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**Decisions and Resolutions adopted
at the 135th Session of the
International Coffee Council**

30 March 2023

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Opening Session

1. Mr Massimiliano Fabian of EU-Italy chaired the 135th Session of the International Coffee Council held online on 30 March 2023.
2. The Chair of the Council opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking all Members and observers for attending the 135th Session of the Council. He also thanked the Executive Director and the ICO Secretariat for their dedication and assistance.
3. Following the Chair's opening speech, the Vice-Chair of the Council, Mr Enselme Gouthon, and the Executive Director of the ICO, Ms Vanusia Nogueira, gave their own speeches. The Executive Director extended a special thanks to all new delegates joining a Council Session for the first time.

Item 1: Draft Agenda

4. The Head of Operations informed the Council that, in compliance with Paragraph 4 of Article 11 of the 2007 Agreement, the quorum for holding the 135th Session of the International Coffee Council had been reached.

5. The Council adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [ICC-135-0 Rev. 2](#).

Item 2: Votes

Item 2.1: Redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23

6. The Head of Operations reported on document [ICC-135-1 Rev. 1](#) containing the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23 as of 29 March 2023, which was calculated on the basis of the initial distribution of votes as per document [ICC-134-3](#) and in accordance with Article 12 of the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2007. He explained Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4, and reminded those present that only Members of the ICA 2007 who had paid their contributions were eligible to vote during the Council.

7. The Council approved document [ICC-135-1 Rev. 1](#) on the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23.

Item 3: Report on the work of the ICO and market situation

8. The Executive Director reported on the official missions and events she had attended since the 134th Session of the Council as part of the Organization's strategy to develop and maintain contacts with current and former Members of the ICO, as well as other public and private coffee stakeholders. Among the trips mentioned, special attention was given to her official mission to Brussels alongside the Chair of the Council and the Head of Operations, which was organized in response to Members' requests for an active dialogue with the European Union on the new coffee regulations and sustainability.

9. Within her report on the market situation and coffee trends, the Executive Director introduced a new ICO methodology for the calculation of domestic consumption to address a previous omission of data on imports in producing countries, noting how the application of the new formula would increase consumption data for a large number thereof.

10. With reference to the implementation of the Programme of Activities for 2022/23, the Executive Director informed Members about the completion of all mandatory activities of the Organization concerning statistics and economics, the organization of sessions of the Council and other ICO meetings, as well as advocacy and promotion. The Executive Director also highlighted the actions undertaken in terms of engagement with former and potential new Members of the Organization and strengthening the dialogue with coffee stakeholders, development banks and donors for fund mobilization. The creation of a coffee sustainability and resilience fund, as well as actions for the establishment of a centre focusing on the circular coffee economy were among the priorities identified and to be developed through partnerships.

11. Lastly, the Executive Director shared updates on the Organization's 60th anniversary, noting a new celebratory logo had already been designed and distributed to Members and that a list of all ICO projects implemented since 1963 would soon be made available.

12. The delegate of Colombia congratulated the Executive Director on the remarkable achievements and reiterated the country's support for the activities of the Organization.

13. The delegate of Nicaragua extended her gratitude to the Executive Director, the Secretariat and to current and former Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council for all the efforts made to ensure a greater focus on sustainability and a better income for farmers.

14. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire praised the Executive Director for all the initiatives undertaken since her appointment and reiterated his availability to assist the Secretariat with its efforts to bring back former Members. With reference to the development of partnerships, he stressed the importance of identifying ways to achieve concrete results in terms of project funding and possibly discussing the key outcomes of engagement with the private sector within roundtables and at the next session of the Council.

15. The delegate of Brazil congratulated the Executive Director on the new impetus she had brought to the Organization and the remarkable accomplishments presented within the report on activities.

16. The delegate of the European Union echoed the other Members' sentiments, praising the Executive Director and the Chair of the Council for the impressive results achieved since the 134th Session of the Council.

17. The Council noted the report presented by the Executive Director.

Item 4: International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2022

Item 4.1: Membership of the ICA 2022

18. The Executive Director reported on the status of membership of the ICA 2022, informing Members that Japan, Switzerland and Indonesia had signed the Agreement in London since its opening for signature in October 2022. She noted that several Members had informally contacted the Secretariat to report delays with internal procedures and to appeal for an extension of the approved deadlines related thereto.

