodity market.

81. The ICO study on the economic sustainability of coffee growing had also been presented as it was under Item 7 to the Council. In comments on this item, the Committee had discussed issues such as the effect of exchange rates on farmers, the inadequacies of the futures market as a price discovery mechanism, and the need to tackle climate change. The Head of Operations had invited Members not featured in the study to submit their data so that the Secretariat could continue working on the study and improve the accuracy of the conclusions. She also mentioned that the Secretariat would continue to undertake related analyses on the economic viability of the coffee sector and would seek to strengthen its collaboration with IFPRI on this topic.

82. Another new initiative was the 'Reader's Digest' of academic studies on coffee, which had been presented to the Committee by the Senior Economist. Three academic papers were presented, intended to complement the economic work undertaken by the Secretariat, covering issues such as price volatility, transmission of prices from the futures market and the impact of certification. The Chairman reported that this would be an ongoing item on the Statistics Committee Agenda.

⁷ The report of this meeting was subsequently circulated as [SC-68/16](#).

83. Finally, the Committee had covered the usual topic of compliance, which continues to be an issue for the Secretariat. As usual, all Members were encouraged to submit timely and accurate data as per the Rules on Statistics, and to consider the possibility of organising a seminar for statistical contacts either during the week of the Council Session and other ICO meetings or potentially in Member countries.

84. The Chairman of the Council raised the issue of the software used by the Secretariat's Statistics Unit in the belief that it was important that Members realised how old it is. The Chairman of the Statistics Committee agreed with him and said that this was something that would need to be discussed in the coming months in the context of the Strategic Review.

85. The representative from Sierra Leone requested help in submitting technical statistical data. She also spoke about a possible workshop in the country. The Chairman of the Committee and the Secretariat promised that they would be in touch to discuss this further. Another Member highlighted the need to strengthen statistics capacity at the national level and that the Statistics Committee presented governments with a viable means of doing this.

86. The Council took note of this report.

Item 12.4: Projects Committee

87. The Projects Committee held its 12th meeting on Monday 19 September.⁸ The Chairman reported that the Executive Director had presented document [PJ-107/16](#), outlining his plan of action to strengthen the Organization's project activities to assist coffee farmers by improving their livelihoods.

88. The Chief Economist had then introduced document [PJ-103/16](#) containing projects under consideration by donors as well as concluded projects and projects under implementation. He had informed Members that there had been no new project proposals for consideration but that a new open call for project proposals had been issued by the Common Fund for Commodities and invited Members to submit their applications by 31 October 2016.⁹ He had reminded Members who wished to apply that the Secretariat would be available to assist Members in drafting their applications to the CFC.

89. The Chief Economist also gave an update on three ongoing projects as detailed in the three annexes of document [PJ-104/16](#).

⁸ The report of this meeting was subsequently circulated as [PJ-108/16](#).

⁹ See document [ED-2225/16](#).

Sustainable Credit Guarantee Scheme to promote scaling up of enhanced processing practices in Ethiopia and Rwanda

90. The aim of this project (Annex I) centres around the idea of providing credit to coffee farmers in Ethiopia and Rwanda guaranteed by collateral provided by the CFC. The project will end in September 2016 and a closing workshop is scheduled for October 2016.

Promoting a sustainable coffee sector in Burundi

91. This project (Annex II) is a typical example of private-public collaboration. Three years ago a coffee trading company (Sucafina) proposed a different way of approaching sustainability in the coffee sector so as to increase the yield and living conditions of those working in the sector and also ensure that enough coffee is available for the exporters. The concept has been developed with the help of the ICO and US\$1.6 million has been secured by the Project Executing Agency, Kahawatu. The project has already reached out to many farmers and Kahawatu continues to undertake its fundraising activity.

Qualitative and quantitative rehabilitation of coffee with the aim of improving living conditions of coffee farmers afflicted and displaced by war in the Democratic Republic of Congo

92. The project is still on track in terms of coffee quality improvement through micro-washing stations and the organisation of coffee growers into specialised coffee cooperatives. The Chief Economist indicated that an ICO supervision mission will take place in November 2016.

93. To close the item the Chief Economist had presented document [PJ-97/16 Rev. 1](#) containing an update on the Africa Coffee Facility, an instrument designed to finance coffee development project activities in Africa through the African Development Bank Group (AfDB). Following a stakeholders' workshop in Abidjan in April 2016, the Secretary General of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation had submitted the full proposal to the President of the Bank in August 2016. The reaction of the Bank management was awaited and a full report on the Facility would be given during the IACO General Assembly in Yaoundé on 28 November 2016. The Secretariat had announced during the Committee meeting that it would start designing a similar facility for other Member countries.

