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PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

PLANET-PROTECTING COFFEE: MOZAMBIQUE JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

This is a joint press release by the Government of Mozambique and the ICO.

Mozambique, which produces some of the world's most environmental and socially sustainable coffee, today signed the International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2022 as it joined the ICO at a ceremony in central London

- The Government of Mozambique today joined for the first time in its history the International Coffee Organization (ICO), signing the new ICA 2022, at the ICO headquarters in London.
- Mozambican coffee is celebrated as one of the world's most environmentally and socially sustainable, with the crop cultivated and picked by local farmers.
- In Gorongosa National Park the establishment of new coffee plantations, which thrive in the shade of indigenous trees, has enabled the revitalization of the local rainforest.
- The Agreement was signed by Mozambique's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Celso Correia, and was followed by a gala reception in central London.

13 June 2023, London, United Kingdom – The Government of Mozambique today joined the International Coffee Organization (ICO) for the first time in its history, at a ceremony held in central London. The southern African state is committed to offering coffee lovers around the world environmentally friendly and socially sustainable coffee.

The ceremony was attended by the country's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Celso Correia, as well as representatives from the country's growing coffee sector, overseen by Amocafé, in the presence of the ICO's Executive Director, Vanúsia Nogueira.

Mozambican coffee is celebrated for its commitment to habitat restoration and biodiversity preservation. It also relies on partnerships with rural communities, enabling local farmers to benefit from training and access

to resources and markets. The country's coffee industry is dedicated to long-term sustainability through initiatives such as organic farming, agroforestry and resource diversification within Protected Areas.

In Gorongosa, where the National Park was ravaged by civil war and lost almost all its wildlife, the introduction of green beans originating in Mozambique has provided a long-term incentive for local communities to protect a rainforest that was previously disappearing at a rate of over 100 hectares a year, as the crop is grown in the shade of native trees. 100 per cent of the profits from green bean cultivation are returned to the local community.

Similarly, on the misty highlands of the Chimanimani mountains, organic coffee is produced as part of an agroforestry system, which includes reforestation of degraded and deforested areas of the reserve to safeguard the soil, flora and fauna.

These practices aim to preserve the country's rich biodiversity while actively involving local communities. By joining the ICO, Mozambique hopes to contribute to the development of global policies on coffee sustainability and participate in in the exchange of knowledge with other coffee-producing nations.

The country's oldest coffee is Café de Ibo, which has been grown on Ibo and Quirimba islands since it was first introduced by the Arab traders in the 11th Century and is to this day largely grown in the traditional manner. Ibo coffee is a rare naturally low caffeine coffee and has long been a favourite of those who knew of it, including the judges at the Gold Medal Award in Lisbon in 1906 when it won.

Celso Correia, Mozambique's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, said:

"This is a historic day for Mozambique as we join the International Coffee Organization. Our coffee sector is growing fast and is an important part of our plans for the future and the change we wish to bring to our country. It is also one at the heart of our plans for sustainability. Coffee is being grown in areas that include some of the most biodiverse in the world and we are committed to ensuring that the crop's growth supports the protection of the natural environment. The Government is working closely with rural farmers to support them in the industry, and we have created systems that ensure the vast majority of profits go back to those who grow the crop. Mozambique wants people to experience how every sip of its coffee tells a story – one of heritage, passion and the richness of its land. By choosing Mozambican coffee, consumers will not only enjoy a unique taste experience, but also support local farmers and their sustainable practices, and help preserve the biodiversity of the country's landscapes. Mozambique is proud to now be part of the world's coffee producing nations. We look forward to more and more people being able to enjoy Mozambique's coffee in the years and decades to come."

Vanúsia Nogueira, ICO Executive Director, said:

"Today we celebrate a historic day for the ICO with the entry of a new member, Mozambique, also a signatory to the new ICA 2022. It is important for us to emphasize that our engagement with Mozambique, as with all our Members, is not solely defined by the challenges facing the global coffee community, but first and foremost by the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will advance shared priorities that have the potential to diversify economies, build resilience and, ultimately, deliver concrete results for people. I am convinced that Mozambique's contribution, as a full partner of the ICO and the new ICA, will be crucial in

shaping the coffee industry for a bright, sustainable future. Sustainability is not a goal, but a path that we must constantly create with our Members and partners to continuously improve the coffee sector: Welcome, Mozambique, to the world coffee family, as the 27th African country to become a Member of the ICO."