19. The Executive Director introduced document [WP-Council 331/23](#) containing a proposal to extend by one year the current deadlines for: (i) signature (30 April 2023); and (ii) ratification, acceptance or approval (31 July 2023) of the ICA 2022. Consequently, the document also proposed extending the term of the ICA 2007, due to expire on 1 February 2024¹. She noted that the contextual extension of the ICA 2007 was being suggested at this stage to avoid rushing this decision at the next session of the Council and potential administrative constraints.

¹ As per [ICC Resolution 473](#) approved in September 2021.

20. The delegate of Brazil welcomed the proposal made by the Secretariat and clarified that many domestic legislations on the ratification of international treaties, including Brazil's, could be extremely long winded.

21. The delegate of Ethiopia echoed Brazil's intervention and endorsed the proposal to extend all current deadlines to grant Members sufficient time to finalize their internal procedures.

22. The delegate of Japan informed Members that the country had signed the ICA 2022 in February 2023 and was diligently proceeding to meet the deadline for ratification, acceptance or approval given the importance of a speedy entry into force of the ICA 2022. After affirming that the approval of the proposed extensions could affect the course of Members' domestic procedures, the delegate of Japan rejected an early extension of the ICA 2007 and asked for further information on the legal basis for the extension of deadlines related to the ICA 2022.

23. The Executive Director pointed out that, while a decision on extending the term of the ICA 2007 could be still made at the next session of the Council, failing to extend the deadline for the signature of the ICA 2022 could be problematic as Members would have only one month left to sign.

24. In response to the delegate of Japan, the Head of Operations highlighted Article 44 of the ICA 2022 as the legal basis to grant extensions of time to signatory governments. He also stressed that not approving the new proposed deadline for signature at the present session of the Council would prevent Members from signing the ICA 2022 from 1 May 2023 until the next session of the Council.

25. In light of the information provided by the Secretariat, the delegate of Brazil stressed the urgency to approve the extensions related to the ICA 2022 and suggested a special meeting could be convened before the end of April 2023 to decide on the matter should Members need more time to address the question.

26. Given the possible organizational and financial constraints of convening a special session of the Council in such a short timeframe, the Executive Director put forward, for the consideration of the Council, the option of approving only the new proposed deadlines regarding the ICA 2022 and postponing the decision on the extension of the ICA 2007 to the next meeting of the Council. The revised text of the draft resolution was shared on the screen for Members' reference.

27. The delegate of Papua New Guinea endorsed the proposal by the Executive Director. He also pointed out that for the entry into force of previous International Coffee Agreements, several similar extensions had had to be approved, stressing that this was a fairly standard practice.

28. The delegate of the European Union supported the proposal to approve the deadlines for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022 and to postpone the decision to extend the ICA 2007. He also stressed the importance of receiving all relevant documentation with greater notice to allow enough time for consultations with all EU Member States.

29. The delegates of Brazil and Gabon echoed the other Members' interventions and endorsed the approval of the new deadlines regarding the ICA 2022.

30. In reaction to the proposal of Japan to extend the ICA 2022 deadlines by just six months, the delegate of Thailand pointed out that her government would need more time to complete the necessary procedures for signature and ratification given the recent dissolution of the parliament. She therefore endorsed the 12-month extension proposed by the Secretariat, joining the consensus reached by Members.

31. The Council approved the resolution extending the deadline for signature of the ICA 2022 until 30 April 2024 and the deadline for ratification, acceptance or approval thereof until 31 July 2024. The resolution was subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 479](#).

Item 4.2: Preparations for the implementation of the ICA 2022

32. The Executive Director introduced document [WP-Council 329/23 Rev. 1](#) containing a proposal to establish a Working Group (WG) for the revision and drafting of documents for the entry into force of the ICA 2022. As per the procedures followed for the now-dissolved Working Group on the Future of the Agreement (WGFA), the Secretariat would prepare draft documents to be examined by the WG before their submission to the Council for formal consideration and approval. As usual, the WG would need a Chair and a Vice-Chair representing the exporting and importing categories and would be open to all Members.

33. The delegate of Papua New Guinea supported the proposal by the Secretariat, stressing the importance of having a WG to address questions needing careful consideration and complex drafting.

34. The delegates of Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to create a WG. Additionally, the delegate of the European Union informed the Council that EU-Sweden had expressed their intention to participate in the Group.

35. In response to a query by Japan regarding the list of documents to be examined, the Head of Operations clarified that these could be divided into two categories, namely: (i) new documents arising from the introduction of new bodies and provisions under the ICA 2022; and (ii) existing documents, mainly rules and regulations, that needed updating.