94. Members of the Committee had been invited to comment on the outcome of the Strategic Review with a particular focus on the recommendations pertaining to projects. From the discussions it had been noted that the Executive Director's suggestions were in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Review and that they should be integrated into the Programme of Activities where possible.

95. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asked the Secretariat to undertake a mission to evaluate the work of the Project Executing Agency. The Head of Operations said that the Secretariat would examine the request to see if it had the necessary resources and would be in touch in due course to discuss the matter further.

96. The Council took note of all of the Chairpersons' reports and associated comments.

Item 13: Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance

97. The Chairman of the Consultative Forum reported on the 6th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance on Wednesday 21 September 2016, the theme of which had been 'Global Challenges and Co-responsibility in the Coffee Sector'.

98. The Chairman thanked the Executive Director and the Secretariat for all their hard work in making the event a success. He expressed how pleased he was with the result and in particular the transparency of the panellists which had led to many lively and interesting debates. The key message that he had hoped that the Forum would communicate was that the coffee sector has to see the value chain holistically and that every part of that chain has to be profitable. He believed that this message had been successfully transmitted but of course acknowledged that the work on this topic did not end there.

99. For the first time the Forum had been opened up to the public in order to generate more interest and most importantly to ensure that the Forum was self-financing as per Article 31 of the ICA 2007. Thirty-six tickets had been sold generating £3,600 in revenue. The Chairman was of the opinion that having paying attendees would lend more credibility to the Forum and in future years the number of tickets sold would be greater.

100. The Chairman of the Council commended the Chairman of the Forum for the quality of the event. He had been particularly impressed with the level of knowledge of both the panellists and the members of the audience which had made for some excellent interactions.

Item 14: Financial and administrative matters

Item 14.1: Finance and Administration Committee

101. The Finance and Administration Committee held its 20th meeting on 19 September 2016.¹⁰ The Chairperson reported that the Committee had noted the financial situation of the Organization as at 31 July 2016 (document [FA-135/16 Rev. 1](#)). Additional revenue was above budgeted contributions by £45,770, due to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru joining the Organization. Other income for the first 10 months of £124,000 showed positive variance of £4,000. A total expenditure of £2,506,656 represented savings against the Budget

¹⁰ The report of this meeting was subsequently circulated as [FA-141/16](#).

of £10,347. The Head of Finance and Administration had reported that savings had been made particularly in the areas of language services, other operating costs and computer related costs. The net result at the end of July was an overall surplus of £60,305 above what was expected from the Budget.

102. The Head of Finance and Administration had also reported to the Committee on Member contributions. He had highlighted that Sierra Leone had complied with the conditions laid out in Resolution 450. Yemen had requested that their contributions for the year 2015/16 be frozen due to political unrest in their country. The Head of Finance and Administration had reported that there is currently no mechanism or formal process under the 2007 Agreement to freeze contributions. The Committee had taken note of their appeal. The Chairperson noted that a document had been presented concerning Peru's contributions but that this had been withdrawn during the meeting.

103. With regard to the post of Head of Finance and Administration which would fall vacant when the incumbent retires in early 2017, a job description had been published in document [ED-2222/16 Rev. 1](#) with a deadline for applications of 31 October 2016.

104. The Chairperson reported that the Committee recommended to the Council that document [FA-140/16](#) relating to salaries, allowances and Provident Fund contributions for General Services staff be approved. The total cost to the ICO for the remainder of 2015/16 would be £3,170 and £7,600 for the financial year 2016/17. These amounts had already been included in the current year's Budget as well as the Budget for 2016/17.

105. The Council approved document [FA-135/16 Rev. 1](#) and document [FA-140/16](#).

Item 14.2: Contract of the Executive Director

106. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson recommended to the Council that the Executive Director's contract be renewed for a further 2.5 years to 31 March 2019. The Council accepted this recommendation and duly approved the extension of the Executive Director's contract to 31 March 2019.

