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Memorandum of Understanding between the International Coffee Organization and the African Fine Coffees Association

Background

1. This document contains a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA). By way of this MoU, the Parties undertake to provide a framework for the establishment of partnership programmes, projects and initiatives aimed at cooperation on coffee-related matters. They also undertake to continue promoting the sustainable development of the coffee sector, focusing specifically on enhancing coffee quality to increase consumer satisfaction and benefit producers, while facilitating the expansion and transparency of international trade in all types and forms of coffee.

2. The document was originally circulated as WP-Council 353/25 and approved by the Council during its 139th Session on 27 March 2025.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN FINE COFFEES ASSOCIATION
AND THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

The African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA)

and

The International Coffee Organization (ICO)

(hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties');

Recognizing the International Coffee Organization as the main intergovernmental body responsible for addressing the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation and recognizing the International Coffee Council (ICC) as the highest authority of the ICO;

Acknowledging the role of the African Fine Coffees Association in providing a platform for the private sector in Africa and in coordinating its activities through the promotion of coffee trade and the pursuit of issues that affect the logistics and business environment related to coffee and which are of common interest to all members of the Parties, including certification, export documentation, taxation, duties, freight rates, grading systems, etc.;

Reaffirming the commitment of both Parties to promote coffee quality with a view to enhancing consumer satisfaction and benefits to producers, and to facilitate the expansion and transparency of international trade in all types and forms of coffee;

Recalling the mandate of the ICO to collect, disseminate and publish economic, technical and scientific information, statistics and studies, as well as the results of research and development in coffee matters, and to facilitate preparation and supervision of coffee development projects;

Acknowledging that capacity-building in African coffee producing countries would encourage greater empowerment of the large number of men and women who work in the

coffee sector and provide more incentives to attract the youth participation necessary for the long-term sustainability of the world coffee market;

Recognizing that cooperation with other international organizations is one of the main drivers of development cooperation with greatest potential to promote economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in developing countries;

Appreciating the significant role that the Parties can play together in collecting relevant information in African coffee producing countries to establish a high quality database to contribute to the transparency of the sector and in supporting the private sector to enhance the capacity of local communities and small-scale farmers, in promoting training and information programmes to assist the transfer of technology relevant to coffee, and in facilitating information and services to assist producers; and

Taking into account the respective mandates, objectives and programmes of the ICO and AFCA,

HEREBY agree:

ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE

The Parties agree that the purpose of this Memorandum is to:

a. provide a framework for the establishment of partnership programmes, projects and all initiatives aimed at cooperation on coffee-related matters;

b. continue promoting the sustainable development of the coffee sector, with a specific focus on enhancing coffee quality to increase consumer satisfaction and benefit producers, while facilitating the expansion and transparency of international trade in all types and forms of coffee.

ARTICLE 2
IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Parties shall endeavour to identify and implement technical cooperation activities in coffee-related matters within the scope of their mission. They will develop a workplan to specify activities to be implemented as part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. The Parties shall, within the scope of their activities and at their own discretion, continue to map out and share current activities in their respective fields of work, identify collaboration potential and gaps, and increase efficiency of delivery through practical coordination.

3. The Parties agree that activities may comprise the following areas of cooperation:

a. Improvement and collection of statistical data through contacts with national institutions in charge of statistics-related matters
b. Design of coffee sector development projects and joint fundraising activities
c. Research, studies and coffee sector outlook development
d. Advancement of activities within the ICO's Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF)
e. Planning and implementation of capacity-building and training initiatives, as well as events, seminars and workshops
f. Preparation of country coffee profiles for African countries
g. Collection, dissemination and sharing of information concerning regional sustainability projects in the coffee sector
h. Support to the ICO with membership development activities
i. Support to AFCA with membership development activities

4. Within their capabilities and in accordance with their regulations, the Parties may agree to mobilize resources to finance the activities to be jointly carried out in African coffee producing countries.

5. The Parties shall consult each other on specific activities of common interest, with a view to determining the most appropriate ways and means to ensure effective cooperation.

ARTICLE 3
GOVERNANCE

The Parties commit to:

a. develop an annual workplan specifying expected deliverables in line with their own strategic plans and capacities;
b. meet at least twice a year, in person or virtually, to discuss matters of mutual interest and align actions;
c. participate in their respective events and conferences, whenever possible.

ARTICLE 4
FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. This Memorandum of Understanding does not imply any commitment to the transfer of financial resources between the Parties or any other activity onerous to the AFCA Budget or contrary to the ICO Administrative Budget approved by the Council.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of three (3) years and may be renewed for periods of three (3) years each upon mutual agreement of the Parties six (6) months before the expiration of said memorandum.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated fully or in part by written notification from any of the Parties. Termination shall be effective ninety (90) days after the date of notification.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual consent expressed in writing by duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

5. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved exclusively through consultations and negotiations between the Parties. In the event that a dispute cannot be solved amicably through consultations and negotiations, the Memorandum of Understanding shall terminate on a date agreed between the Parties. The Parties hereby specifically agree not to engage in legal proceedings in court.

Signed in _____, on _____ 2025 in English.

For the
African Fine Coffees Association

For the
International Coffee Organization