

International Coffee Council
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**Statement by the Chair of the
International Coffee Council, Mr
Michael Wheeler, made at the opening
ceremony of the 141st Session of the
Council**

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, let me express my sincere gratitude for the privilege of chairing this meeting. It is an honour both personally and for the country I represent. At the same time, it is a responsibility that I take very seriously, and I will do my utmost to ensure that our time together is used productively. To achieve this, I encourage all of you to speak freely, openly, and above all constructively.

We are all aware that these are challenging times—not only geopolitically, but also within the coffee market. In moments like these, it is essential that we act with calm and deliberation. Let us carefully consider each perspective, work toward consensus, and make decisions that serve the best interests of our Organization. The coffee sector deserves nothing less.

We gather here today not just as representatives of our respective countries, but as members of a community that believes deeply in multilateralism. It is precisely because we believe in the power of working together that we are here. By combining our efforts, sharing knowledge, and respecting each other's viewpoints, we can address the challenges we face far more effectively than any of us could alone.

I urge all of us to approach our discussions with unity and composure, to prioritize constructive dialogue, and to seek solutions that strengthen both our Organization and the global coffee sector. Together, we can ensure that the International Coffee Organization continues to promote a stable, sustainable, and prosperous coffee industry for all.

Thank you.