Item 14.3: Premises

107. The Chairperson of the Committee informed the Council that following the request made to the Executive Director by Members at the Committee's intersessional meeting in July, the Secretariat had examined six alternative, cheaper options to the original proposal of Gray's Inn Road. Out of the six, the most suitable was thought to be Mill Harbour, in the southern section of Canary Wharf. The Members of the Committee had welcomed the savings

that could be made by moving the Organization to Mill Harbour and had expressed their preference for this option. However, they had agreed to both options being kept open until a deal could be achieved with the preferred option.

108. Since the Committee meeting the Secretariat had been informed that the premises at Mill Harbour had been let to another party. As a result, the Executive Director had restarted negotiations with the Landlord of Gray's Inn Road.

Item 14.4: Appointment of Registered Auditors

109. The Chairperson reported that the Head of Finance and Administration had presented document [FA-137/16](#) to the Committee containing a summary of the outcome of the tendering process for registered auditors.

110. Three potential auditing firms had been contacted. After due discussion, the Committee had decided to recommend that the current auditors, Smith Williamson be re-appointed, for a fixed term of four years. The Council approved the recommendation.

Item 14.5: Review of Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

111. The Head of Finance and Administration had presented document [FA-133/16 Rev. 1](#), a draft set of new Staff Regulations and Staff Rules. The Chairperson reported that the Committee suggested that a Working Group be set up to review the document. The Working Group would be open to all Members who wished to participate and would be convened at an early opportunity in order for a final document to be presented to the Finance and Administration Committee for its review prior to recommendation for approval to the Council.

112. Members were requested to indicate to the Secretariat if they wished to sit on the Working Group.

Item 15: Strategic Review of the ICO

113. The Chairman of the Working Group on the Strategic Review reported to the Council on the two meetings of the Group held on 19 and 20 September 2016. He reminded Members that between March and July 2016, the Secretariat had carried out comprehensive consultations with Members, third parties and the ICO staff. Based on the outcome of the consultation process, the Secretariat with the support of the appointed consultant, SustainAbility, had developed recommendations to sharpen the strategic focus of the Organization. These recommendations are contained in document [WP-Council 269/16 Rev. 1](#).

114. The aforementioned document suggests that in order to encourage the development of a sustainable and inclusive global coffee sector and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the ICO should focus on:

- (a) Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to inform both policy makers and the industry.
- (b) Using its convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public/private sectors.

115. In addition, the ICO could facilitate development projects and programmes through public-private partnerships and other means provided that they are sufficiently funded.

116. The document outlines that in order to achieve these objectives the ICO should focus on:

- (a) Strengthening its capacity to collect, analyse and interpret data, and deliver policy advice.
- (b) Seeking to engage with its Members and third parties more effectively and consistently.
- (c) Taking opportunities to collaborate with key public and private actors to align objectives and activities.

117. The Chairman of the Working Group pointed out that the Strategic Review had been conducted against the backdrop of growing challenges in the coffee sector such as the impact of climate change on producers worldwide and in view of the emerging global political agenda established by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also emphasised that during the process, Members had recognised that in order to maintain the ICO's relevance in the coffee sector, a revised strategy needed to be developed which would allow the Organization to adjust to an ever-changing coffee market and dynamic political conditions.

118. Finally, he informed the Council that for coffee year 2016/17 a Programme of Activities had been prepared by the Secretariat to take into account the need for a transitional period in the run up to the full implementation of the recommendations and the preparation of a new five-year Action Plan for the ICO.

119. The Council approved the draft report on the Strategic Review contained in document [WP-Council 269/16 Rev. 1](#).¹¹

¹¹ Subsequently circulated as [ICC-117-15](#).

Item 16: Programme of Activities

Item 16.1: Interim Report on the Programme of Activities for coffee year 2015/16 as at 1 June, 2016

120. The Head of Operations presented document [ICC-117-7](#) which contains the interim report on the Programme of Activities for coffee year 2015/16. The Head of Operations highlighted that it provides an internal assessment on the implementation of all activities carried out between 1 October 2015 and 1 June 2016. The activities had been implemented and reported in accordance with the Programme of Activities for 2015/16 contained in document [ICC-114-9](#), which in itself is based on the ICO's Action Plan contained in document [ICC-105-19 Rev. 3](#).

121. As a result of the Strategic Review process, this would be the last time that the Secretariat would produce an interim report. Instead, activities implemented would be reported on an annual basis following the new strategic planning framework to be developed during coffee year 2016/17.