36. The delegate of Japan endorsed the creation of the WG and expressed his country's willingness to take part in its activities.

37. The Council approved the establishment of a Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022 as per the provisions contained in document [WP-Council 329/23 Rev. 1](#), subsequently published as document [ICC-135-4](#).

Item 5: Sustainability and Partnerships

Item 5.1: Report on the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and new cooperation agreements

38. Adding to the report already presented by the Executive Director under item 3, the Head of Operations informed Members that the Secretariat had noted a high increase in requests from international and sector organizations to strengthen cooperation with the ICO. Among them, he mentioned two new agreements under discussion with the Italian-Latin American International Organization (IILA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). He noted that the ICO and the ASEAN Coffee Federation had signed a Joint Declaration in December 2022, and that the Federation was already fruitfully collaborating and taking part in the activities of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force. Lastly, the Head of Operations shared updates on the revision of existing Memoranda of Understanding with

development partners and other coffee stakeholders², stressing the benefits in terms of the availability of resources with which Members would be provided.

39. The Chair of the Council thanked the Head of Operations for his presentation and stressed how the increased interest of coffee stakeholders was a direct result of the engagement activities carried out by the Secretariat.

40. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire congratulated the Executive Director and the Secretariat on their work and asked the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a document with the achievements and expected outcomes, as well as benefits resulting from the subscription of these cooperation agreements. He suggested that the Organization also target regional organizations, as well as financial institutions to ensure funding for Members' projects.

41. The delegate of Ghana echoed Côte d'Ivoire's intervention on the need to receive further information about the advantages of the partnerships being developed and how to collaborate with these institutions for the benefit of coffee farmers.

42. The delegate of Nicaragua also supported Côte d'Ivoire's request and emphasized the importance of focusing on regional institutions and banks for the development of national coffee sectors.

43. The Executive Director informed Members that the Secretariat was already in contact with several regional organizations and financial institutions, and new discussions with private foundations had already been planned. She also noted that, as carried out for all projects executed since the Organization's inception, a mapping of ICO partnerships and related results would be completed.

44. The Council noted the report of the Head of Operations, as well as Members' request for a report on partnerships and their expected outcomes, to be presented by the Secretariat at the next session of the Council.

² The following existing Memoranda are currently being revised: ICO – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); ICO – International Trade Centre (ITC); ICO – Global Coffee Platform (GCP); ICO – Specialty Coffee Association (SCA); ICO – Coffee Training Center Ethiopia (CTC).

Item 5.2: Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF)

45. The Executive Director reported on the progress of the CPPTF, noting that activities within the four main technical workstreams (TWs) were running smoothly. In addition to sharing updates about the living income accelerator project³ under TW1, she briefly reported on the activities of TW2 on market transparency, currently being implemented in Mexico and Rwanda. With reference to TW3, the Executive Director stated that activities to develop and strengthen national multi-stakeholder spaces and to co-design others alongside the remaining TWs were moving forward. Coffee landscape assessments in Kenya, Peru and Vietnam were also reported to be underway under TW4.

46. The Executive Director noted that fund mobilization for CPPTF activities was still a challenge and took the opportunity to express her gratitude to the Governments of Germany, Switzerland and the European Union for the financial support provided.

47. The Council took note of the report on the CPPTF's activities made by the Executive Director.

Item 5.3: CPPTF Proposal TW3 Sector Transformation: Importing Members

48. Ms Hannelore Beerlandt of the European Union, in her capacity as facilitator of Technical Workstream 3 – Importing Countries, presented the CPPTF proposal on the implementation of the Roadmap (document [CPPTF-10/23](#)), which was completed in close consultation with producing countries and their national coffee stakeholders. She illustrated the three tracks identified within the proposal – policy dialogue and information; technical solutions; and partnerships and support – and provided detailed information about the activities foreseen.

49. The delegate of Papua New Guinea expressed his appreciation for the work carried out within TW3 Importing Countries and endorsed the proposal presented. He also stressed the importance of having a forum for the discussion of relevant topics and the creation of a consensus.

50. The delegate of the European Union echoed Papua New Guinea's intervention and congratulated Ms Beerlandt on the proposal presented.

³ Currently being implemented in Angola, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Rwanda, Togo and Vietnam.

51. The delegate of Brazil welcomed the effort by importing countries and expressed his appreciation for the positive suggestions put forward in the proposal, especially the ones referring to gathering data on sustainability initiatives in exporting countries.