The six Mozambique coffee brands now to be exported internationally are:

- **Nossa Gorongosa**, which is grown in the National Park by Gorongosa Mountain;
- **Café Chimanimani**, which is coffee with a full-bodied experience and velvety texture;
- **Café Niassa**, which prioritises organic practices and works closely with local farmers;
- **Café Vumba**, which has adopted woman-focused organic farming practices;
- **Café de Manica**, which is cultivated in the picturesque Mussapa mountains;
- **Café de Ibo**, which is the country's oldest coffee grown on the sandy shores of the Indian Ocean.

The signing ceremony was followed by a celebratory coffee morning at London's Groucho Club in Soho that was attended by a diverse group of Mozambique coffee lovers including roasting companies and representatives of international organizations as well as celebrities and artists. Among those in attendance were American philanthropist Greg Carr, celebrated artist Gavin Turk, chef Mark Hix, three times winner of Barista of the Year Maxwell Colonna-Dashwood, business leader Tami Longaberger and Koffee UK founder Marco Arigo.

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The Government of Mozambique is able to provide media spokespeople for broadcast, radio and print.

ASSETS:

- High Res. Imagery of the Signature Ceremony and Groucho Club event
- High Res. Video of the Signature Ceremony and Groucho Club event
- Discover Mozambique's Coffee promotional brochure

All assets can be found at: https://zbek.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/Zebek/EnPW0-MgJh1Al8og-qrecFwB340WSi_kUlZ_S4cl-Rf3sg?e=AyxHGb

A promotional video on Mozambican coffee can be found at: https://vimeo.com/834456804 (password: Café2023)

More information about Mozambican coffee can be found at https://www.amocafe.org/

More information about the ICO can be found at http://www.icocoffee.org/

NOTES TO EDITORS

Hon. Celso Correia

Celso Ismael Correia, 45 years old, born in Maputo city, capital of Mozambique, is married and a father of two daughters. In February 2020, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development while serving his second mandate as Minister of the Government of Mozambique. Between the years 2014 - 2019, Mr Correia was the Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development, a field in which he brought a renewed vision for the environmental and social sustainability issues, establishing successful initiatives, such as the Sustenta project, which had as its main goal to improve the rural families' incomes through agriculture; One district, One Bank, in order to promote inclusion by offering financial services in small villages; and MozFip, to avoid deforestation while implementing policies and process from rural development, to forestry, conservation, climate change, with an inclusive approach to the private sector and local communities.

Mr Correia has established a very open and collaborative relationship with the World Bank (WB) and has reaffirmed that the WB is a strategic partner for the development of Mozambique, and has sought the WB's technical and financial assistance on several initiatives – Rural Development, Forestry, Conservation and Climate Change, and others. Prior to serving in the public sector, he chaired of one the largest investment holding companies in Mozambique – Insitec from 1999-2014 – with involvement in strategic development areas such as banking, construction, infrastructure and energy. Additionally, he acted as Chairman of BCI – the Commercial and Investment Banking 2007-2013, a shareholder of Mphanda Nkuwa Hydroelectric, and was also a Member of the Board Directors of Cements of Mozambique 2013-2015.

The International Coffee Organization

The ICO is the only multilateral organization supporting exporting and importing countries to improve the sustainability and prosperity of the coffee sector. It provides a high-level forum for all public and private stakeholders in the sector; official statistics on coffee production, trade and consumption; and support for the development and funding of technical cooperation projects and public-private partnerships.

Amocafé

Amocafé represents a collection of coffee production companies across Mozambique. Since its creation in 2021, it already counts as many as 11 coffee producing companies operating throughout the country. With a committed focus on promoting sustainable coffee and empowering small-scale farmers, Amocafé stands as a beacon of excellence in the industry. As a unified voice, the association tirelessly works to enhance the livelihoods of coffee farmers and ensure the production of high-quality coffee that meets international standards.