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**Decisions and Resolutions adopted  
at the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
International Coffee Council**

**28 and 29 September 2023**

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**Opening of the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council and celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organization**

1. Mr Massimiliano Fabian of the EU-Italy chaired the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council held in Bengaluru, India, on 28 and 29 September 2023.
2. The Chair of the Council opened the 136<sup>th</sup> Session by welcoming and thanking all Members for their contribution to the enhancement of the coffee value chain and their active engagement in the activities of the International Coffee Organization (ICO). He highlighted the results achieved during coffee year 2022/23, stressing the progress made with reference to the membership of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2022, the increased visibility and impact of the Organization's work, and the establishment of partnerships. The Chair of the Council expressed his gratitude to the Government of India and its Coffee Board for their hospitality, as well as the Executive Director and the Secretariat for their commitment.
3. The Chair of the Council further thanked H.E. Ambassador Iván Romero-Martínez, who served as Chair of the Council during coffee year 2021/22, for the guidance provided during his chairmanship and stressed the importance of ensuring continuity between terms.
4. Following the opening speech of the Chair of the Council, the Vice-Chair of the Council, Dr Enselme Gouthon of Togo; the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, IAS; and the Executive Director of the ICO, Ms Vanusia Nogueira, gave their speeches.
5. The Chair of the Council reminded Members that 2023 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Coffee Organization and, to celebrate the occasion, a video on the history of the Organization was shown.
6. The Executive Director paid tribute to former Chairs of the Council attending the Session, namely H.E. Iván Romero-Martínez of Honduras and H.E. Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire and thanked them for their contributions to the work of the Organization.
7. The delegate of the European Union congratulated the Government of India and its Coffee Board on their hospitality and the excellent organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference.

**Item 1: Draft agenda**

8. The Head of Operations informed the Council that, in compliance with Paragraph 4 of Article 11 of the 2007 Agreement, the quorum for holding the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council had been reached.

9. The Council adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [ICC-136-0 Rev. 3](#)

**Item 2: Votes****Item 2.1: Redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23**

10. The Head of Operations reported on document [ICC-136-1 Rev. 1](#) containing the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23 as of 28 September 2023, which was calculated on the basis of the initial distribution of votes as per document [ICC-134-3](#) and in accordance with Article 12 of the International Coffee Agreement (2007). He explained Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 and reminded those present that only Members of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 who had paid their contributions were eligible to vote during the Council.

11. The Council approved document [ICC-136-1 Rev. 1](#) on the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23.

**Item 3: Extension of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007**

12. The Chair of the Council introduced the proposed resolution on the extension of the International Coffee Agreement 2007, as contained in document [WP-Council 333/23 Rev. 1](#)<sup>1</sup>. He noted that Members were requested to consider whether to extend the 2007 Agreement for one or two years.

13. The delegate of Brazil shared details about the lengthy domestic procedures for the ratification of the 2022 Agreement, noting that a two-year extension of the ICA 2007 would

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequently published as [ICC-Resolution 480](#) (also attached to these Decisions).

give Brazil and other Members in a similar situation sufficient time to conclude their procedures.

14. The delegate of the European Union echoed the statement of the delegate of Brazil, supporting the two-year extension of the ICA 2007, as the European Union also had complex procedures in place with reference to the signature and ratification of international treaties.

15. While stressing that the ICA 2022 should enter into force as soon as possible and repeated extensions should be avoided, the delegate of Japan expressed his understanding with respect to Members in a complex situation like Brazil and the European Union, and endorsed the two-year extension of the ICA 2007.

16. The delegate of Switzerland noted that the country had already ratified the ICA 2022 and recognized that several Members might need more time to complete their procedures for signature and ratification. On the other hand, she stressed that the extension of the ICA 2007 should not negatively affect Members' commitment to conclude the process in question as soon as possible.

17. The Council approved the two-year extension of the International Coffee Agreement 2007. The resolution was subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 480](#).

**Item 4: International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2022**

**Item 4.1: Preparations for the implementation of the ICA 2022**

18. The Chair of the Council introduced document [WP-Council 343/23](#) containing a proposal to extend the deadlines for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022.

19. The delegate of Japan noted that, in the interest of promoting the early entry into force of the ICA 2022, the deadlines for signature and the deposit of instruments related to the ICA 2022 should not be extended unnecessarily. On the other hand, given the approval of the two-year extension of the ICA 2007 and the importance of ensuring broad participation in the ICA 2022, the delegate of Japan did not object to the extension of the

deadlines in question and encouraged the Secretariat to continue prompting countries to complete their membership procedures as soon as possible.

20. The Council approved the resolution containing the proposal to extend the deadlines for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022 subsequently circulated as [ICC Resolution 481](#).

#### **Item 4.2: Membership of the ICA 2022**

21. The Executive Director reported on the progress made with reference to the membership of the International Coffee Agreement 2022. She noted that since the 135<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council held in March 2023, five countries – Gabon, El Salvador, Mexico, Mozambique and the United Kingdom – had signed the ICA 2022. Three countries – Japan, Nicaragua and Switzerland – had already completed the required procedures, having therefore already ratified/accepted the ICA 2022.

22. The delegate of Japan, the instrument of acceptance of which was deposited in July 2023, emphasized the importance of the early entry into force of the 2022 Agreement. She noted that the new Agreement would make the global coffee industry more sustainable and strengthen public-private partnerships of both exporting and importing Members, while also stressing that Japan was committed to contributing to the sustainable development of the sector and fulfilling its responsibilities as a major importing Member.

23. The Council noted the report of the Executive Director on the membership of the International Coffee Agreement 2022.

#### **Item 4.3: Signature ceremony of the ICA 2022**

24. The Chair of the Council introduced document [WP-Council 332/23](#) which contained a draft resolution to allow Members to sign the ICA 2022 in Bengaluru, India.

25. Following the approval of the draft resolution by the Council, the Minister for Coffee of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Jon Kuli, signed the ICA 2022. In his speech, Minister Kuli noted the importance given by his government to the national coffee sector, which employed, at

least partially, half of the households of the country. He shared details about the policies implemented to assist coffee-growing families, as well as the investments planned to rehabilitate the industry – from planting new coffee trees and increasing the number of extension officers to improving infrastructure and expanding domestic consumption. On the other hand, he also emphasized the challenges facing the sector, stressing how price volatility and compliance with new regulations could have a negative impact on the wellbeing of coffee farmers. In this sense, Minister Kuli shared his appreciation for the efforts of the ICO Secretariat and the Coffee Public-Private Task Force to address the welfare of coffee producers and the sustainability of the sector.

26. The Council approved the draft resolution subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 482](#).

#### **Item 5: National coffee policies**

27. Mr Germán Bahamón of Colombia expressed his gratitude to the Council as he took part in his first Session of the International Coffee Council (ICC) since his appointment as CEO of the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation, as well as to the ICO for fostering a platform for dialogue and collaboration. In his speech, he highlighted how every step of the value chain held potential for innovation and evolution and promoted a proactive stance, embracing change as a catalyst for progress. In particular, he mentioned that transformation should be rooted in sustainability, industrialization should respect tradition, post-harvesting methods should enhance quality and that the consumer experience should echo the pride of coffee growers. He also called for coffee families to be at the centre of every decision made by the ICC, advocating for greater profitability and prosperity, and encouraging ICO Members to act collectively alongside the private sector to share responsibility and jointly navigate new regulations.

