



**Report of the Projects Committee  
on the meeting held on 19 September 2016**

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1. The Projects Committee held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in London on 19 September 2016. The meeting was chaired by Mr Primus Kimaryo from Tanzania.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Committee adopted the draft agenda contained in document [PJ-102/16 Rev. 2](#)

**Item 2: Report of the meeting held on 9 March 2016**

3. The Committee approved the report contained in document [PJ-101/16](#).

**Item 3: Coffee Development projects**

**Item 3.1: Draft strategy for the funding of ICO projects**

4. The Executive Director introduced document [PJ-107/16](#), outlining his plan of action to strengthen the project activities of the Organization to assist coffee farmers in improving their livelihoods. The ICO should focus on the following three main areas: i) Maintaining the cooperation with the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). ii) Cooperating with multilateral financial institutions for the establishment of Coffee Facilities as means through which the challenges faced by a particular coffee producing region could be addressed. Based on the experience acquired via the discussions held with the African Development Bank for the Africa Coffee Facility, the Secretariat will strive to initiate similar processes in other Member countries in Asia and Latin America. iii) Strengthening the Secretariat's capacity to engage effectively with donors interested in funding projects within the coffee sector.

5. The Committee took note of the Executive Director's proposal.

**Item 3.2: Projects under consideration by donors**

6. The Chief Economist introduced document [PJ-103/16](#) containing projects under consideration by donors as well as concluded projects and projects under implementation. He informed Members that there were no new project proposal for consideration at this meeting. However, Members were informed that the CFC has issued its 9<sup>th</sup> Open Call for Proposals and they were invited to submit their applications by 31 October 2016. Members were also informed that the Secretariat is available to assist them in drafting their applications to the CFC.

7. The Committee took note of the report.

**Item 3.3. Projects already approved**

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

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

9. 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*

10. 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 had been secured by the Project Executing Agency, Kahawatu. The broad objective of the project is to promote a sustainable coffee production in Burundi. A sustainable coffee economy is based on the well-being of the various actors in the chain, particularly the producers who are the weakest link. In the first half of 2016, Kahawatu has continued its strategy of encouraging the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) through training. Therefore, in February 2016, 717 growers have been directly trained on the following: weeding, mulching, shading, and erosion control. After direct training, lead farmers have trained their group members on the same topic. Thus, a total of 3,836 growers have been trained, with a women participation rate of 19%. 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*

11. The aim of this project (Annex III) is to improve conditions for coffee producers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. 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 a supervision mission of the ICO will take place in November 2016.

12. The Committee took note of these reports.

**Item 3.4: Africa Coffee Facility**

13. The Chief Economist presented document [PJ-97/16 Rev. 1](#) containing an up-date of 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 submitted the full proposal to the President of the Bank in August 2016. The reaction of the Bank management is awaited and a full report of the Facility will be made during the IACO General Assembly in Yaoundé on 28 November 2016.

14. The Committee took note of the report. The Committee also noted that the Secretariat will start designing a similar Facility for other Members countries.

**Item 4: Cooperation with other agencies**

*Vision 2020*

15. The Head of Operations gave a report of the workshop on the Global Coffee Platform that took place on 16 September 2016. During the workshop participants from various sustainability organisations discussed the Vision 2020 goals and workstreams, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Committee noted the report and encouraged the Secretariat to continue participating in the work of the Global Coffee Platform. More information on this topic is contained in document [WP-Council 273/16](#).

17. A Representative of the World Bank presented a programme for collaboration towards enabling the business in agriculture as contained in document [PJ-106/16](#).

18. A representative of the World Coffee Research presented a project relating to the Crop Trust initiative as indicated in document [PJ-105/16](#), outlining the global coffee conservation strategy to conserve the coffee germplasm collections around the world to ensure the future sustainability of the crop.

19. A representative of the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST) presented the financial platform that will assist Members to access finance for agricultural activities.

20. The Committee took note of these presentations and encouraged Members to approach these institutions for further information.

**Item 5: Strategic Review**

21. Members were invited to comment on the outcome of the strategic review with a particular focus on the recommendations pertaining to projects. In discussion on this item, the point was made that the suggestion of the Executive Director (Item 3.1) was in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Review and it should be integrated in the Programme of Activities when possible.

**Item 6: Other business**

22. There was no other business

**Item 7: Date of the next meeting**

23. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Projects Committee would take place during the 118<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council to be held in London during the week of 13 to 17 March 2017.