52. The Council approved document [CPPTF-10/23](#), subsequently published as [ICC-135-2](#).

Item 5.4: Coffee sector regulations and due diligence

53. While introducing this item, the Chair of the Council briefly reported on the mission to Brussels, originally promoted by his predecessor, H.E. Iván Romero-Martínez of Honduras, to meet the EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries and discuss the EU proposed regulation on deforestation-free products.

54. The delegate of Honduras congratulated the Chair of the Council and the Executive Director on the successful visit to Brussels and reiterated his support.

55. Ms María Naranjo Barrantes, PhD of Wageningen University, presented the independent policy brief (document CPPTF-9/23) on deforestation and forest degradation in coffee supply chains, commissioned and financed by the CPPTF and the ICO to help the Council make informed decisions on the topic. Following a review of the main definitions and key elements of the proposed EU regulation in question, the brief focused on the reasons for the inclusion of coffee among the commodities based on the legislators' assessment of potential risk scores for deforestation and forest degradation in coffee producing countries. Independent considerations about the implications of the regulation for smallholder farmers and recommendations on the way forward were also included.

56. The delegate of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for commissioning the document and reiterated the Brazilian Government's commitment to end deforestation by 2028. He recalled the constructive inputs on the preliminary version of the brief shared by several delegations of exporting Members at the 134th Session of the Council and regretted that the request to receive both the Terms of Reference of the study and recommendations on how to mitigate the effect of the EU legislation had not been accommodated. He also noted that despite Brazil's efforts to provide names of renowned Brazilian academic institutions and researchers with solid expertise in the field at hand, none of the contacts shared were

consulted by the Wageningen University team before the finalization of the brief. The delegate of Brazil expressed his criticism of Chapter 5 and the controversial percentages linking Latin American coffee production to the risk of deforestation, as well as the failure to integrate existing scientific literature and work conducted in producing countries. Brazil proposed that the study remain under consideration to give Members enough time to share their views, and that it be made available in the future only with comments by producing countries duly appended.

57. The delegate of Ghana echoed Brazil's intervention and stressed the need for producing and consuming countries to work together to ensure the wellbeing of farmers and sustainability, also in terms of pricing, throughout the whole coffee value chain.

58. The delegate of Kenya thanked the ICO Secretariat for the work carried out and echoed Brazil's intervention with reference to the negative impact of the regulation on coffee producing countries. He expressed the need for greater assistance from the Organization, both in terms of information sharing and financial support, as well as the assistance of the European Union, considering the high level of investment in technical equipment needed to ensure compliance with the regulation.

59. The delegate of Panama noted that the regulation would affect thousands of small producers and coffee-growing families in Central and Latin America, also emphasizing the need to strengthen national coffee systems through training and capacity building activities to enhance countries' preparedness to comply with the regulation. He also stressed the importance of receiving the necessary assistance from the European Union for the implementation of the regulation and to avoid an adverse impact on coffee farmers.

60. The delegate of Papua New Guinea praised the quality of the brief but pointed out that it failed to consider producing countries' point of view. He noted that the regulation would impoverish all coffee producers, since vital resources once dedicated to the development of the coffee sector would be used for the development of due diligence systems. With reference to the regulation itself, the delegate of Papua New Guinea expressed his hope for more clarity in relation to the methodologies to be adopted for risk assessment.

61. The delegate of Costa Rica echoed the interventions of Brazil and Papua New Guinea and supported the suggestion of temporarily withholding the dissemination of the document, emphasizing that it did not consider the different characteristics of each producing country's coffee sector.

62. The delegate of Nicaragua endorsed the position of the other producing countries and noted that deforestation and climate change were major challenges that needed to be addressed but without neglecting the different aspects of individual countries' national production systems and the need to compensate farmers for their contribution to the global coffee sector.

63. The delegate of Colombia expressed his discontent with the brief, claiming that it was too "Eurocentric", as well as with the unfair application of the regulation, the costs of which would be born solely by coffee farmers. He stated that the time dedicated to discussions on the topic within ICO meetings was evidence of its utmost relevance to producing countries and suggested continuing to address the matter with the European Union to ensure a realistic application of the regulation.

64. The delegate of Indonesia echoed the statements of producing Members, stressing the country's concerns about the unbearable uncertainties posed by the EU regulation, and the fact that consultations with producing countries were not properly conducted. She noted that the regulation disregarded the right to development of producing countries with agriculture-based economies and expressed her hope that the ICO Secretariat, the European Union and other producing countries would continue to strengthen their partnerships to increase the capacity of smallholders and develop innovative financial assistance to fulfil the regulation's requirements.