122. The Head of Operations highlighted the main achievements for the coffee year up until 1 June as follows:

- The celebration of the first International Coffee Day on 1 October 2015 for which 67 events were organised in 35 different countries.
- Thirteen missions undertaken by the Executive Director and senior members of the Secretariat to 10 countries. The ICO had had a significant presence at the COP21 where it was accredited as an official observer. As a result, the Executive Director and his delegation had been able to undertake certain activities:
 - (a) The Executive Director had delivered a speech to the negotiators during one of the plenary sessions highlighting the impact of climate change on coffee.
 - (b) He had also attended a meeting with the Presidents of Honduras and Colombia. During this meeting, the Presidents of the two countries had expressed their concern about the volatility of the coffee market and the adverse effects on small farmers in their countries and around the world. The Executive Director had noted that the ICO would work with Members to find solutions to the challenges presented by the instability of the markets.
 - (c) The Secretariat had organised a side event on coffee and climate, which took place in the public area of the COP21 venue. The Executive Director delivered a speech on this occasion.

- (d) The Executive Director had also been invited to speak at an event organised within the Global Landscapes Forum entitled ‘The role of agro-ecology in exploring innovative, viable adaptation measures for resilient smallholder coffee landscapes’.
- The final achievement for the time period under consideration was, as reported under Item 6, the successful 4th World Coffee Conference held in Addis Ababa in March 2016.

Item 16.2: Draft Programme of Activities for 2016/17

123. The Head of Operations presented the programme of activities for 2016/17 as contained in document [WP-Council 265/16 Rev. 2](#). The activities contained therein are to a great extent, the continuation of the Organization’s core functions as in previous coffee years.

124. However, the document also incorporates additional activities required as groundwork in order to be able to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Review contained in document [WP-Council 269/16 Rev. 1](#) approved under Item 15. Specifically, the Secretariat will, under the guidance of the Working Group, develop strategies for data collection and analysis; Member and third party engagement; and projects. As a result, the Secretariat would reallocate resources to the development of the aforementioned strategies. By doing so the Secretariat would be able to implement the recommendations whilst remaining in the 2016/17 Budget which was approved by the Council in March 2016.

125. The additional activities provided the Secretariat with an opportunity to change the layout of the Programme of Activities, in order to make it clearer what resources would be required, what the challenges would be and the expected output. Following comments received by the Secretariat from Members, an extra column had been added to track the progress made under the Programme of Activities.

126. A lively discussion ensued following the presentation of the document. Some of the Members’ concerns were a result of the formatting which the Secretariat would rectify. The Head of Operations clarified that the necessary resources only referred to resources that the Secretariat already had available to it, not the ones that it would ideally need. She also confirmed that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) would be developed during the year in order that progress against the goals to be set under the ICO’s new five-year Action Plan could be measured. Members commented that the positioning of the Executive Director in the ‘Person Responsible’ column should be at the top followed by descending responsibilities.

127. The substantive comments focused on the issues of statistics, budget and Vision 2020. With regard to statistics, several Members acknowledged the need to update the software used by the Secretariat. However, it was also pointed out that there was a serious problem

caused by producing countries not providing the necessary raw data. To help remedy this, there was a suggestion that the Secretariat be allowed to use data from other sources and that this data be incorporated into reports and studies that the Secretariat produces. In this way, over time, the Secretariat would build up its credibility as a provider of independent and expert analyses.

128. One Member queried the need for a data consultant under Goal 1 Objective 2 given the Secretariat's vast experience in statistics and also the lack of financial resources. The Head of Operations explained that whilst the Secretariat did indeed have experience in analysing data it did not have expertise in building or maintaining an information system for housing that data. A consultant would help with the design, concept and visualisation of a system for collecting, storing and processing the data. The Head of Operations hoped that one of the results of working with a consultant would be that the Secretariat would be able to offer Members several possibilities for submitting data including a sophisticated online system so that Members with the required capacity would not be limited to submitting data via Excel spreadsheets.

129. The inclusion of reviving the Statistics Roundtable was commended. The same was also true of the proposal to include China in the ICO's statistical data. However, China's representative stressed the need for some ground work to be undertaken before this would be possible. She also requested that the ICO organise some kind of promotional event in China in an effort to accelerate efforts towards membership.

130. One Member did also mention the need to engage and strengthen the ICO's relationships with other stakeholders such as traders and roasters.

131. The Head of Finance and Administration wished to reassure Members that there are sufficient resources to fund the normal range of activities of the ICO for the coming year, as is set out in the Administrative Budget for 2016/17. It is of course not possible to cost future, as yet unknown activities which should await the preparation of a new five-year Action Plan for the ICO. A more precise Budget could then be prepared to cater for new, or refocused activities.