28. The delegate of Honduras thanked the Chair of the Council and the Executive Director for their capable leadership, as well as the Secretariat for their work and support. He shared details about the policies executed in his country to assist about 20,000 coffee-growing families, which included granting credit to smallholder farmers to improve their production and implementing a campaign for forest conservation and enhancing the resilience of coffee communities. While stressing the important role of Honduras as a producing nation– the biggest exporter of Central America – he reiterated his country's

commitment to the Organization and its work, and expressed his hope for continued collaboration, particularly with reference to the development of coffee communities in the Central American/PROMECAFE area and with a specific focus on the implementation of the EU Regulation on deforestation-free products.

29. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire noted that he would take the floor now as he would not be able to attend the second day of the Council. He thanked the Indian authorities for their warm welcome and all provisions made to allow for the smooth running of the Council, commending the efficient organization of the event. With reference to the agenda item on the Coffee Sustainability and Resilience Fund/Facility, the delegate of Côte d'Ivoire endorsed the proposal and expressed his country's willingness to take part in discussions, stating the importance of developing mechanisms to help producing countries finance their projects. He also expressed his country's appreciation for the CGLF and the CPPTF, and in the context of fluctuating prices and Côte d'Ivoire's 2012 coffee reform, stated that his country had been focussing on transformation and the promotion of consumption, offering its willingness to contribute to a sustainable global coffee economy. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire also nominated the Conseil du Café-Cacao as a member of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB).

30. The Head of Operations thanked the delegate of Côte d'Ivoire for his intervention and acknowledged the nomination for the PSCB.

31. The delegate of El Salvador congratulated the Executive Director on the work carried out. He noted that the coffee value chain was one of the priorities of his government's agricultural policy and made specific reference to the various programmes, projects and initiatives currently being implemented to enhance the climate resilience of coffee forests; the productivity of coffee ecosystems; the role of the recently created Salvadoran Coffee Institute; research and development activities; and the promotion of domestic and international consumption of Salvadoran coffees, among others.

32. The delegate of Colombia expressed his gratitude to the Government of India and the ICO Secretariat for successfully organizing the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of Council and proposed to host a future Session of the Council as well as the next World Coffee Conference in 2027, which would also mark the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation.

33. The Executive Director expressed her gratitude to the delegation of Colombia and congratulated the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation on being one of the first associations to acknowledge the value of addressing coffee-related matters collectively. She then paid tribute to Mr Juan Esteban Orduz, acknowledging his valued contribution to the work of the Organization as he attended his last Session of the Council as a member of the delegation of Colombia to the ICO.

34. Mr Juan Esteban Orduz thanked the Executive Director for her kind words. While renewing his intention to continue collaborating with the ICO, he recalled his 20-year-long participation in ICO meetings as a representative of the Colombian Government and congratulated the Organization on the results achieved thanks to its hard work.

35. The delegate of Honduras congratulated Mr Orduz on his valuable contribution to the ICO, thanking him for his friendship and commitment to helping the sector and finding solutions to its challenges.

36. The delegate of Tanzania emphasized how Mr Orduz always advocated for all coffee farmers, regardless of the geographical region to which they belonged. He thanked him for his support and renewed his willingness to continue working together.

37. The Chair of the Council thanked Mr Orduz. While stressing that he would be missed, he expressed his hope that new opportunities to work together would arise.

38. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire proposed that a declaration be drafted in recognition of Mr Orduz's contribution to the work of the ICO and to document the gratitude felt by Members.

39. The delegate of India thanked Mr Orduz for his association with his country and expressed his hope to continue collaborating with Mr Orduz for the benefit of coffee producers.

40. The delegate of Papua New Guinea emphasized that, despite Mr Orduz's departure, his legacy and impact would remain with the ICO.



**Item 6: Financial and administrative matters****Item 6.1: Finance and Administration Committee**

41. The Vice-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union, reported on the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7 September and chaired by Ms Vera Espíndola of Mexico. Following the presentation on the financial situation ([FA-355/23](#)) by the ICO's Head of Finance and Administration, the Committee took note that there would be a cash shortage by the end of October 2023 if total liquidation costs were taken into consideration. It also noted the need for Members to pay their contributions promptly in order to ensure the economic sustainability of the Organization.

42. The Council took note of the report by the Vice-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.

**Item 6.2: Report on collection of contributions from Members in arrears**

43. The Vice-Chair of the FAC introduced the report given by the Head of Finance and Administration on the collection of contributions from Members in arrears, contained in document [FA-356/23](#). Approximately £242,000 was outstanding from the current financial year and £745,000 from previous years as of 6 September 2023. The Vice-Chair noted that since that date, two Members had paid their arrears in full, namely Burundi and Timor-Leste.

44. The Vice-Chair introduced document [FA-352/23 Rev. 1](#) which contained a communication from Vietnam on the payment of its arrears in contributions to the Administrative Budget of the Organization. He reported that Vietnam had requested the approval of an instalment plan to pay its 2022/23 contributions so that the country could retain its voting rights. He also noted that, following bilateral consultations with the Executive Director, Vietnam had already paid £100,000 (two payments of £50,000) and promised that the remaining balance of £68,214 would be settled by December 2023. However, since the FAC considered that the repeated requests for payment in instalments from Vietnam occurred every coffee year and were not consistent with the provisions of the Agreement and the relevant financial rules of the Organization, it did not recommend the approval of the payment plan in question. Instead, it suggested that the Council

instruct the Secretariat to continue its dialogue with Vietnam in order to ensure the timely payment of contributions in the long term.

45. The delegate of Papua New Guinea informed Members that his government had already paid its contributions for coffee year 2022/23, but the transfer of funds was yet to be confirmed by the Organization's bank.

46. With reference to the Russian Federation's request to retain its membership for coffee year 2023/24 in spite of its outstanding contributions (document [FA-359/23](#)) due to constraints preventing it from transferring funds to the United Kingdom, the Vice-Chair of the FAC noted that the Committee was not in a position to make a recommendation to the Council as the request was received by the Secretariat shortly prior to the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAC. The decision on whether to approve the request was therefore submitted to the Council.

47. The Executive Director noted that following the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAC and further contacts with the Government of the United Kingdom to allow the payment of the assessed contribution, a licence from the Office for Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) had finally been received and shared with both the Russian Federation and the Organization's bank. She then informed Members that the Russian Federation had communicated that its government would still need a few more months to transfer funds to the Organization.

48. The delegate of Japan encouraged the Russian Federation to make every effort to pay its outstanding contributions as soon as possible given that the issuance of the licence by OFSI provided a way for the country to fulfil its financial commitments in spite of the sanctions in place. She noted that Japan could not accept the request in question or the draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Council contained in document [ED 2444/23 Rev. 1](#), and therefore the Russian Federation's membership should be suspended in compliance with [ICC Resolution 470](#).

49. The delegate of Switzerland thanked the Chair of the Council for the proposed resolution regarding the financial situation of the Russian Federation, as well as the Government of the United Kingdom for issuing a licence to allow the settlement of outstanding contributions. She noted that, despite the efforts of the ICO Secretariat and

the UK Government, the payment from the Russian Federation had not been received and therefore [ICC Resolution 470](#) had to be followed.

