

**Report on the 10th meeting of the Working
Group for the Entry into Force of the
International Coffee Agreement 2022**

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda	2
Item 2: Other business	2
Item 3: Date of next meeting.....	3

1. The Working Group for the Entry into Force of the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (WGEF) met for the tenth time on 15 October 2025. The Chair of the Group, Mr Michael Wheeler of Papua New Guinea, welcomed all participants and thanked delegates for their presence.

2. Representatives of the following Members were present at the meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union (including EU-Denmark, EU-Ireland, and EU-Spain), Honduras, India, Japan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Switzerland, and Togo.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

3. The Chair introduced the Draft Agenda, contained in document [WGEF-28/25](#).

4. The agenda was adopted with no changes.

Item 2: Other business

5. The Chair explained, for the benefit of delegates who were not permanent members of their delegations, the purpose of the Working Group. He recalled that the WGEF had been established to address all outstanding issues and to prepare the necessary documents required before the 2022 Agreement could enter into force. He went on to note that the WGEF had not met for over a year. Although significant progress had previously been achieved across nine meetings, opposing positions that were not easily reconcilable had emerged. For this reason, the Group had paused its work to allow ideas to mature and to enable informal negotiations to take place.

6. The Chair noted that, despite recent discussions, no breakthrough had been achieved, and the process had not progressed. He stressed the need for innovative approaches to overcome entrenched positions and explained that convening the meeting during the Council Session aimed to reinvigorate the process.

7. The Chair briefly reviewed the documents the WGEF had been mandated to prepare. He reported that excellent progress had been made on the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Economics Committee, including the incorporation of constructive suggestions from Brazil, while noting that the revised document had not yet been circulated. He then explained that discussions had reached an impasse when dealing with the ToRs for the Board of Affiliate Members (BAM) and specifically, with the issue of membership. He acknowledged India's comprehensive proposal, which had provided valuable structure to the debate, and expressed appreciation for their contribution.

8. The Chair emphasized the substantive importance of the matters at hand, noting that their outcomes would influence the functioning of the Organization under the new Agreement.

He also cautioned that some Members may be awaiting the WGEF conclusions before deciding whether to ratify the Agreement.

9. The delegate of India thanked the Chair for his acknowledgment, while recalling that India's proposal aimed to ensure equity and balanced representation across regions and stakeholder groups when defining committee structures and membership. He reiterated India's commitment to promoting balance and equal opportunities for all Members in the discussions.

10. The delegate of Switzerland asked for clarifications on the different positions regarding the membership of the BAM.

11. The Chair explained that the challenges surrounding the BAM stemmed largely from the decision to label the body as a "board," which suggested a decision-making role, and from the Agreement's broad definition of the "private sector"—both of which had contributed to hesitation among Members regarding its membership and function. He noted that while some delegations sought inclusive representation, others were cautious about admitting entities whose objectives might not align with those of the Organization. He reminded Members that the Council retained full authority to determine the BAM's structure and to approve or reject applications.

12. In response to a query from the delegate of Ecuador regarding the existence of a hard deadline to reach consensus, the Chair noted that it was difficult to set precise timelines but recalled that the Agreement contained deadlines that needed to be met, with key milestones falling around 2027/28. He stressed that time was limited and expressed his hope that serious progress could be achieved during the next coffee year, ideally allowing the Council to report significant advancement at its upcoming session in Geneva.

13. The delegate of Brazil thanked the Chair for his leadership in guiding discussions despite divergent positions among delegations. She acknowledged that consensus would not be reached at the current meeting but expressed confidence that common ground could be found in the near future. She noted that strong agreements often left no party fully satisfied and expressed hope that, with continued effort and flexibility, a mutually satisfactory resolution could be achieved. She concluded by stressing the importance of securing an agreement that would be accepted by all Members and approved by national authorities so that it could be effectively implemented.

14. The Chair announced his intention to step down as Chair of the WGEF in view of his likely appointment as Chair of the Council. He assured Members that he would remain an active member of the WGEF and continue to contribute.

Item 3: Date of next meeting

15. The Chair proposed holding the next meeting the last week of January 2026.