

International Coffee Council
138th Session
12 September 2024
London, United Kingdom

**Memorandum of Understanding between
the International Coffee Organization and
the Agency for Robusta Coffee of Africa
and Madagascar**

Background

1. This document contains a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Agency for Robusta Coffee of Africa and Madagascar (ACRAM). By way of this MoU, the Parties undertake to seek sector coordination and work on priority issues such as research and development, capacity building, sustainability initiatives, exchange of coffee-related information and encouraging African countries to ratify the International Coffee Agreement 2022. The collaboration aims to strengthen the coffee sector and enhance the development and promotion of Robusta coffees from Africa and Madagascar.
2. The document was originally circulated as [WP-Council 347/24](#) and approved by the Council during its 138th Session on 12 September 2024.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO)

AND

THE AGENCY FOR ROBUSTA COFFEE OF AFRICA AND

MADAGASCAR (ACRAM)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

**THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE
ORGANIZATION (ICO)**

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London, WC1X 8HB
Tel: +44 (0)20 7612 0600
Email: web@ico.org

and

**THE AGENCY FOR ROBUSTA
COFFEE OF AFRICA AND
MADAGASCAR (ACRAM)**

Immeuble Floria 1, Rue Pierre Mébalé
Batterie 4,
BP: 768 Libreville Gabon
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Email: secretariat@acram-robusta.com

PREAMBLE

RECOGNIZING the International Coffee Organization (ICO) as the main intergovernmental body responsible for addressing the challenges facing the global coffee sector by fostering close cooperation at an international level between ICO Members, including producing and importing countries, international organizations, the private sector and all other stakeholders;

WHEREAS the Agency for Robusta Coffee of Africa and Madagascar (ACRAM), a non-profit international association representing private and public stakeholders from African Robusta coffee-producing countries, aims to enhance the livelihoods of coffee producers, promote Robusta coffee from Africa and Madagascar and bolster the capacity of coffee value chain actors;

CONFIRMING the commitment of the ICO and ACRAM to promoting sustainable development as a means of achieving social and economic progress in coffee-producing countries while protecting natural resources;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the respective mandates, objectives and programmes of the ICO and ACRAM;

HEREBY agree:

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for cooperation between the ICO and ACRAM in strengthening the coffee sector that focuses on the development and promotion of Robusta coffees from Africa and Madagascar.

ARTICLE 2: AREAS OF COOPERATION

The parties agree to cooperate in the following areas:

1. Research and Development: Exchange of research programmes to enhance coffee productivity and quality.

2. Capacity Building: Training programmes for producers and other stakeholders in the coffee value chain.
3. Promotion of domestic consumption and development of the coffee industry in ACRAM member countries.
4. Sustainability Initiatives: Projects to promote sustainable Robusta coffee production and trade.
5. Compliance with requirements of changing regulatory framework.
6. Exchange of coffee-related information: Sharing statistical data and research on coffee.
7. Promotion of market transparency: Awareness campaigns for national institutions collecting statistical data.
8. Encouraging African countries to ratify the International Coffee Agreement 2022.

ARTICLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

1. The parties shall consult on specific activities of mutual interest to determine effective cooperation methods.
2. The parties will define ongoing activities, identify collaboration opportunities and enhance service effectiveness through coordination.
3. Regular meetings will be conducted to review progress and plan future activities.
4. Specific projects may be subject to separate agreements if required.

ARTICLE 4: RESPONSIBILITIES

ICO: Sharing coffee market expertise, fostering partnerships with international stakeholders, supporting capacity-building activities.

ACRAM: Coordinating activities with local stakeholders, providing regional information, implementing projects in ACRAM member countries.

ARTICLE 5: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

This Memorandum of Understanding does not entail financial commitments impacting ACRAM's budget or that are contrary to the ICO's approved Administrative Budget. Financial obligations will be specified in separate agreements subject to mutual approval.

ARTICLE 6: DURATION AND TERMINATION

1. This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force upon signature and remains valid for five (5) years.

2. Either party may terminate this Memorandum in whole or in part by providing six (6) months' written notice.

ARTICLE 7: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any disputes shall be resolved exclusively through mutual consultations and negotiations between the parties.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by written agreement of the parties' duly authorized representatives.

ARTICLE 9: SIGNATURES

In witness whereof, representatives of the International Coffee Organization and the Agency for Robusta Coffee of Africa and Madagascar have signed this Memorandum of Understanding in duplicate, in English and French.

**For the International Coffee
Organization (ICO):**

Dr Vanúsia Nogueira

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date:

**For the Agency for
Robusta Coffee of Africa
and Madagascar
(ACRAM):**

Dr Enselme Gouthon

PRESIDENT

Date: