

## Mission report

<b>Subject</b>	GC.21, Global Industry Summit, 21 <sup>st</sup> UNIDO General Conference
<b>Place and dates</b>	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 23-27 November 2025
<b>ICO staff member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanúsia Nogueira, Executive Director</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose of travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the panel “Driving Sustainable Industrial Development in Agribusiness: The Coffee Value Chain as an Innovative Development Model”</li> <li>• Participate in the panel “Empowering Women, Transforming Industry: Leadership for A Sustainable Future”</li> </ul>
<b>Five-Year Action Plan/Programme of Activities relevance</b>	<p><b>Five-Year Action Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Goal II:</b> Using the Organization’s convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors</li> <li>• <b>Strategic Goal III:</b> Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships</li> </ul> <p><b>Results and Deliverables from the PoA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I.B.7 Monitoring and assessing new regulations, standards and other stress factors affecting the coffee sector, engaging with regulators and coffee producers</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• II.A.6 Engaging IGOs, IFIs and NGOs in ICO events and participation in external events</li> <li>• III.A.5 Providing advisory services and cooperation with IGOs, private sector, civil society/academia</li> </ul>

## OVERVIEW

### 1. GC.21, Global Industry Summit, 21st UNIDO General Conference

The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference, this year held within the Global Industry Summit 2025 under the overarching theme “The power of investment and partnerships to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals”, convened Member States and international partners to explore how industrial policies, targeted investments and strategic partnerships can unlock countries’ economic strengths and promising industries

to drive economic growth, social well-being and environmental sustainability at local, regional and global levels.

Attended by stakeholders from across sectors with the aim of fostering collaboration and transformational impact, including the recognition of the transformative impact of AI and digitalization, the Summit ultimately served as a platform for the future of industries, stimulating private sector development, mobilizing investments and accelerating the contribution of manufacturing capacities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda.

2. Panel “Driving Sustainable Industrial Development in Agribusiness: The Coffee Value Chain as an Innovative Development Model

The Executive Director participated in this session, which aimed to showcase the role of the coffee value chain as a model for fairness, sustainability and innovation practices in agribusiness, and highlighted the use of technology in farming to enhance efficiency, strengthen production resilience and balance out costs. The Executive Director shared the stage with the following speakers: Mr Stefano Gatti, Director General for Development Cooperation (Italy); Mr Solomon Rutegea, Secretary General of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO); Mr Alessandro Bucci, Director of Coffee Procurement at illycaffè; Mr Mario Cerutti, Secretary General of the Lavazza Foundation; Mr Khaldoun Toukan, Director of Business Development at the Saudi Coffee Co. (a PIF Subsidiary); and Ms Noelia Villalobos, Executive Director of the Specialty Coffee Association of Costa Rica (SCACR) and Sintercafe.

3. Panel “Empowering Women, Transforming Industry: Leadership for a Sustainable Future”

The Executive Director spoke at this high-level political panel which brought together government representatives and industry leaders to explore how women’s empowerment can accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The panel was moderated by Mr John Deferios and the other speakers included: HE Dr Abdullah Alahmari, Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources; Ms Gianna Franjul, Deputy Minister for Industrial Development at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and MSMEs (Dominican Republic); Ms Silvana Peñaherrera, Subsecretary from the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries (Ecuador); Mr Luca Fratini, Coordinator for Women Peace and Security, Youth Peace and Security and Mediation Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy); and Prof. Jackie Ying, Chief Innovation and Research Officer at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre.

The panel highlighted practical strategies and policy innovations from across UNIDO Member States and provided a platform for sharing successful approaches to gender-responsive industrial transformation. Guided by the theme “Women’s role in the future of industry and economy”, the session emphasized the need to place women’s

empowerment at the centre of industrial strategies to build more diverse, resilient and future-ready economies and showcase the transformative impact of women’s leadership, promoting inclusive models that foster gender equality, innovation, and sustainability.

## CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES

Both panels provided valuable platforms to highlight the importance of the coffee sector’s high-level impact in contributing to sustainable agrobusiness development, economic resilience, gender-equality and the role of women’s leadership in the future of agrobusiness, along with leveraging advancement in innovative practices and promoting market access across global coffee value chains. Through collaboration with like-minded stakeholders, governments and international organizations, it was highlighted that coffee sectors can be connected, smaller and less advantaged farmers can be empowered, and that knowledge-sharing serves as a conduit for the application of better practices and improved connection to the market.

The Executive Director’s participation as a speaker at both panels highlights the International Coffee Organization’s role as key advocate for best practices, the implementation of sustainable methods for tackling global challenges affecting agriculture, the promotion of global economic development and fairness for farmers, and the preservation of planetary resources.

## AOB

N/A