50. The delegate of Brazil noted that, during the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAC, his government's position had been favourable to the request submitted by the Russian Federation based on the country's positive payment history and the understanding that it had not been fulfilling its financial commitments due to technical and administrative challenges related to sanctions imposed by the UK Government. However, in light of the information shared by the Executive Director about the issuance of the licence by OFSI, the delegate of Brazil joined the position of other Members, noting that the financial rules of the Organization should be applied objectively – as they were also applied in the past to Brazil when the country was in arrears.

51. The delegate of the European Union echoed the intervention of other importing Members and stressed that the Council should be consistent and adhere to the rules, not only with reference to the request submitted by the Russian Federation but also the one submitted by Vietnam.

52. Following the interventions of several Members, the Chair of the Council withdrew the proposed resolution on the outstanding contributions owed by the Russian Federation, noting that a consensus had been reached to suspend the country's membership.

53. In response to the delegate of Brazil, the Head of Finance and Administration clarified that, upon the payment of its outstanding contributions, the Russian Federation's pro-rata portion of the contributions due for coffee year 2023/24 would be calculated.

54. The Council ruled not to approve the request submitted by Vietnam.

55. The Council ruled not to approve the request submitted by the Russian Federation.

**Item 6.3: Draft Administrative Budget for coffee year 2023/24**

56. As per the decision of the Committee, the Vice-Chair of the FAC reported on the Draft Administrative Budget for financial year 2023/24 contained in document [FA-342/23](#)

[Rev. 2](#) and recommended its approval by the Council. He noted that contributions had been adjusted to take into account the need to enhance ICO activities and re-establish a critical mass to carry out the mandate of the Organization, while returning to a more sustainable level of staffing proportional to the activities carried out. The Vice-Chair also mentioned that three posts had been added: a Public-Private Partnership Officer (new post), Junior Communications Officer and Junior Economist (reinstated posts), before stressing that the proposed budget for coffee year 2023/24 would still contribute to real-term savings compared to budgets from pre-pandemic years.

57. The delegate of Japan supported strengthening the Organization's operations and the implementation of the Programme of Activities in the post-pandemic phase. She stressed that the promotion of the coffee industry through increasing consumption should be a key activity to enhance the Organization's presence and international cooperation, as well as to expand its membership. Lastly, she requested that the Secretariat strictly control any increase in expenditures.

58. The delegate of Honduras expressed satisfaction as regards the work carried out by the Executive Director and requested that the Council approve the Draft Administrative Budget as it complied with the aims and goals of the Organization.

59. The delegate of Colombia endorsed the approval of the Budget, while stressing the need to continue working on austerity measures, including to consider moving the premises of the Organization to a more financially convenient location.

60. The delegate of Brazil echoed the other delegations' interventions, noting that all Members had had the chance to witness the efforts of the Executive Director to seek a more modern administration and clearer objectives for the work of the Organization, all while reducing costs. He expressed his government's support for the approval of the Draft Administrative Budget.

61. The delegate of Indonesia expressed his hope that the allocation of funds would prioritize programmes and activities for the benefit of Members, especially producing countries, with a specific focus on the welfare of smallholder farmers.

62. The Council approved the Draft Administrative Budget subsequently published as document <a href="#">ICC-136-4</a> .
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**Item 6.4: Initial distribution of contributions and votes for coffee year 2023/24**

63. The Chair of the Council introduced document [ICC-136-2 Rev. 1](#) and reported on the initial distribution of contributions and votes for coffee year 2023/24.

64. In response to the delegate of Japan, the Head of Operations clarified that two versions of the document – one including the Russian Federation and one excluding it – had been distributed to delegates attending the Session with the objective of illustrating the two possible scenarios being considered by the Council. Based on the decision to reject the request submitted by the Russian Federation, the version of the document being considered was the original one made available online, which excluded the Russian Federation.

65. The Council approved the initial distribution of contributions and votes for coffee year 2023/24 contained in document [ICC-136-2 Rev. 1](#).

**Item 6.5: Promotion Fund**

66. The Vice-Chair of the FAC noted that the Promotion Fund's remaining balance amounted to US\$1,119 and that the Committee had suggested the Promotion and Market Committee<sup>2</sup>, at its next meeting, decide whether funds should be used as part of the Organization's Programme of Activities.

67. The Council noted the report on the Promotion Fund.

**Item 6.6: New Auditor**

68. The Vice-Chair of the FAC noted that, at its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee and the Secretariat had agreed that the question did not need to be discussed as the Organization

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<sup>2</sup> As per the Council decision highlighted in paragraph 139, the Promotion and Market Development Committee will henceforth be integrated in the newly established Joint Committee, and therefore the latter will review how to allocate residual funds.

could retain the current auditor for a few more years based on standard practices in place in the United Kingdom.

69. The Council noted the report on the new auditor.
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**Item 6.7: Premises**

70. The Vice-Chair of the FAC reported on the need to vacate the current premises of the Secretariat in June 2025, noting that the topic had already been extensively discussed by the Committee. He stressed that the Executive Director had been working intensively to identify cheaper and cost-efficient alternatives to reduce expenditures, including moving the seat of the Organization to a different city or country given the potential cost savings implied by cheaper rent and a lower post-adjustment level. The Vice-Chair of the FAC shared that while some Members had expressed their willingness to keep exploring this option, others were in favour of exhausting all possibilities to keep the seat of the Organization in London before starting to receive offers from other countries to host the ICO. Lastly, he stressed the delicate nature of the question given the lack of clear guidelines on how to move the premises of an intergovernmental organization elsewhere.

71. Adding to the report of the Vice-Chair of the FAC, the Chair of the Council noted that a clear way forward needed to be identified as soon as possible and preferably well in advance of June 2025.

72. The delegate of Colombia strongly disagreed with the proposition to allow the Executive Director to explore alternatives in other countries only after all options in the United Kingdom have been exhausted. He emphasized that an informed decision on whether it was more convenient to keep the seat of the Organization in the United Kingdom or move it elsewhere could not be taken without collecting information on all the alternatives available. For the sake of time and in the interests of the Organization, he suggested that the Executive Director be given a clear mandate to explore all options as soon possible.

73. The Chair of the Council emphasized that the Council would be responsible for the final decision on whether to move the seat of the Organization and that, at this stage, the

Council was only requested to consider allowing the Executive Director to collect further information to facilitate the decision of the Council.

74. The delegate of Brazil supported the proposal to authorize the Executive Director to take the necessary administrative steps to consider the available alternatives, including consulting with the UK Government to discuss possible options to keep hosting the Organization also in a different location within the country and approaching other governments to assess the possibility of moving the headquarters elsewhere. He stressed the utmost importance of this question given that rent represents a significant portion of the budget, urging Members to consider giving the Executive Director the mandate she needed.

