

International Coffee Council
136th Session
28 and 29 September 2023
Bengaluru, India

**Memorandum of Understanding between
the International Coffee Organization and
the Global Coffee Platform**

Background

1. This document contains a copy of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Global Coffee Platform (GCP).
2. This MoU, which supersedes the current one signed in Yamoussoukro on 29 September 2017 and due to expire this month, aims to promote sustainable development as a means of achieving social and economic progress in coffee producing and importing countries, to expand public-private collaborations and to enable the coffee sector to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Action

The Council is requested to consider and, if appropriate, to approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the ICO and GCP.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION
AND
THE GLOBAL COFFEE PLATFORM**

WHEREAS the International Coffee Organization (ICO) is an intergovernmental organization, established within the International Coffee Agreement 2007, with the objective of strengthening the global coffee sector and promoting its sustainable expansion in a market-based environment for the betterment of all participants in the sector and is the only intergovernmental organization bringing together coffee exporting and importing governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation.

WHEREAS the ICO provides a unique forum for dialogue among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society and all coffee stakeholders to tackle the challenges and nurture opportunities for the world coffee sector and has set up the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF), a unique partnership model where leading private sector companies and organizations and ICO Member governments work together to build consensus on priority issues and take joint actions.

WHEREAS the ICO collects and compiles independent official statistics on coffee production, trade and consumption, supports the development and funding of technical cooperation projects and public-private partnerships, and promotes sustainability and coffee consumption.

WHEREAS the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) is a multi-stakeholder membership association bringing together coffee producers, traders, roasters, retailers, Civil Society Organizations, coffee associations, donors, financial institutions with the role of: (i) uniting the coffee community in shared responsibility for a thriving, sustainable coffee sector; (ii) enabling alignment and expansion of activities of a diverse network of stakeholders and initiatives for greater impact; (iii) enabling measurement of individual and collective progress towards shared sustainability goals.

WHEREAS GCP, with its diverse and committed membership and its network of Country Platforms across the globe, aims to achieve transformational change on farmers' prosperity for more than one million coffee farmers by 2030 through holistic support that

advances sustainable coffee production, climate adaptation and mitigation, and worker well-being.

WHEREAS GCP offers a shared platform for sustainable coffee at a global level to advance towards sustainable sourcing (including common tools such as the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code), and focussed Collective Action locally to address sustainability challenges in coffee producing countries in partnership with growers, traders, governments, industry, associations, Civil Society organizations and development partners, delivering measurable change.

WHEREAS the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), hereinafter “the Parties”, started collaborating under the Vision 2020 dialogues, which evolved to “Action 2020” and “Vision 2030” in order to synchronize the timeframe with all Sustainable Development Goals, and which were brought forward through the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and its Roadmap 2030.

WHEREAS the Parties recognize that:

- Wide public-private cooperation has the greatest potential to promote economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in coffee producing countries;
- Systemic sustainability issues such as climate change, access to finance for producers, productivity, ageing farmers and ageing coffee trees, require pre-competitive level public-private partnership in coffee producing countries to achieve living income and farmers’ prosperity and a truly sustainable coffee sector;
- Greater empowerment of women in the coffee sector and more incentives to attract youth participation are essential to achieve the long-term sustainability of the world coffee market;
- The recently approved International Coffee Agreement 2022, which encompasses the Coffee Public-Private Working Party (currently The Coffee Public-Private Task force) and the Board of Affiliate Members, is the framework for cooperation between the Parties and all other public and private stakeholders;
- The important role of GCP to contribute to achieving the CPPTF Roadmap 2030 by delivering on the recently approved GCP 2030 Goal on farmers’ prosperity and sustainability through collective action at local and global levels.

