

International Coffee Council
137th Session
19 March 2024
London, United Kingdom

**Joint Declaration of Intent on Coffee
Sector Transformation: Towards a
Sustainable and Prosperous Future
for Coffee Producers and the Entire
Global Value Chain**

Background

1. This document contains a copy of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the International Coffee Organization (ICO), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ) and the Global Coffee Platform (GCP).
2. The document was originally circulated as [WP-Council 345/24](#) and noted by the Council during its 137th Session on 19 March 2024.



Joint Declaration of Intent

on

Coffee Sector Transformation: Towards a Sustainable and Prosperous Future for Coffee Producers and the Entire Global Value Chain

between

**the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
of the Federal Republic of Germany**

and

the International Coffee Organization

and

the Global Coffee Platform

WHEREAS the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for German development policy within the Federal Government and committed to fighting poverty and hunger and promoting healthy people in a healthy environment. BMZ promotes worldwide transformation towards a sustainable, climate- and nature-friendly economy and strives to strengthen peace, freedom and human rights;

WHEREAS the International Coffee Organization (ICO) is an intergovernmental organization, established in London in 1963 under the auspices of the United Nations. The ICO brings together coffee exporting and importing governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation, providing a unique forum for dialogue among governments, the private sector, development partners, civil society, and all coffee stakeholders;

WHEREAS the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) is a multi-stakeholder membership association dedicated to advancing coffee sustainability to bring about a thriving, sustainable coffee sector for generations to come. GCP enables coffee producers, traders, roasters, governments, and NGOs to align and combine their efforts and investments, act collectively on local priorities and critical issues, scale sustainability programmes and grow the global market for sustainable coffee;

WHEREAS BMZ, the ICO and GCP have a common interest in achieving profound global coffee sector transformation to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for coffee producers and the sector as a whole, with particular emphasis on topics such as living and prosperous income, market transparency, resilience, gender equity, and enabling policies and institutions;

WHEREAS the ICO, with decisive support from BMZ and in partnership with GCP, set up in 2019 the Coffee Private Public Task Force (CPPTF). The CPPTF presents an unprecedented public-private forum and offers a unique multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism to address structural challenges and achieve long-term sustainability in the coffee sector. Operating in line with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well with environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, the specific objectives of the CPPTF are:

- (i) To drive discussions on a joint long-term vision for the sector in order to achieve transformational solutions towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient global coffee value chains;
- (ii) To build consensus among public and private sector coffee stakeholders on a Roadmap for the implementation of the commitments and concrete actions contained in the London Declaration and in line with the International Coffee Agreement;
- (iii) To define new joint concrete and practical actions which build on local initiatives and resource allocation; and
- (iv) To monitor and report on progress and measure impact;

WHEREAS the CPPTF and the International Coffee Council (ICC), the highest authority of the ICO composed of representatives from each of its Member governments, have agreed and adopted the 2030 Roadmap that outlines the commitments and targets for sector transformation;

WHEREAS BMZ, the ICO and GCP are conscious that, in order to achieve the Roadmap's ambitious and vital sector-level goals, collaboration at the national, regional and international levels is necessary, in particular to ensure that all key stakeholders are fully aware and able to participate constructively in the transformation process;

WHEREAS BMZ, the ICO and GCP have distinct and complementary strengths and contributions to make towards the successful transformation of the coffee sector:

- (i) BMZ is a highly respected institution within the international development and economic cooperation field, demonstrating how political leadership can drive structural global change to achieve sustainable agricultural value chains. Its thematic focus is aligned with the CPPTF Roadmap, supporting implementation efforts at the local, regional and international levels;
- (ii) The ICO brings together both coffee exporting and importing countries and their governments, in addition to leading global coffee private sector companies via the CPPTF. Its mission is to strengthen policy dialogue and agree upon and undertake necessary actions and commitments at a global level, including policy change, to ensure a high level of harmonization and coherence of action;
- (iii) The GCP is aligned with the CPPTF vision and offers a unique coordination and delivery structure for collective action through promoting liaison between the global agenda, its broad multi-stakeholder membership, national coffee sustainability platforms and farmer-centric, entrepreneurial programmes. GCP strengthens the ownership of local and global stakeholders for transformational change, supported by increasing market uptake of sustainable coffees towards sustainable sourcing.

NOW THEREFORE the Director-General in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Dr Ariane Hildebrandt, the Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), Ms Vanúcia M. Carneiro Nogueira, and the Executive Director of the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), Ms Annette Pensel, hereby declare:

Their intention to address the root causes behind coffee farmers' lack of economic sustainability which contribute to increasing levels of poverty in producing countries, as well as social and environmental issues that persist in the coffee sector;

Their intention to concentrate efforts on achieving the common vision for the coffee sector, as agreed by the CPPTF and the ICC, in order to pursue the economic resilience and social sustainability of farmers, a diversity of origins, environmental sustainability, and climate change mitigation through sustainable and regenerative production, trade and consumption, and conservation of natural ecosystems in coffee landscapes;

Their intention to further promote the effective public-private dialogue of the CPPTF, the mobilization and alignment of actors and resources with governments of both coffee importing and exporting countries, development partners, the private sector and the United Nations with its specialized Agencies. The aim is to enable the implementation of commonly-agreed solutions through existing structures and to support the creation of additional ones, where needed, to make coffee the most sustainable, inclusive and resilient agricultural sector and to enable compliance with the prevailing regulatory framework;

Their desire to identify suitable joint initiatives relating to the above areas of interest in accordance with the respective policies, procedures, rules and regulations of BMZ, the ICO and GCP, depending on the availability of the necessary funds.

The signatories hereby acknowledge that the present Joint Declaration is not to be construed as a binding document and does not give rise to any form of fiduciary or legal obligation or financial commitment. Any activity that may be conducted under this Joint Declaration is subject to and contingent upon the availability of sufficient staff, funds, and other resources, and may require the execution of one or more legally binding instruments, which will be separately negotiated and agreed upon by the signatories.

Signed on 19 January 2024 in Berlin in three copies in the English language only.

For the Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development of the
Federal Republic of Germany

For the International Coffee
Organization

For the Global Coffee
Platform

Dr. Ariane Hildebrandt
Director-General

Vanúcia M. Carneiro Nogueira
Executive Director

Annette Pensel
Executive Director