75. While noting that rent costs represent 17% of the Organization's current expenditure, the Executive Director informed Members that the Secretariat had started looking at this question after the 135<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council, following the receipt of a communication from the ICO premises' landlord reminding them of the need to vacate the building in June 2025. Since she was already in a position to start searching for alternative premises in the United Kingdom based on the provisions of key ICO documents, the Executive Director contacted representatives of the UK Government who confirmed that there were no spaces available to host the Secretariat in London or in any other city<sup>3</sup> at the current time. Following this communication, details about the Organization's space requirements were shared again with the UK authorities at a meeting with a different government department, from which the Secretariat is still awaiting feedback. The Executive Director noted that the Secretariat's original intention was to also carry out consultations with ICO Members in parallel with those it was undertaking with the UK Government in order to understand whether they might be willing to host the Organization in their territories<sup>4</sup>. However, the latest indications shared at the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FAC were to adopt a step-by-step approach and put on hold any consultations with other ICO Members.

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<sup>3</sup> Given the presence of other international organizations, Cambridge was also one of the options put forward by the Executive Director for the consideration of the UK Government.

<sup>4</sup> Criteria being taken into account for the consideration of new locations were: i) time zone; ii) post-adjustment levels; iii) number of ICO Member countries' diplomatic representations and international organizations; and iv) presence of an international airport served by multiple airlines.

76. The delegate of Switzerland endorsed a step-by-step approach, stressing that not only should finances be taken into account but also that there should be continuity from the positive experience had in London. She also noted that exploring options to move the Organization abroad would be a costly and laborious exercise which might divert resources away from other priority areas.

77. The delegate of the European Union echoed the intervention of Switzerland, noting that it was not worth investing resources into the collection of information about other locations when the Secretariat had not received a formal offer to be hosted by any of the Members.

78. The delegate of Tanzania suggested conducting a cost-benefit analysis of staying in the United Kingdom versus moving elsewhere, encouraging Members to also consider increasing the use of IT to improve interactions with Members worldwide.

79. The delegate of Japan expressed the country's willingness to consider relocating the ICO headquarters outside the United Kingdom in light of the difficult financial situation of the Organization and instructed the Secretariat to share the findings and estimates of a possible relocation with Members. She stressed that the question needed to be carefully discussed as to ensure the continuity of the Secretariat's activities.

80. The delegate of Panama noted that costs in London had increased considerably and emphasized the importance of having as many consultations as possible, always bearing in mind the timeline for this exercise as rent prices would probably increase further.

81. The delegate of Peru supported the intervention of Colombia, stressing the importance of not only considering propositions by the United Kingdom but also possible offers from other Members in parallel. He also shared his first-hand experience of having to relocate the headquarters of the Embassy of Peru in London to a different building and confirmed the lengthiness of the process.

82. The Executive Director asked the Council whether the Secretariat was authorized to consider and analyse offers should an ICO Member communicate its willingness to host the headquarters of the Organization. In response to the delegate of Brazil on the duration of a new lease following the two-year extension of the ICA 2007, she stressed that it would



be unlikely to obtain a short-term lease agreement for a property in London without the support of the UK Government.

83. The delegate of Colombia stressed that there was not enough time for a step-by-step approach considering that consultations with the UK Government could be lengthy. He added that if such consultations proved to be inconclusive, there would not be enough time to consult with other countries before the June 2025 deadline and that the Organization could be forced to stay in London due to there being no alternative. Lastly, he noted that the Executive Director should be given a mandate to approach other governments in order to assess whether they would be interested to host the Organization and what benefits they could offer, as was the case in the past with Spain and Italy, and to then share with the Council a comparison of all the options available.

84. The delegate of Togo noted that the Organization needed to progress fast and urged the Council to task the Executive Director with collecting relevant information about all the possible options to allow Members to make an informed decision, always bearing in mind the timeline for the entry into force of the 2022 Agreement. He shared details about the relocation process of the International Cocoa Organization and the challenges initially faced at the new premises, which were revealed to be unsuitable for hosting an international organization but were selected as no other alternatives were available.

85. The delegate of the European Union recalled the various proposals put forward by ICO Members in 2005 to host the headquarters of the Organization and stressed that the process was inconclusive, corroborating that changing the seat of the Organization was a challenging task. He also noted that information on the possibility of moving the ICO abroad was available in the documents of the FAC and that interested countries could approach the Secretariat regardless of a specific mandate being given to the Executive Director.

86. The delegate of Colombia emphasized that not allowing the Executive Director to play an active role in approaching countries who might be interested in hosting the Organization would only delay the process and preclude the ICO's chance to leave the United Kingdom.

87. The delegate of Togo stressed the need to formalize that the Executive Director was entitled to receive offers from any ICO Members and to share them with the Council for consideration.

88. The Head of Operations reminded Members that it was among the Executive Director's duties, as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, to find solutions to improve its efficiency and financial performance. As the lease agreement is expected to expire, he stated that it was her responsibility to analyse new options for the premises of the Organization and that no specific mandate to receive offers and report to the Council was therefore needed, since the process in question was purely administrative. He also noted that if the Council so wished, it could give her a more political mandate, instructing her to carry out an active search for alternatives outside the United Kingdom.

89. The delegate of El Salvador stressed that it was important to give the Executive Director the proper authority to draft a plan to analyse all options and their costs and benefits without prejudice to the location of the headquarters of the Organization.

90. The delegate of Brazil suggested that the Council approve a document containing all the specifications for the new premises, based on the needs of the Organization and its Secretariat, to be used as a reference not only by the Executive Director during consultations with the UK Government but also by other ICO Members. Said document would provide Members with a better understanding of whether they were able to put forward suitable proposals to host the Organization. The proposed document would also facilitate a comparison of the different options.

91. The delegate of Mexico endorsed the proposal to authorize the Executive Director to seek out alternatives which would then be submitted to the Council for consideration.

92. Following an extensive discussion, the Chair of the Council proposed to amend the draft resolution on the premises contained in document [ED-2444/23 Rev. 1](#) so as to reflect the consensus reached within the Council.

<p>93. The Council approved the resolution on the premises of the Organization subsequently published as <a href="#">ICC Resolution 483</a>.</p>
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**Item 7: Report on the work of the ICO and market situation**

94. The Executive Director reported on the work of the Organization and started by outlining her engagement with Members and her advocacy of the coffee sector, providing an overview of the trips and visits to ICO countries she had made, as well as the events hosted by the ICO since the 135<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council. With reference to the implementation of the Programme of Activities, the Executive Director first emphasized that several strategic meetings had been held with 18 Members, as well as with representatives of the US Government in London since March 2023. She shared updates on the efforts to expand the membership of the Organization, reporting specifically on the progress made with Mozambique, Saudi Arabia and Trinidad and Tobago. She then focused on the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat, also in partnership with development and non-governmental partners and the private sector, with a specific focus on coffee circular economy, the new regulatory framework, and the establishment of new financing mechanisms for the coffee sector. The Executive Director lastly reported on having accepted the invitation to join the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) committee in charge of discussing new standards for the coffee sector and emphasized how this represented a unique opportunity to act as the spokesperson for the Organization, especially since not all ICO Members were expected to take part in the activities of the committee, as well as to expand the Organization's network.

95. With reference to the participation of the Organization in some of the activities of the International Organization for Standardization, the delegate of Papua New Guinea noted that in his country many producers were adopting novel ways of processing coffee which were affecting the physical characteristics of some beans (i.e., colour). He raised the question of whether coffee should be judged purely on a sensory basis or also taking into account some physical defects in coffees processed via new methods. He encouraged other producing countries to exchange knowledge on how to tackle this in order to then submit a query to the ISO.