65. The delegate of Ethiopia shared the concerns about deforestation but stressed the need to take into account the context in which producers were operating to make sure the application of the regulation did not jeopardize their conditions over time.

66. The delegate of Nicaragua supported the suggestion to continue discussing the brief and not to disseminate it, agreeing with the other delegations' on the absence of the producing countries' perspective. She suggested that the ICO Secretariat reach out bilaterally to Members interested in sharing their views to identify measures for mitigating the regulation.

67. The delegate of Honduras echoed Nicaragua on the postponement of the document's dissemination. He stressed that his country, one of the key coffee exporters to the EU, was committed to fighting climate change and establishing mechanisms to avoid deforestation. He suggested that the ICO Secretariat should invite producing countries to

share their studies and assessments of the EU regulation in order to bring together inputs from the whole coffee sector and present the final result at the next session of the Council.

68. The delegate of Costa Rica suggested the inclusion of a roadmap in the brief before its dissemination to clearly outline the necessary next steps to achieve all the deliverables in this sense.

69. The Chair of the Council called Members' attention to the fact that they were not requested to approve the document, as it was an independent paper produced by Wageningen University only to be noted by the Council. He suggested that Members take time to further analyse and improve the paper and resume discussions on it at the next session of the Council.

70. The delegate of Brazil emphasized that the criticism and concern expressed by the Brazilian delegation referred to Wageningen University's brief and its conclusions and not to the EU regulation itself. He reiterated his suggestion to postpone the dissemination of the brief and stressed that Brazil, as well as other producing countries, was noting the document "with concern".

71. The delegate of the European Union thanked the ICO Secretariat for commissioning the brief and reiterated the need to distribute documents well in advance to grant Members sufficient time to analyse them. He also emphasized the independent nature of the brief and the fact that the Council, in representation of all Members, should simply take note of the document.

72. Ms Naranjo Barrantes took note of the concerns shared by producing countries and reinforced the need to conduct country-level assessments, as suggested by Members and already mentioned in the Brief. She noted that the meeting held with the Brazilian delegation to obtain details about scientific work being carried out in the country was very useful, but that a screening process had to be carried out on the studies and therefore not all the sources were included in the brief.

<p>73. The Council noted the presentation by Ms Naranjo Barrantes and agreed to continue discussions on the topic, as well as to postpone the dissemination of the policy brief as an ICO document and on the Organization's website.</p>

Item 6: Financial and administrative matters**Item 6.1: Finance and Administration Committee**

74. The Chair of the Council informed Members that the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Ms Vera Espíndola of Mexico, was unable to attend the meeting and suggested that the Executive Director report on financial and administrative matters on her behalf.

75. The Executive Director reported on the 57th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) held on 16 March 2023 (documents [FA-340/23](#) and [FA-348/23 Rev. 1](#)) and presented a comparison between the financial situation of the Organization at 31 January 2022 and 2023. She clarified that a first draft of the Administrative Budget for coffee year 2023/24 had been presented within the FAC and that discussions to review it would continue to take place at subsequent meetings. With reference to travel costs, and due to an increase in both the frequency of missions and airfare prices, a request was made to transfer the additional amount of £20,000 from the current coffee year's Personnel budget.

76. The delegate of Brazil thanked the Executive Director for her report and supported the allocation of extra funds for travel costs.

77. The delegate of Honduras emphasized the importance of ensuring the ICO's representation and participation in events and missions and endorsed the amendment to the budget.

78. In response to a query by Japan, the delegate of Ethiopia clarified that the proposal submitted to the Council was to modify the allocation of funds within the same budget line and did not refer to an allocation of funds to cover missions that had already taken place as stated. The delegate of Ethiopia supported the changes proposed by the Secretariat.

<p>79. The Council took note of the report by the Executive Director and approved the request to amend the allocation for travel costs submitted by the Secretariat.</p>
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Item 6.2: Report on collection of contributions from Members in arrears

80. The Executive Director reported on the collection of contributions from Members in arrears as at 14 March 2023 contained in document [FA-341/23](#) and noted that, since the publication of the document, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam had made payments.

81. She informed Members that the Russian Federation and the ICO's Finance and Administration Division had been in touch to identify alternative solutions to allow the country to pay their contributions, since their current arrears were determined by their inability to transfer funds to a UK-based account. Likewise, the Executive Director also informed Members that the Secretariat was in talks with Vietnam to discuss the country's financial situation and that Vietnam had reiterated their commitment to pay their contributions. Regarding the situation of Bolivia, she confirmed that the country had been paying their outstanding contributions as per the instalment plan approved by the Council.

