



**Statement delivered by H. E. Mr Iván Romero-Martínez,  
Ambassador of Honduras to the United Kingdom  
4<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference  
Closing Ceremony  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 8 March 2016**

His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Ethiopia, Mr Teferra Derebew;

The Secretary General of the InterAfrican Coffee Organisation (IACO), Mr Fred Kawuma;

The President of the Board of the Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association (ECEA), Mr Hussein Agraw;

The Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization, Mr Robério Oliveira Silva;

Representatives of the diplomatic corps and international bodies here today on this important occasion;

Distinguished delegates of the ICO Member countries;

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of my country, Honduras, and as Chairperson of the International Coffee Council, the highest decision-making body of the International Coffee Organization, I should like to thank the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference in Addis Ababa.

The impeccable organization of the Government of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has made this wonderful event a reality. And today, as a result, we have much to think about and discuss.

Over the past three days, we have addressed a variety of matters of utmost importance to the coffee sector, including sustainability and diversity in the sector; the future consumption of this prized drink and the importance of speciality coffees and innovation; the effects of climate change; and the need to harness science and technology to secure greater productivity, tackle pests and disease and mitigate the effects of volatility. Additionally, the spotlight has been shone on the importance of gender equality and generational handover among coffee producers.

We should also like to thank the expert panellists and moderators for accepting our invitation to participate in this conference. Thank you, to all of you here; you have travelled from all over the world to meet in Addis Ababa, the political capital of Africa, to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the global coffee industry.

The debates and discussions held across the seven panels of this 4<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference have taught us that coffee is, without question, a key tool in the social and economic development of our producer countries. As an international community, we have also learnt that discussing and debating matters, as we have done here, is an activity of the utmost importance if we are to achieve our objective of protecting the millions of men and women who make their living from growing coffee. It is the only way that we will be able to build a profitable business for them all.

To round off the 4<sup>th</sup> World Coffee Conference, the delegations to the International Coffee Organization will meet for the 116<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council. During the discussions that will take place over the coming days, I invite them all to remember the matters touched on at this event, as well as the challenges and opportunities that have been discussed, so that we can add our two coffee beans' worth to the process of building a policy for the benefit of the world's coffee growers.

Thank you very much.