132. Several Members expressed concerns over the significant proposed level of alignment with Vision 2020. The Head of Operations reiterated that Vision 2020's two implementing partners would remain independent and as such would have their own strategies, programme of activities and KPIs. Members asked the Secretariat to make sure that its collaboration with Vision 2020 was not to the detriment of other actors as these may be able to offer alternative workstreams that would also be valuable.

133. The representative of Mexico took the floor to inform the Council of the COP13 meeting on the Convention on Biological Diversity which would take place in Mexico from 8 to 13 December. She highlighted that a special segment would be held on coffee hosted by the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA).

134. The Council approved the draft programme of activities contained in document [WP-Council 265/16 Rev. 2](#)¹² provided that all of the changes suggested by the Members were incorporated.

Item 17: Special Fund

135. The spokesman for the producers informed the Council that the producers had approved the draft resolution for the distribution of the Special Fund contained in document [WP-Council 270/16 Rev. 1](#) for the final approval of the Council. He thanked all those who had been instrumental in moving the discussions forward with the result that the money on deposit in the Special Fund could now be used. The Latin American region had already decided on how its share of the fund would be distributed and proposals for the remaining two regions, Africa and Asia, would follow shortly.

136. The representative of Promecafé, the body that will implement the project on behalf of nine countries in Latin America, gave a brief presentation. The aim of the project is to strengthen the coffee sector in Central America, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Peru through the promotion and increase of domestic consumption. It hopes to do this through strengthening relevant institutions in the private and public sectors; designing and implementing projects related to domestic consumption; promoting strategic alliances; and improving knowledge management, communication and information systems. These activities will benefit the entire coffee value chain from producer to consumer. Further details of this presentation can be found on the ICO's website.

137. The Council took note of the presentation and approved the draft resolution contained in document [WP-Council 270/16 Rev. 1](#) which became [ICC Resolution 459](#), a copy of which is attached to these Decisions.

¹² The Programme of Activities was subsequently circulated as ICC-117-13.

Item 18: Office holders and Committees

Item 18.1: Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council

138. In accordance with the procedures provided for in Article 10 of the 2007 Agreement, the Council elected the following office holders for the Council for 2016/17:

Chairperson: Ms Tanya Menchi (USA)
 Vice-Chairperson: Mr Aly Touré (Côte d'Ivoire)

Item 18.2: Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Forum for 2016/17

139. The Council re-appointed the following office holders for the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance for 2016/17:

Chairman: Mr Juan Esteban Orduz (Colombia)
 Vice-Chairman: Mr Ödön Pállo Sagues (EU-Spain)

Item 18.3: Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the PSCB 2016/17

140. The PSCB appointed the following office holders for 2016/17:

Chairman: Mr Ramaz Chanturiya (Rusteacoffee)
 Vice-Chairman: Mr Alejandro Keller Bock (Anacafé)

Item 18.4: Composition of Committees

141. The Council decided that the composition of the Committees in 2016/17 should be the following:

| Committee | Producing Members | Consuming Members |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Finance and Administration | Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Indonesia, Uganda, Vietnam | EU, Japan, Russian Federation, Switzerland, USA |
| Projects | Brazil, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Tanzania, | EU, Switzerland, USA |
| Promotion and Market Development | Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Togo, Vietnam | EU, Switzerland, USA |
| Statistics | Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Congo Dem. Rep. of, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mexico | EU, Switzerland, USA |

142. The spokesperson for the producers reported that they would like to swap Costa Rica for El Salvador in the Core Group. The composition of the Group for the producers would therefore be: Bolivia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ethiopia and Uganda. The Council accepted this request.

Item 19: Other business

143. Under other business there was a discussion about the next World Coffee Conference. The representative of India informed the Council that his Government had written to the Chairman of the Council to bid for the 5th World Coffee Conference. As this issue had been raised, the representative of Papua New Guinea commented that his Government would be considering submitting a bid for the Conference. He pointed out that as the Conference was still several years away, his Government had not yet decided whether it definitely would submit a bid but that he would like to liaise with the representative of India in order to see if an agreement could be reached on where in the region would be best to hold the event.