82. The Council noted document [FA-341/23](#).

Item 6.3: Administrative Accounts of the Organization for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report

83. The Executive Director introduced document [FA-343/23](#) containing the Administrative accounts of the Organization for financial year 2021/22 and the report of the auditors.

84. The Council approved the Administrative Accounts of the Organization for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-343/23](#).

Item 6.4: Accounts of the Special Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report

85. The Executive Director introduced document [FA-344/23](#) containing the Accounts of the Special Fund for financial year 2021/22 and the report of the auditors.

86. The Council approved the Accounts of the Special Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-344/23](#).

Item 6.5: Accounts of the Trust Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report

87. The Executive Director introduced document [FA-345/23](#) containing the Accounts of the Trust Fund for financial year 2021/22 and the report of the auditors.

88. The Council approved the Accounts of the Trust Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-345/23](#).

Item 6.6: Promotion Fund

89. The Chair of the Council noted that the accounts of the Promotion Fund were not audited as per the decision made by the Council in September 2010.

90. The Council took note of the accounts of the Promotion Fund contained in document [FA-346/23](#).

Item 6.7: Salary scales and basis for contributions to the Provident Fund

91. The Executive Director noted that, as per the Organization's Staff Rules and Regulations, the Secretariat complied with the United Nations' provisions on salary scales and basis for contributions to the Provident Fund, noting that an allocation for this item was already contained in the current budget for coffee year 2022/23 and no increases in expenditure were foreseen.

92. The Council approved the salary scales and basis for contributions to the Provident Fund contained in document [FA-347/23](#).

Item 7: World Coffee Conference

93. As per the letter contained in document [ED-2434/23](#), the delegate of India submitted to the Council the proposal to reschedule the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) and concurrent meetings of the Organization from 23 September to 1 October 2023. Changes to the dates approved in October 2022 were due to scheduling conflicts with G20

meetings taking place in India under the country's Presidency of the Group until the end of November 2023.

94. In this context, and in compliance with Article 30 of the ICA 2007, the delegate of India also submitted for approval of the Council the appointment of the Honourable Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, as Chair of the 5th WCC ([ED-2435/23](#)).

95. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire expressed his concern about the several postponements that have taken place since 2020 and, given the importance of the event, sought India's assurance that the dates proposed would not be changed.

96. The delegate of Vietnam echoed the comments made by Côte d'Ivoire and confirmed the participation of the Vietnamese delegation in the event.

97. The delegate of Brazil stated he was confident that the event would be successful and would contribute to the benefit of the coffee sector.

98. The delegate of Honduras echoed the delegate of Brazil, noting that the postponements of the event were understandable.

99. The delegate of India reassured the Council that there would not be further changes to the dates and clarified that previous amendments in this sense were due to reasons beyond their control.

<p>100. The Council approved the new dates of the 5th World Coffee Conference and appointed the Honourable Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, as Chair thereof.</p>
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Item 8: Office holders and committees

101. The Chair of the Council stated that, at the 134th Session of the Council, Members had requested the Secretariat to submit a proposal to merge the ICO's technical committees into one and formalize the Joint Committee.

102. The Executive Director presented document [WP-Council 330/23](#). She noted that all three technical committees had been meeting together since the outbreak of the Covid-19

pandemic and that the new Economics Committee foreseen by the ICA 2022 would formally merge the three committees and the Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance anyway, as decided by Members. She also stressed that the proposal to formalize the Joint Committee was meant to facilitate the appointment of office holders – especially for the smaller group of importing Members – given the reduced number of seats available.

103. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire expressed his dissent regarding the proposal, stressing that any such decision was premature as the necessary consultations within the group of exporting Members had not been conducted.

104. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for the importing Members, expressed the group's support of the proposal to formalize the Joint Committee as it was understood as an attempt to render participation in the Committee more pragmatic and to align the structure of the Organization with the new Agreement.

105. The delegate of Brazil congratulated the Secretariat on the proposal presented and welcomed the effort to simplify and make the work of the Organization more flexible. In his capacity as spokesperson for the exporting Members, he informed the Council that some had confirmed their availability to participate in the Committee, while others needed more time to analyse the proposal. The delegate of Brazil reiterated his availability to further discuss the document with exporting Members if they wished to do so.

106. The Head of Operations noted that Article 9 of the ICA 2007 granted the Council powers to establish and dissolve Committees and subsidiary bodies as appropriate, emphasizing that the creation of the Joint Committee would only imply the merging of existing bodies and not any dissolution thereof.

107. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire clarified that he was not in disagreement with the proposal itself, and while confirming his willingness to join the consensus, he recommended that a wider consultation within the exporting Members' group still be conducted to ensure compliance with the procedures.

108. While welcoming the attempt to optimize the work of the committees through the proposed merge, the delegate of Togo emphasized that an agreement among producing countries needed to be reached prior to any decision in order to ensure an efficient way forward and unity within the group.

109. The delegate of Gabon echoed Côte d'Ivoire and Togo's interventions, stressing the need for further discussions among Members on the topic, despite the laudable intentions of the proposal presented.

110. The delegate of Honduras recalled that the proposal to create the Joint Committee had already been met with surprise by Members when first presented by the Secretariat at the 134th Session of the Council as it had not been discussed in advance within the group of exporting Members. He emphasized the importance to resume the dialogue and the exchange of information on the topic, so that a consensus could be forged in a collaborative way.

111. The Executive Director noted that the submission of the Joint Committee's terms of reference was intended to streamline the work of the Organization in response to the recommendation by several Members at the 134th Session of the Council and following the inability to approve the office holders for the existing committees in October 2022. After highlighting that postponing the appointment of office holders would prevent the technical committees from convening until a final decision was made, the Executive Director reiterated the Secretariat's availability to assist and comply with any decision made by the Council in this sense.

112. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire suggested the Secretariat organize a virtual meeting with exporting Members to share further details about the proposal presented and to postpone the decision on its approval to the next session of the Council.

113. The delegate of Brazil thanked the delegates of Côte d'Ivoire and Togo for their interventions and reiterated Brazil's keenness to carry out wider consultations with exporting Members as the consensus was not sufficiently established and further discussions within the group were still needed.

114. While a consensus on the creation of the Joint Committee was noted, the Council decided to postpone a decision about document [WP Council 330/23](#).

115. In addition to paragraph 114, the Council also postponed any appointments of office holders and decisions related to the three existing technical committees until the next session of the Council ([WP Council 327/22 Rev. 1](#)).

Item 8.2: Chair and Vice-Chair and composition of committees

116. The Chair of the Council noted that, in light of the Council's decision contained in paragraph 115, the Council still needed to appoint the Members of the Finance and Administration Committee, as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group just established (paragraph 37).

117. The delegate of Brazil, in his capacity as spokesperson for the exporting Members, informed the Council that Brazil, Kenya, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea had expressed their interest in joining the Finance and Administration Committee for the rest of coffee year 2022/23.

118. The delegate of the European Union, in his capacity as spokesperson for the Importing Members, informed the Council that the composition of the FAC for importing countries would be renewed until the end of coffee year 2022/23. He also confirmed his availability for the vice-chairmanship of the Working Group.

119. The delegates of Côte d'Ivoire and Honduras noted that further consultations within the exporting Members' group on the composition of the committees, including the FAC, were needed to ensure both geographical distribution and compliance with standard procedures in this sense.

120. The Executive Director pointed out that the appointment of members of the FAC could not be postponed as the Committee's effective operation was essential for the functioning of the Organization. Moreover, she stated that critical discussions on the ICO's financial situation and the draft administrative budget for coffee year 2023/24 would be needed before the next session of the Council. In light of this, the Executive Director suggested that the current composition of the Committee be maintained until the end of coffee year 2022/23.

121. The delegate of Brazil reiterated his availability to consult further with exporting Members and endorsed the Executive Director's proposal.

122. The delegate of Côte d'Ivoire echoed Brazil's intervention and supported the proposal to renew the current composition of the FAC.

123. The Council approved the renewal of the FAC current composition until the end of coffee year 2022/23 and postponed the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as members of all existing committees and the new Working Group to the next session of the Council, as per the decision contained in paragraph 115.

Item 9: Credentials

124. The Head of Operations stated that the credentials received were found to be in good order.

Item 10: Future meetings

125. Following the approval of India's proposal with reference to the World Coffee Conference, the Chair of the Council submitted for consideration the following dates for future meetings:

- 136th Session of the Council and 5th World Coffee Conference: 23 September to 1 October 2023, to be held in Bangalore, India.
- 137th Session of the Council: one-day meeting between 18 and 23 March 2024, to be held online.
- 138th Session of the Council and 6th CEO and Global Leaders Forum: three days, 16 to 20 September 2024, location to be discussed.