WHEREAS the Parties reaffirm their commitment of promoting inclusive and sustainable development of the coffee sector and wish to deepen and further expand their cooperation based on their common vision, intentions and objectives defining this Memorandum of Understanding in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their respective efforts and actions within the global coffee value chain in line with the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

NOW THEREFORE the Executive Director of ICO and the Executive Director of GCP, considering their respective organizations' mandates, objectives and programmes,

HEREBY agree:

ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE

1. The Parties agree that the purpose of this Memorandum is to:
 - a) promote sustainable development as a means of achieving social and economic progress in coffee producing and importing countries while protecting natural resources.
 - b) continue and expand public-private collaborations in the coffee sector which will work towards a sustainable, thriving coffee community and at the same time enable the coffee sector to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. This collaboration will be known as "Cooperation for Roadmap 2030".
 - c) ensure that all activities covered by this Memorandum of Understanding shall be aligned with and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

ARTICLE 2 IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Parties shall, within their available capabilities and respective capacities, continue to focus their partnership on the following thematic areas of work:

- a) the economic viability and resilience of coffee farming and closing living income gaps towards farmers' prosperity (including coffee-farming as a business), renovation and rehabilitation, farm labour, financial literacy and access to finance; value chain efficiency and value distribution along coffee chain;
- b) adaptation/ mitigation and research & innovation in the field of climate change and regenerative agriculture, including related tools;
- c) social well-being of coffee farming families, workers and communities
- d) gender equality;
- e) the next generation of coffee growers;
- f) increasing demand for sustainable coffee.

2. The Parties shall – within the scope of their activities – continue to jointly:

- a) enable further engagement, dialogue and ownership of public and private stakeholders for the achievement of the ICO/CPPTF Roadmap 2030 as a shared sectoral vision;
- b) share information on and implement their activities in their respective fields of work in complementary, mutually reinforcing ways and working towards aligned monitoring and evaluation frameworks, using / building on existing frameworks;
- c) engage with potential funding and development partners to foster understanding and financial support for the implementation of the agreed priority agendas and strategies especially at national and local levels;
- d) share progress updates and learning of best practices and successful approaches, including on solutions for sustainability challenges in exporting countries tested by GCP together with its Members and Network of Country Platforms, in regular joint meetings to broaden scope and scale through sharing with other exporting countries and partners, to increase collective impact on the coffee sector;

3. The Parties commit to continuing to serve the coffee sector through this Memorandum for the Cooperation on Roadmap 2030 by building on each other's strength and within their capabilities and in accordance with their regulations, in order to:

- a) ensure coordination;
- b) advance public and private buy-in for conducive policies, collective action and innovative partnerships at scale;
- c) increase efficiency and impact with clarified roles and responsibilities, as well as strengthening and working through existing structures, and creating new ones if deemed necessary;
- d) mobilize resources as well as measurement of progress in the sector towards agreed sustainability goals as established by the Roadmap 2030 and GCP 2030 Goal.

ARTICLE 3 GOVERNANCE

1. The Parties commit to:
 - a) specify workplans and deliverables in line with strategic plans and capacities;
 - b) build monitoring and evaluation arrangements to be further agreed upon between ICO and GCP;
 - c) meet quarterly, in person or virtually;
 - d) establish strengthened inter-institutional links and mutual representation and participation in the respective governance structures, including the envisaged role of GCP in the future Public-Private Working Party and the Board of the Affiliate Members as well as the special role of ICO's ED in GCP's Board of Directors.
2. The Parties agree that the ICO will be represented by Vanúcia Maria Carneiro Nogueira, as Executive Director, or the person she designates, and the GCP will be represented by Annette Pensel, as Executive Director, or the person she designates.

ARTICLE 4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding does not imply any commitment to the transfer of financial resources between the Parties.
2. Intellectual property rights, in particular copyright, of material such as information, software and design, made available by ICO and GCP to be used to carry out the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain unaffected.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of three (3) years. It may be renewed for equal periods of three (3) years upon written request of any of the Parties six (6) months before its expiration.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated fully or in part by written notification from either of the Parties. Termination shall be effective ninety (90) days after the date of notification.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual consent agreed to in writing by duly authorized representatives of the Parties.
6. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved exclusively through consultations and negotiations. In the event that a dispute cannot be solved amicably through consultations and negotiations, the Memorandum of Understanding shall terminate on a date agreed to between the Parties. The Parties hereby specifically agree not to engage in legal proceedings in court.



Signed in Bangalore, on xx September 2023 in English

For the International Coffee
Organization

For the Global Coffee Platform

Vanúzia Maria Carneiro Nogueira,
Executive Director

Annette Pensel, Executive Director