96. The delegate of Honduras praised the Executive Director's passion in dealing with all the activities of the Organization and congratulated her on the outstanding results achieved, particularly mentioning the increased visibility and relevance of the Organization within the sector.

97. The delegates of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, the European Union and Brazil echoed Honduras' statement and paid tribute to the Executive Director and the Secretariat for their outstanding work and achievements.

98. The delegate of Angola praised the Executive Director for the excellent work carried out and thanked the Government of India for their hospitality and the successful organization of the events and meetings held in Bengaluru. He recalled that Angola was the fourth coffee producer in the world in the 1970s but lost its position as well as many producers during a lengthy civil war. He noted that advances in terms of innovation and technology as well as the good practices implemented worldwide could play a key role in the recovery and relaunch of the coffee sector in a country with more than 15,000 coffee producers, 98% of which were smallholder farmers. The delegate of Angola encouraged ICO Members to further share their knowledge and techniques to increase productivity, reduce the impact of climate change and encourage youth involvement, while also requesting assistance via financing mechanisms to relaunch the Angolan coffee sector.

**Item 8: Partnerships**

**Item 8.1: Towards the establishment of a Global Coffee Sustainability and Resilience Facility/Fund (C-SR FUND) ICO/UNIDO/ITC**

99. The Head of Operations informed Members that the Secretariat had managed to secure additional resources to follow up on the recommendation of the Council to identify new financing opportunities for the coffee sector, stressing that the points presented in document [WP-Council 340/23](#) were only preliminary indications based on the work carried out in a very short timeframe (August–September 2023). He noted that the proposal was to mobilize blended financing, leverage public money and attract resources from major coffee companies to form a global vehicle with the objective of (i) improving the productivity of coffee farms and the viability of coffee farming; (ii) mitigating price volatility; (iii) financing resilience to climate change; and (iv) broadening access to finance for the rejuvenation of existing and the establishment of new plantations. He stressed the need to create a global investment platform to better engage a vast range of stakeholders, including the public and the private sectors, development donors and financing institutions, as well as impact investors.

100. While reiterating his support of the initiative, the delegate of Papua New Guinea noted that this was not the first attempt by the sector to establish a similar mechanism and advised the Organization to take full ownership of the vehicle in question. He also emphasized the importance of democratizing the initiative and identifying ways to ensure that all stakeholders in the value chain felt part of it.

101. In response to a question from Japan, the Head of Operations confirmed that contributions to the fund would only be voluntary.

102. The delegate of Mexico welcomed the initiative and the goals identified, pointing out the importance of rehabilitating coffee plantations in order to increase profitability and productivity, enhance quality, as well as continue the fight against climate change through the selection of new and more resilient coffee varieties.

103. The delegate of the European Union noted that the involvement of the private sector should be central, while expressing some reservations about public participation in initiatives of this nature. He stressed the need for a clear definition of which operations and actors the vehicle would target, the amount to be invested into the initiative and the variety and scope of interventions.

104. The Council noted the report of the Head of Operations.
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**Item 8.2: Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) and CEOs & Global Leaders Forum (CGLF)**

105. The Head of Operations reported on the work of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF), the CPPTF Sherpas-only meeting, and the 5<sup>th</sup> CEOs and Global Leaders Forum (CGLF) held on 26 September in Bengaluru. With reference to the CPPTF, he noted that discussions addressed mainly the work of the Technical Workstreams and how to better integrate them, as well as the need for the CPPTF to focus on assisting ICO Members with the implementation of the EU Regulation on deforestation-free product (EUDR). In this sense, a proposal was made to use part of the contributions of the private sector to collect questions from ICO and Task Force Members, as well as information on existing actions regarding the implementation of the EUDR, so as to draft a comprehensive document to be shared with and to seek the European Union's guidance. With reference

to the 5<sup>th</sup> CGLF, the Head of Operations noted that the circular economy and regenerative agriculture as well as coffee funding mechanisms were the key topics tackled by the Forum. A consensus was reached to continue supporting ICO Members in the implementation of sustainable good practices and to explore the establishment of the vehicle referred to in item 8.1. Lastly, the Head of Operations introduced document [CPPTF-11/23](#) containing the Joint Communiqué “the Bengaluru Best Coffee Commitment” for Members to consider and, if appropriate, to approve.

106. The Council took note of the report of the Head of Operations and approved the Joint Communiqué subsequently published as document [ICC-136-5](#).

**Item 8.3: Report on the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and new cooperation agreements**

107. The Head of Operations reported on the implementation of MoUs, noting that new partnerships and agreements were being established, following the indications of the Council, to secure more resources and increase access to knowledge. He informed Members that a Letter of Intent was signed with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to enhance cooperation and promote fundamental rights at work within the coffee value chain. Under this framework, £20,000 has already been allocated by the All-Japan Coffee Association (AJCA) for training activities in Colombia.

108. The Council took note of the report of the Head of Operations and the signature of the Letter of Intent with the International Labour Organization

**Item 8.3.1: MoU ICO – Global Coffee Platform (GCP)**

109. The Head of Operations informed Members that the MoU signed with the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), a long-lasting partner of the Organization, had expired in September 2023 and therefore the Secretariat and GCP jointly drafted a new and more effective MoU, submitted to the Council as document [WP-Council 335/23](#).

110. The delegate of Tanzania endorsed the renewal of the MoU with the GCP, praising the work they had carried out in his country and asking the Council to approve the document.

111. The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the GCP subsequently published as document [ICC-136-6](#). Following the approval of the document by the Council, the Executive Director of GCP, Ms Annette Pensel, and the Executive Director of the ICO signed the MoU.

**Item 8.3.2: MoU ICO – Center for Circular Economy in Coffee**

112. The Head of Operations introduced the draft MoU between the Organization, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Centre for Circular Economy in Coffee contained in document [WP-Council 336/23](#), noting that this was the result of a partnership to assist all ICO Members and coffee farmers in the implementation of coffee circular economy best practices and solutions. He informed Members that paragraph 10.2 of the draft document originally circulated would be removed to avoid any misunderstandings about the roles of the parties involved, while also noting that the signature of the MoU could not be performed during the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council as the ITC's Executive Director could not attend.

113. The Council approved the MoU between the ICO, the ITC and the Centre for Circular Economy in Coffee.

**Item 8.3.3: MoU ICO – International Trade Centre (ITC)**

114. The Head of Operations introduced the draft MoU between the Organization and the International Trade Centre (ITC) contained in document [WP-Council 337/23 Rev. 2](#), noting that the MoU was drafted to formalize a very successful partnership already in place for the benefit of farmers and the coffee sector as whole.

115. The Executive Director thanked the representative of the ITC, Mr Hernan Manson, for his efforts and contributions and informed Members that the Secretariat had agreed with ITC's Executive Director to sign both this MoU as well as the MoU approved under

item 8.3.2 during a ceremony to be organized at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP28 in Dubai later this year.

116. The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the ITC.

**Item 8.3.4: MoU ICO – Specialty Coffee Association (SCA)**

117. The Head of Operations introduced the draft MoU between the Organization and the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) contained in document [WP-Council 338/23](#), noting that the main objective of the MoU was to provide Members with more resources, capacity building activities and educational programmes related to production, assessment and commercialization of speciality coffees.