126. The Council took note of the dates for future meetings.

Item 11: Other business

127. No discussion was held under this agenda item.

Closing session

128. The delegates of Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union, Honduras and Brazil congratulated the Chair of the Council on his capable leadership and his conduct of the 135th Session of the Council, as well as the Executive Director and the Secretariat on their work.

129. The Chair of the Council thanked all Members for their presence and closed the 135th Session of the International Coffee Council.

SUMMARY: DECISIONS OF THE 135TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

- The Council adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [ICC-135-0 Rev. 2](#).
- The Council approved document [ICC-135-1 Rev. 1](#) on the redistribution of votes for coffee year 2022/23.
- The Council noted the report on the work of the ICO presented by the Executive Director.
- The Council approved the resolution extending the deadline for signature of the ICA 2022 until 30 April 2024 and the deadline for ratification, acceptance or approval thereof until 31 July 2024. The resolution was subsequently published as [ICC Resolution 479](#).
- The Council approved the establishment of a Working Group for the entry into force of the ICA 2022 as per the provisions contained in document [WP-Council 329/23 Rev. 1](#), subsequently published as document [ICC-135-4](#).
- The Council noted the report of the Head of Operations, as well as Members' requests for a report on partnerships and their expected outcomes, to be presented by the Secretariat at the next session of the Council.
- The Council took note of the report on the CPPTF's activities made by the Executive Director.
- The Council approved document [CPPTF-10/23](#), subsequently published as [ICC-135-2](#).
- The Council noted the presentation by Ms Naranjo Barrantes and agreed to continue discussions on the topic, as well as to postpone the dissemination of the policy brief as an ICO document and on the Organization's website.
- The Council took note of the report by the Executive Director on the 57th Meeting of the FAC and approved the request to amend the allocation for travel costs submitted by the Secretariat.
- The Council noted document [FA-341/23](#).
- The Council approved the Administrative Accounts of the Organization for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-343/23](#).
- The Council approved the Accounts of the Special Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-344/23](#).
- The Council approved the Accounts of the Trust Fund for financial year 2021/22 and Auditors' Report contained in document [FA-345/23](#).
- The Council took note of the accounts of the Promotion Fund contained in document [FA-346/23](#).
- The Council approved the salary scales and basis for contributions to the Provident Fund contained in document [FA-347/23](#).
- The Council approved the new dates of the 5th World Coffee Conference and appointed the Honourable Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, as Chair thereof.
- While a consensus on the creation of the Joint Committee was noted, the Council decided to postpone a decision about document [WP Council 330/23](#).
- In addition to paragraph 114, the Council also postponed any appointments of office holders and decisions related to the three existing technical committees until the next session of the Council ([WP Council 327/22 Rev. 1](#)).
- The Council approved the renewal of the FAC current composition until the end of coffee year 2022/23 and postponed the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as members of all existing and new committees to the next session of the Council.
- The Council took note of the dates for future meetings.



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

ICC Resolution 479

6 April 2023
Original: English

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International Coffee Council
135th Session
Virtual Session
30 March 2023
London, United Kingdom

Resolution Number 479

APPROVED AT THE PLENARY MEETING,
30 MARCH 2023

**Extension of the term of the
deadline for signature and ratification, acceptance or approval of the
International Coffee Agreement 2022 (ICA 2022)**

WHEREAS:

The International Coffee Council approved the ICA 2022 by way of Resolution 476 on 9 June 2022;

Sufficient time is needed for countries to complete the procedures for the entry into force of the ICA 2022;

Paragraph (1) of Article 44 of the ICA 2022 stipulates that, except as otherwise provided, the ICA 2022 shall be open for signature at the Depositary headquarters from 6 October 2022 until and including 30 April 2023;

Paragraph (3) of Article 44 of the ICA 2022 provides that the International Coffee Council may decide to grant extensions of time to signatory Governments that are unable to deposit their instruments by 31 July 2023;

A number of Governments which are eligible to sign the ICA 2022 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 44 thereof may not be able to do so by 30 April 2023, but have indicated that they wish to become signatory Governments thereto; and

The International Coffee Council deems it desirable to enable the Governments concerned to sign the ICA 2022 in order to enhance the prospects for its definitive or provisional entry into force within the next eighteen months,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

To allow Governments eligible to sign the ICA 2022 to do so on or before 30 April 2024, as per the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 44 thereof; and

To extend the period for the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the ICA 2022 with the Depositary under the provisions of Article 44 thereof from 31 July 2023 to 31 July 2024.