



**Mr Robério Oliveira Silva  
Executive Director of the ICO**

1. The International Coffee Organization (ICO) presents its compliments to Members and observers and wishes to convey the sad and unexpected news that the Executive Director, Mr Robério Oliveira Silva, died at his home in Brazil on 30 December 2016.
2. Mr Silva took up his post as Executive Director on 1 November 2011. After graduating in Economics from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, Mr Silva concentrated on the field of commodities, particularly coffee. He worked in both the public and private sectors: In Brazil's Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade and the Office of the President before becoming Secretary-General of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) in 1994. Thereafter he worked for Brazil's Chamber of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Development, Industry and International Trade. Finally, he was Director of the Coffee Department at the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply in Brasilia before taking up his position as Executive Director of the ICO.
3. During his tenure at the ICO he increased the ICO's membership by 11 new Members and initiated discussions with several potential new Members. He addressed climate change issues and oversaw collaboration with public-private partnerships such as IDH and the Global Coffee Platform together with gender equality, facilitating the participation of the International Women's Coffee Alliance. He also introduced, in conjunction with the InterAfrican Coffee Organisation and the African Development Bank, the Africa Coffee Facility, an instrument to provide funding for coffee sector development projects in Africa. He initiated the review of the strategic goals of the Organization to meet the current challenges facing the coffee industry. Finally, he generated cost savings which enabled Members' contributions to remain static for several years, and organised three major global coffee conferences.

4. A book of condolences will be opened for signature at the ICO on Monday, 9 January 2017. It is intended that a Memorial Mass will be held in London in due course, details of which will be sent to Members and observers at a later date.

5. In terms of management of the ICO, the Head of Finance and Administration, Mr David Moorhouse, will continue to look after all matters relating to finance and administration, while the Chief Economist, Mr Denis Seudieu, will look after all operational aspects. The Chairman of the International Coffee Council has asked Mr Moorhouse to act as a caretaker of the Organization until management matters can be resolved at the next session of the International Coffee Council.

January 3, 2017

Mr. David Moorhouse  
Head of Finance and Operations  
International Coffee Organization  
22 Berners Street  
London W1T 3DD

Dear David,

We have been greatly shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Roberio Silva, Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization, and pass along our sincerest condolences.

I also understand that while your last day working at the ICO is to be February 1, 2017, you are willing to continue in your current capacity for a short time beyond that date. As Chair of the International Coffee Council, I extend a request, on behalf of the Council for you to stay on as caretaker of the ICO in your current capacity until the Council is convened and able to make decisions regarding a future caretaker and Executive Director of the ICO.

In addition, I would like to also formally request convocation of an intersessional meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee to discuss recent events as well as to draft a procedure for selection of a new Executive Director to be recommended to the Council for Decision.

I would be very grateful if you could circulate this to all ICO Members on my behalf.

With very best regards,

*Tanya R Menchi*

Tanya Menchi

Chair, International Coffee Council

CC: Aly Toure, Vice Chair, International Coffee Council  
Amy Schnabel, Chair of the ICO Finance and Administration Committee