INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

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Communication from the Government of Brazil

1. The Executive Director attaches, for the information of ICO Members, a Note Verbale sent by the Government of Brazil.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF BRAZIL
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LONDON

Rebraslon-032/2022

The Permanent Representation of Brazil to International Organisations in London presents its compliments to the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and has the honour to refer to the 134th Session of the International Coffee Council (ICC) and the 4th meeting of the Coffee CEO and Global Leaders Forum.

Brazil considers that the emergence of international trade barriers based on environmental and labour prerequisites constitutes the overriding challenge for the coffee sector today. Brazil requests the inclusion of this subject as one of the topics on the agenda of the 134th International Coffee Council and of the 4th Coffee CEO and Global Leaders Forum. The *communiqués* stemming from these meetings, as well as other pertinent documents to be adopted in the ICO and Coffee Public-Private Task-Force (CPPTF) meetings in Bogotá, should adequately reflect the relevance of this issue and its urgent nature.

These barriers come at a time when the coffee global value chain still absorbs the impact of the vast economic disruption, breakdown in logistics and surge in fertilizer prices caused by the global pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. They also add on to the surge in prices in consumer countries.

These barriers also arrive in a moment when the coffee sector is engaged in transformational change to implement full sustainability in the global value chain through the CPPTF. The unilateral, punitive nature of these measures – which stem from a reduced number of importing countries – jeopardizes the international, multi-stakeholder consensus which constitutes the fulcrum and legitimacy of the London Declaration and of the CPPTF.

No certification, private standard, 'best practice' or methodology for evaluating and improving environmental sustainability and living standards – including those adopted by the CPPTF, like "living income" and "resilient landscape approach" – should be imposed across borders without being democratically approved in the appropriated multilateral fora: the UN sustainable development legal framework; the World Trade Organisation; and the International Labour Organisation, which provides a multi-stakeholder framework involving representatives of workers, employers and governments for the discussion of labour standards.

Brazil believes in the long-term economic viability of a sustainable coffee sector. Sustainable living standards and production techniques must rely on the economic efficiency of coffee crops, and must be obtained in an international economic and business environment free

of trade distorting measures, by means of knowledge and technology sharing and investment in agronomical research. The thriving market for specialty coffees demonstrates the willingness of coffee consumers to reward and encourage quality improvements and sustainable practices in coffee production. It is a voluntary, market-driven mechanism that should be encouraged and expanded – not imposed.

The United Nations sustainable development conventions and declarations, and, in particular, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which all ICO members are signatories, are the legal and conceptual framework for all action regarding the promotion of sustainability. These documents are the result of a multi-stakeholder debate involving all UN member States, with invaluable input from the private sector and civil society organisations. They establish fundamental principles such as the three pillars of sustainable development – the economic, the social and the environmental – and the indivisibility of the SDGs. They contain a balanced list of commitments and obligations for all stakeholders, the public and private sector, the developed, developing and least developed countries, which respects sovereignty, national priorities and policy spaces. They must be in the centre of the efforts of the coffee sector to create a sustainable global value chain.

The Coffee Public-Private Task-Force provides a structured, productive framework for investing in sustainability and mitigation projects. In consonance with the 2030 Agenda, Brazil invites importing countries to fulfil their financial commitments under SDGs 13.a (to mobilize jointly $100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions) and under SDG 17.2 (to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries, and to set a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries) by means of engagement in the efforts of the CPPTF.

The Permanent Representation of Brazil to International Organisations in London requests this note to be circulated among ICO member-states, CPPTF Sherpas and the members of the CEO and Leaders Forum and of the Private Sector Consultative Board.

The Permanent Representation of Brazil to International Organisations in London avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Coffee Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 27 September 2022

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