118. The delegates of Brazil and Panama welcomed the MoU and congratulated the Secretariat on the initiative, stressing how beneficial the activities to be carried out with SCA would be to producers.

119. The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the SCA<sup>5</sup>.

**Item 8.3.5: Cooperation agreement: ICO – Coffee Training Center (CTC) of Ethiopia**

120. The Head of Operations introduced the cooperation agreement between the Organization and the Coffee Training Center (CTC) of Ethiopia ([WP-Council 334/23](#)), stressing the operational nature of the document, which would allow other countries in the region to access training activities implemented by the Center.

121. The Council took note of the cooperation agreement between the ICO and the Coffee Training Center (CTC) of Ethiopia.

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<sup>5</sup> MoU to be signed as soon as a suitable date for both parties involved is identified.



**Item 9: Coffee Sustainability****Item 9.1: Coffee sector regulatory framework****Item 9.2: Sustainability projects mapping**

122. The Head of Operations reported on the work carried out with regard to the coffee sector regulatory framework and, in particular, the EUDR. He noted that activities were being implemented under CPPTF's Technical Workstream 3 – Importing Countries and divided into two groups: (i) policy information, interpretation and dialogue, to not only ensure a full understanding of the EUDR but also other regulations by encouraging discussions and organizing webinars on the topics; and (ii) technical solutions for compliance with due diligence regulations by establishing links with other institutions and projects on traceability, inter-operability, and data standards.

123. The Head of Operations illustrated the ongoing mapping of coffee sustainability initiatives being compiled by the CPPTF in partnership with ITC's Coffee Guide Network and with funds and support from the European Union, the purpose of which is to consolidate existing sustainability projects and investments onto one platform. He noted that the exercise focused on the distribution of projects by regions and countries, while also taking into account the three dimensions of sustainability – social, economic and environmental. Lastly, the Head of Operations informed Members that the platform was yet to be completed and would be made available on the ICO website once finalized, tentatively by the end of 2023.

124. The Council took note of the report on coffee sustainability presented by the Head of Operations.
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**Item 10: World Coffee Conference**

125. The delegate of India, Dr K.G. Jagadeesha, thanked all delegates for travelling to India and taking part in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference and the ICO meetings held in Bengaluru over the week. He recalled that the journey had begun in 2016 when the Coffee Board of India first submitted its request to host the 5<sup>th</sup> WCC to the Council, emphasizing how since then all actors of the Indian coffee value chain had become involved in the planning and execution to ensure a successful event. The delegate of India shared the preliminary figures related to attendance of the 5<sup>th</sup> WCC and the contextual exhibition: 127

national and international speakers; 253 exhibitors; 2,609 conference delegates; 17,525 business visitors; 323 international delegates; and 347 B2B meetings.

126. On behalf of all ICO Members, the Chair of the Council thanked the Coffee Board of India for hosting an exceptional event. Dr K.G. Jagadeesha was then given an [award](#) in recognition of his leadership and commitment and was praised for providing a space where connections and decisions with a lasting impact on the coffee industry and its stakeholders had been made.

127. The delegate of Mexico extended his gratitude to the Government of India for exceeding all expectations and making delegations feel at home over the days spent in Bengaluru.

128. The delegates of Colombia, Brazil, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, the European Union, Panama, and Peru echoed the intervention of Mexico and congratulated Dr K.G. Jagadeesha, Dr N.N. Narendra, and the whole Coffee Board of India on their impeccable ability to organize a highly successful event, their attention to detail and unparalleled and warm hospitality.

129. The Council took note of the report on the 5 <sup>th</sup> WCC presented by the delegate of India.
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**Item 11: Proposal to create a focus group on specialty coffee**

130. The delegate of Panama submitted to the Council a proposal to establish a focus group on specialty coffee, a niche sector responsible for about 10% of green coffee trade volume and recognized for its commitment to social, economic and environmental sustainability ([ED-2443/23](#)). She emphasized how, as is the case for Panama, several exporting countries mainly grow specialty coffees only, outlining that the creation of a dedicated focus group would provide Members with a space to exchange of best practices and know-how that would benefit the entire industry.

131. The delegates of Honduras, Peru and Mexico endorsed Panama's proposal and congratulated H.E. Natalia Royo on putting this initiative forward for the consideration of the Council.

132. The delegate of Brazil supported the creation of the focus group, stressing the remarkable growth of the specialty coffee segment in Brazil since 1991, when the Brazilian Specialty Coffee Association (BSCA) was established, and worldwide in more recent years. He noted how the speciality segment had served as a tool to improve the quality of coffees; promote the empowerment of women in the sector at all levels, from production to management; and increase the involvement of youth.

133. The delegate of El Salvador endorsed Panama's proposal and expressed his country's interest in taking part in the activities of the group given the importance of the specialty segment to the Salvadoran coffee sector.

134. The delegate of Colombia supported the initiative of Panama, while also stressing how investing in the specialty coffee segment was one of the ways to de-commoditize coffee and add value to the bean.

135. The Council approved the creation of a focus group on specialty coffee.
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**Item 12: Office holders and committees**

136. The Chair of the Council introduced the proposal to formalize the Joint Committee and, if appropriate, approve its terms of reference, recalling that the proposal was first submitted in Bogotá at the 134<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council and then re-discussed at the online session of the Council held in March 2023. Adding to the intervention of the Chair, the Executive Director emphasized that the proposal was to merge the technical committees of the Organization for the duration of the transition period between the ICA 2007 and the entry into force of the ICA 2022.

137. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for Exporting Members, noted that producing countries had carefully reviewed the proposal to establish the Joint Committee and decided to endorse it. He reported a high level of interest and willingness on the part of exporting Members to get involved in the activities of the Joint Committee, to the extent that a proposal was put forward to increase the number of exporting members on the Committee from eight to fifteen. The new proposed terms of reference would include: three members from Mesoamerica; three members from South America;

three members from West Africa; three members from East Africa; and three members from Asia.

138. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for Importing Members, welcomed the interest of exporting Members in participating in the activities of the Joint Committee.

139. While willing to join the consensus, the delegate of Japan noted that the balance between the number of exporting and importing Members should not change significantly from the Secretariat's proposal.

140. The Council approved the creation of the Joint Committee and its revised terms of reference subsequently published as [ICC-136-11](#).

**Item 12.1: Chair and Vice-Chair and composition of committees**

141. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for Exporting Members, designated Amb. Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire as Chair of the Joint Committee. The following countries expressed their interest to become members of the Joint Committee: Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Nepal, and Mexico.

142. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for Importing Members, informed the Council that no nominations had been put forward by Importing Members for either the position of Vice-Chair or the members of the Joint Committee.

143. The Chair of the Council encouraged the spokesperson for Importing Members to submit the group's nominations regarding the composition of the Joint Committee at a later stage to the Secretariat for consideration by the Council at its next Session.

144. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for Exporting Members, noted that the producing countries had also decided to submit a proposal to amend the terms of reference of the FAC, increasing the number of exporting members from five to fifteen but maintaining the minimum number of countries necessary for the quorum (two exporting countries and two importing). He also designated Ms Vera Espíndola of Mexico

as Vice-Chair of the FAC and the following composition for the Committee in question: Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, India, Indonesia, and Nepal.

145. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for Importing Members, indicated Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as the Chair of the FAC and confirmed that the current composition of the Committee for importing countries would be maintained for coffee year 2023/24. While expressing his concerns about the risk of his group being outnumbered within the Committees, the delegate of the European Union welcomed the willingness of exporting countries to get involved in the activities of the FAC and confirmed that Importing Members would join the consensus reached within the Council. That said, he also suggested that if this change led to any confusion or operational disruption during meetings of the FAC, the Council could hold further discussions at its next session.

146. As in the case of the Joint Committee, the delegate of Japan reiterated that also within the FAC the balance between the number of the exporting Members and importing Members should not change significantly from the Secretariat's proposal.

147. The delegate of Colombia thanked importing Members for their willingness to join the consensus, while also noting that they were not outnumbered if they considered the fact that the European Union represented 27 different countries. He stressed that the number of representatives attending the meetings was just a technicality and that more importance should be given to the increased interested in participating in the activities of the Organization.

148. The delegate of Togo informed the Council that African Members would need additional time to share their indications for the composition of the Joint Committee and the FAC due to the need to conduct further consultations.

149. The Council approved the appointment of Amb. Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire as Chair of the Joint Committee for coffee year 2023/24 as well as the composition submitted by exporting Members.

150. The Council approved the revision of the terms of reference of the Finance and Administration Committee proposed by exporting Members. The revised terms of reference were subsequently published as document [ICC-136-12](#).

151. The Council approved the appointment of Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as Chair and Ms Vera Espíndola of Mexico as Vice-Chair of the FAC for coffee year 2023/24.

152. The Council approved the composition of the FAC for coffee year 2023/24 submitted by exporting and importing Members.

**Item 12.2:                   Composition of the Private Sector Consultative Board for 2023/24 and 2024/25**

153. The Chair of the Council introduced document [WP-Council 341/23 Rev. 2](#) containing the nominations for the membership of the Private Sector Consultative Board for coffee years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

154. The Council approved the composition of the Private Sector Consultative Board for 2023/24 and 2024/25 contained in document [WP-Council 341/23 Rev. 2](#)

**Item 12.3:                   Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022**

155. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for Exporting Members, indicated Mr Michael Wheeler of Papua New Guinea as the Chair of the Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022.

156. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for Importing Members, indicated Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as the Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022.

157. The Council elected Mr Michael Wheeler of Papua New Guinea as Chair and Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022.

**Item 12.4: Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council**

158. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for Exporting Members, proposed Dr Enselme Gouthon of Togo for the position of Chair of the International Coffee Council for coffee year 2023/24.

159. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for Importing Members, proposed Mr Tom Fabozzi of the EU-Ireland for the position of Vice-Chair of the International Coffee Council for coffee year 2023/24.

160. The Council elected Dr Enselme Gouthon of Togo as Chair and Mr Tom Fabozzi of the EU-Ireland as Vice-Chair of the International Coffee Council for coffee year 2023/24.

**Item 13: Credentials**

161. The Head of Operations stated that the credentials received were found to be in good order and noted that the Secretariat, as standard practice, would issue at a future date a Credentials Report and a list of delegations that attended the Council session.

**Item 14: Future meetings**

162. The Chair of the Council noted that at its 135<sup>th</sup> Session, the Council had approved the following dates for future meetings:

- 137<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council: one-day meeting between 18 and 23 March 2024, to be held online;
- 138<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council and 6th CEO and Global Leaders Forum: three days, 16 to 20 September 2024, location to be discussed.

163. The delegate of the European Union suggested that the 138<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council be held in London.

164. The delegate of Colombia reiterated the country's interest to host the World Coffee Conference in 2027 on the occasion of the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

165. The Council approved the dates for future meetings and the proposal to hold its 138<sup>th</sup> Session in London, as well as the World Coffee Conference in 2027 in Colombia.

### **Item 15: Other business**

166. The delegate of Brazil noted that a proposal from his Government to revise the Rules of Statistics - Certificates of Origin had been circulated to Members on 27 September as document [WP Council 342/23](#). He explained that the proposal was submitted after a cargo of Brazilian coffee was held in Belgium due to ambiguous wording contained in the current ICO Certificate of Origin<sup>6</sup>. He stressed that the document was shared with Members for their information only and a decision on the question would only be made at the next Session of the Council.

167. The Council noted the proposal for a revision of the Rules of Statistics-Certificates of Origin.

### **Closing session**

168. Mr Wolfgang Weinmann was presented with an [award](#) by the International Coffee Council in recognition of the remarkable results achieved and his valued contribution to the work of the Organization as Coordinator of the CPPTF. His dedication, vision, and tireless efforts were recognized as instrumental in driving positive change and bridging public and private interests for the greater good of the coffee sector.

169. Mr Juan Esteban Orduz was given an [award](#) in recognition of his contribution to the work of the Organization. The Council noted that his hard work and commitment had not only impacted the industry, but also inspired those around him as all stakeholders

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<sup>6</sup> "This certificate is intended solely for the statistical purposes of the ICO and does not confer origin on coffee".



benefitted from his experience, knowledge, and commitment towards the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the coffee sector.

170. After brief statements by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the International Coffee Council for coffee year 2023/24, delegates thanked Mr Massimiliano Fabian for his outstanding service as Chair of the Council and wished the new Chair and Vice-Chair success in their office.

171. The Executive Director thanked the Chair of the Council for all the support provided throughout the coffee year.

172. The Chair of the Council thanked the Government of India and all Members for their presence, as well as the Executive Director and all ICO staff, and closed the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council.

## SUMMARY: DECISIONS OF THE 136<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

- The Council adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [ICC-136-0 Rev. 3](#)
- The Council approved document [ICC-136-1 Rev. 1](#) on the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23.
- The Council approved the two-year extension of the International Coffee Agreement 2007. The resolution was subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 480](#).
- The Council approved the resolution containing the proposal to extend the deadlines for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022 subsequently circulated as [ICC Resolution 481](#).
- The Council noted the report of the Executive Director on the membership of the International Coffee Agreement 2022.
- The Council approved the draft resolution subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 482](#).
- The Council took note of the report by the Vice-Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee.
- The Council ruled not to approve the request submitted by Vietnam.
- The Council ruled not to approve the request submitted by the Russian Federation.
- The Council approved the Draft Administrative Budget subsequently published as document [ICC-136-4](#).
- The Council approved the initial distribution of contributions and votes for coffee year 2023/24 contained in document [ICC-136-2 Rev. 1](#).
- The Council noted the report on the Promotion Fund.
- The Council noted the report on the new auditor.
- The Council approved the resolution on the premises of the Organization subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 483](#).
- The Council noted the report of the Head of Operations under agenda item 8.1.
- The Council took note of the report of the Head of Operations and approved the Joint Communiqué subsequently published as document [ICC-136-5](#).
- The Council took note of the report of the Head of Operations and the signature of the Letter of Intent with the International Labor Organization.
- The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the GCP subsequently published as document [ICC-136-6](#). Following the approval of the document by the Council, the Executive Director of GCP, Ms Annette Pensel, and the Executive Director of the ICO signed the MoU.
- The Council approved the MoU between the ICO, the ITC and the Centre for Circular Economy in Coffee.
- The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the ITC.
- The Council approved the MoU between the ICO and the SCA.
- The Council took note of the cooperation agreement between the ICO and the Coffee Training Center (CTC) of Ethiopia.
- The Council took note of the report on coffee sustainability presented by the Head of Operations.
- The Council took note of the report on the 5<sup>th</sup> WCC presented by the delegate of India.
- The Council approved the creation of a focus group on specialty coffee.
- The Council approved the creation of the Joint Committee and its revised terms of reference subsequently published as [ICC-136-11](#).
- The Council approved the appointment of Amb. Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire as Chair of the Joint Committee for coffee year 2023/24 as well as the composition submitted by exporting Members.
- The Council approved the revision of the terms of reference of the Finance and Administration Committee proposed by exporting Members. The revised terms of reference were subsequently circulated as document [ICC-136-12](#).

- The Council approved the appointment of Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as Chair and Ms Vera Espindola of Mexico as Vice-Chair of the FAC for coffee year 2023/24.
- The Council approved the composition of the FAC for coffee year 2023/24 submitted by exporting and importing Members.
- The Council approved the composition of the Private Sector Consultative Board for 2023/24 and 2024/25 contained in document [WP-Council 341/23 Rev. 2](#)
- The Council elected Mr Michael Wheeler of Papua New Guinea as Chair and Mr Zoltan Agai of the European Union as Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022.
- The Council elected Dr Enselme Gouthon of Togo as Chair and Mr Tom Fabozzi of the EU-Ireland as Vice-Chair of the International Coffee Council for coffee year 2023/24.
- The Council approved the dates for future meetings and the proposal to hold its 138<sup>th</sup> Session in London, as well as the World Coffee Conference in 2027 in Colombia.
- The Council noted the proposal for a revision of the Rules of Statistics - Certificates of Origin.



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ICC Resolution 480**

16 October 2023

Original: English

**E**

International Coffee Council  
136<sup>th</sup> Session  
28 and 29 September 2023  
Bengaluru, India

**Resolution Number 480**

APPROVED AT THE FIRST PLENARY  
MEETING, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

### **Extension of the International Coffee Agreement 2007**

WHEREAS:

The International Coffee Agreement (the 'ICA 2007') is due to expire on 1 February 2024;

Under the provisions of paragraph (3) of Article 48 of the ICA 2007, the International Coffee Council (the 'Council') may decide to extend the Agreement beyond its expiration date for one or more successive periods not to exceed eight years in total. Any Member which does not accept any such extension of the ICA 2007 shall inform the Council and the Depositary in writing before the commencement of the period of extension and shall cease to be a Party to the ICA 2007 from the beginning of said period of extension;

The Council approved the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (the 'ICA 2022') by Resolution 476 on 9 June 2022;

Sufficient time is needed for countries to complete the procedures for the entry into force of the ICA 2022; and

By way of Resolution 479 on 30 March 2023, the Council approved the extension of: (i) the period for signature of the ICA 2022 to 30 April 2024; and (ii) the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval thereof to 31 July 2024.

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

To extend the ICA 2007 for a period of two years from 2 February 2024 to 1 February 2026, in accordance with provisions of paragraph (3) of Article 48 thereof and of ICC Resolution 473. However, the ICA 2022 shall enter into force as soon as the conditions for its provisional or definitive entry into force are met, thus terminating the period of extension of the ICA 2007.



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ICC Resolution 481**

16 October 2023

Original: English

**E**

International Coffee Council  
136<sup>th</sup> Session  
28 and 29 September 2023  
Bengaluru, India

**Resolution Number 481**

APPROVED AT THE FIRST PLENARY  
MEETING, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

**Extension of the deadline for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the  
International Coffee Agreement 2022 (ICA 2022)**

WHEREAS:

The International Coffee Council approved the ICA 2022 by way of Resolution 476 on 9 June 2022;

Sufficient time is needed for countries to complete the procedures for the entry into force of the ICA 2022;

Paragraph (1) of Article 44 of the ICA 2022 stipulates that, except as otherwise provided, the ICA 2022 shall be open for signature at the Depositary headquarters from 6 October 2022 until and including 30 April 2023;

Paragraph (3) of Article 44 of the ICA 2022 provides that the International Coffee Council may decide to grant extensions of time to signatory Governments that are unable to deposit their instruments by 31 July 2023;

Under the terms of ICC Resolution 479 the period for the signature of the ICA 2022 is extended to 30 April 2024, and the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the same is extended to 31 July 2024;

A number of Governments which are eligible to sign the ICA 2022 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 44 thereof may not be able to do so by 30 April 2024, but have indicated that they wish to become signatory Governments thereto; and

The International Coffee Council deems it desirable to enable the Governments concerned to sign the ICA 2022 in order to enhance the prospects for its definitive or provisional entry into force,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

To allow Governments eligible to sign the ICA 2022 to do so on or before 30 April 2025, as per the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 44 thereof; and

To extend the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022 with the Depositary under the provisions of Article 44 thereof from 31 July 2024 to 31 July 2025.



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ICC Resolution 482**

16 October 2023

Original: English

**E**

International Coffee Council  
136<sup>th</sup> Session  
28 and 29 September 2023  
Bengaluru, India

**Resolution Number 482**

APPROVED AT THE FIRST PLENARY  
MEETING, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

**Signature of the  
International Coffee Agreement 2022**

WHEREAS:

The International Coffee Council at its 133<sup>rd</sup> Session on 9 June 2022 approved:

- Resolution 476 adopting the text of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2022;
- Resolution 477 which designated the International Coffee Organization as the Depository for the International Coffee Agreement 2022;
- The opening for signature of the ICA 2022 on 6 October 2022, as contained in document [ICC-133-6](#) - Decisions and Resolutions adopted at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council.

The International Coffee Council at its 134<sup>th</sup> Session on 6 and 7 October 2022 approved:

- Resolution 478 on the opening for signature of the ICA 2022 in Bogotá, Colombia.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

That the 136<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council will take place in Bengaluru, India, from 28 to 29 September 2023.

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

The International Coffee Agreement 2022 shall be open for signature in Bengaluru, India, away from the seat of the Depository (222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB), from 28 to 29 September 2023 and, thereafter, at the seat of the Depository.



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ICC Resolution 483**

16 October 2023

Original: English

**E**

International Coffee Council  
136<sup>th</sup> Session  
28 and 29 September 2023  
Bengaluru, India

**Resolution Number 483**

APPROVED AT THE SECOND PLENARY  
MEETING, 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

### **Premises**

#### CONSIDERING:

That the Secretariat of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) will need to vacate its premises at 222 Gray's Inn Road, London, no later than June 2025, with no possibility for extension of the current lease.

That, as decided at the 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FAC, the Secretariat has contacted representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom to discuss possible support and options for remaining in the country.

That the necessary measures for moving may take considerable time.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

#### RESOLVES:

1. To request the Executive Director, as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization:
  - (a) to continue the process to find suitable premises for the ICO;
  - (b) to continue communicating with the authorities of the host country to seek:
    - (i) suitable premises for the ICO, either cost-free or on a discounted basis; and
    - (ii) assistance to overcome the constraints regarding the negotiation of a new lease beyond the expiry date of the ICA.
  - (c) to provide Members with an assessment of the requirements for the ICO premises and of cost-saving opportunities.
  - (d) to report to the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee.
2. To review this matter at the next Session of the International Coffee Council.