144. As there was some difference of opinion amongst Members as to whether this discussion was premature or not, it was decided that countries wishing to host the Conference should submit their bid to the Executive Director in advance of the March meetings so that a decision could be made during the 118th Session of the Council. One Member noted that before any decision could be made, the Council was obliged to consult the private sector as per Article 30 of the ICA 2007. It was further noted that the ICA 2007 does not specify how often the Conference has to be held and so it was up to the Council to decide not only where it should take place but also when.

145. It was noted that coffee served during the meetings was provided by Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania and Vietnam.

146. The interpreters were thanked for all their hard work and dedication during the meetings giving a special mention to Ms Ana Jackson in the Portuguese booth, who after more than 20 years of working at the ICO was retiring. Sincere condolences were offered to Mr Richard Kingsbury's family after his illness and subsequent death during the Organization's meetings in Ethiopia.

Item 20: Future meetings

147. The Council took note of the dates, approved in March 2016, for the meetings in coffee year 2016/17, namely, Monday 13 to Friday 17 March 2017 in London and Monday 25 to Friday 29 September 2017, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It was noted that the 118th Session in March would be the last time that Members gathered at the ICO's current premises in Berners Street.

148. In addition to the aforementioned dates, document [WP-Council 272/16](#) contains suggested dates for coffee year 2017/18. The Head of Operations reported that the Secretariat has proposed the week of Monday 16 to Friday 20 April 2018 for the Council's 120th Session in accordance with the decision taken in March 2016 to hold the first Session of meetings in any given coffee year in April instead of March, commencing in 2018.¹³ In choosing that week the Secretariat had avoided the Easter holiday. The International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) had been consulted to make sure that the two Organization's meetings did not clash but the ICCO had not yet decided its dates for 2018. One Member asked that the ICCO be consulted again, nearer the time, as it would be even more important to make sure there was coordination between the two Organizations given that by 2018 the ICCO would be based in Abidjan. The representative of the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) also indicated that the proposed week would clash with the meetings of the SCAA.

149. The Council decided that given these difficulties in planning the meetings for 2018, it would ask the Secretariat to investigate further and suggest new dates for approval at the next Council Session in March 2017.

150. With regard to the dates suggested for the September meetings in 2018, one Member asked the Secretariat to check that they did not coincide with the General Assembly of the United Nations which normally takes place in the third week of September in New York. If this is the case in 2018, holding the meetings from 17 to 21 September would result in a clash.

¹³ See paragraph 95 of document [ICC-116-14](#).



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

ICC Resolution 458

22 September 2016
Original: English

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International Coffee Council
117th Session
19 – 23 September 2016
London, United Kingdom

Resolution number 458

APPROVED AT THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING,
22 SEPTEMBER 2016

**Extension of the time limit for
ratification, acceptance, approval or accession**

WHEREAS:

Paragraph (3) of Article 40 of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 stipulates that the Council may decide to grant extensions of time to signatory Governments that are unable to deposit their instruments by 30 September 2008;

Under the terms of paragraph 1 of Resolution 456 the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 is further extended to 30 September 2016;

Under the terms of paragraph 1 of Resolution 456, Governments eligible for membership in accordance with Article 43 of the Agreement may accede by depositing an instrument of accession with the Organization no later than 30 September 2016 or such other time as the Council may decide; and

A number of Governments have indicated that they require additional time to deposit the required instruments,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

To extend the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 with the Depositary under the provisions of Article 40 of the Agreement and of Resolution 456 from 30 September 2016 to 29 September 2017.

To extend the period for the deposit of instruments of accession to the International Coffee Agreement 2007 with the Depositary under the provisions of Article 43 of the Agreement and of Resolution 456 from 30 September 2016 to 29 September 2017 or such other time as the Council may decide.



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

ICC Resolution 459

22 September 2016
Original: English

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International Coffee Council
117th Session
19 – 23 September 2016
London, United Kingdom

Resolution number 459

APPROVED AT THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING,
22 SEPTEMBER 2016

PROPOSED USE OF THE SPECIAL FUND

WHEREAS:

The Special Fund of the Organization was established by the 1976 Agreement and the 1983 Agreement by exporting Members; and

The balance of the Special Fund stood at US\$1,369,621 per the Fund's latest audited accounts at 30 September 2015; and

The Organization requested Collyer Bristow, a firm of solicitors, to opine on the legal status of the Special Fund and the mechanism for distribution of the Fund,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

1. That all activities of the Special Fund cease.
2. That all remaining assets of the Special Fund be distributed to the exporting Members of the Fund in accordance with a mechanism for distribution of the Fund decided upon by the exporting Members.