

Mission report

Subject	EIICA - Ernesto Illy International Coffee Award 2025 (10th edition) and related events
Place and dates	Rome, Italy, 6 November 2025
ICO staff member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanusia Nogueira, Executive Director
Purpose of travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the roundtable discussion "A decade of change: the coffee industry on the path to sustainable quality" • Attend the Ernesto Illy International Coffee Award 2025 (10th edition) • Participate in an audience with the Pope
Plan/Programme of Activities relevance	<p>Five-Year Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Goal II: Using the Organization's convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors • Strategic Goal III: Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships <p>Results and Deliverables from the PoA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.B.7 Monitoring and assessing new regulations, standards and other stress factors affecting the coffee sector, engaging with regulators and coffee producers • II.A.3 Consultations and advocacy to increase the engagement of ICO Members, private sector/other stakeholders in CPPTF and the realization of the Roadmap • II.A.6 Engaging IGOs, IFIs and NGOs in ICO events and participation in external events • III.A.5 Providing advisory services and cooperation with IGOs, private sector, civil society/academia

OVERVIEW

1. Roundtable discussion "A decade of change: the coffee industry on the path to sustainable quality"

The Executive Director joined this high-level panel at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), alongside representatives from illycaffè, Ecom, UNEX Guatemala, J.J. Borja Nathan and the Agorai Foundation. Discussions focused on the evolution of sustainable quality in coffee and the sector's transformation over the past 10 years.

2. Ernesto Illy International Coffee Award 2025 (10th edition)

The Executive Director attended the Ernesto Illy International Coffee Award (EIICA) 2025. Each year, illycaffè's Trieste Quality Laboratory identifies nine countries that have produced the highest-quality coffees of the season. Notably, eight of this year's countries – Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Nicaragua and Rwanda – are Members of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), underscoring the strong alignment between the EIICA and the ICO's commitment to excellence, sustainability, and inclusive development across the sector. The event also provides a platform for knowledge-sharing and a source of inspiration, encouraging the adoption of responsible agricultural practices that positively impact planetary health and the wellbeing of coffee-growing communities worldwide.

3. Side events

The Executive Director also attended a private audience with the Pope. This engagement and other side events provided valuable opportunities to engage with key stakeholders and to reflect on shared commitments. During the private audience at the Vatican, the Executive Director personally presented a gift of coffee to Pope Leo XIV on behalf of the Peruvian Embassy in London. The gesture was made in recognition of His Holiness's many years of residence and pastoral service in Peru, a valued ICO Member, and to underline the important position of coffee producers in the sector.

CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

With its significant global reach and the participation of high-level stakeholders and competitors from across the world, the EIICA provided an important opportunity for the Executive Director to demonstrate the ICO's support for coffee producers from its Member countries. Her attendance enhanced the Organization's visibility while reinforcing its commitment to competitiveness, innovation and sustainable rural development. The panel discussions and side events also enabled the Executive Director to advocate for producers, strengthen institutional partnerships and exchange perspectives on the global coffee market. Finally, the audience at the Vatican highlighted the cultural and symbolic significance of coffee as a bridge between communities, heritage, and shared values.

AOB

N/A



