



INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION



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**Communication from the
Government of Panama**

1. The Executive Director attaches a communication from the Government of Panama, containing a proposal to create a focus group on specialty coffee.
2. The Government of Panama has requested that the communication be circulated among ICO Member states for the consideration and, if appropriate, approval of the International Coffee Council at its 136th Session in Bengaluru, India, on 28 and 29 September.



**EMBAJADA DE PANAMÁ
REINO UNIDO**

19 September, 2023

Ms Vanusia Nogueira
Executive Director
International Coffee Organization
222 Gray's Inn Road
London, WC1X 8HB

Subject: Proposal to create a focus group on specialty coffee

Dear Executive Director,

The Permanent Mission of Panama presents its compliments to the International Coffee Organization and has the honour to submit a proposal to create a focus group on specialty coffee to be considered by ICO Members.

Specialty coffee makes up almost one-fifth of all global green coffee trade volume. One of the most persuasive characteristics that specialty coffee is pioneering in, is sustainability. Concerns about sustainability, land preservation, inclusion as well as a drive for better quality are guiding principles in specialty coffee.

We therefore believe that the establishment of a focus group for ICO Members would be beneficial to learn lessons from small scale success and to be able to share best practices from the specialty sector.

The Permanent Mission of Panama kindly requests that this letter be circulated among ICO Member states for the consideration and, if appropriate, approval of the International Coffee Council at its 136th Session to take place in Bengaluru, India, on 28 and 29 September.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Coffee Organization the assurances of my highest consideration.

Natalia Royo
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the ICO