



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

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Declaration of ICO producing countries on the Common Code for the Coffee Community

Producing countries which are Parties to the 2001 International Coffee Agreement,

Taking into account the vital importance of coffee to their economies; and noting the constant efforts undertaken by producing countries to improve the quality of coffee and promote a sustainable coffee economy;

Having studied in detail the Common Code for the Coffee Community Project (also known as the 4Cs), which has been developed by the coffee industry of consuming countries;

Underlining the efforts already undertaken by producers to promote social and environmental objectives;

Declare that the Code is unjustly biased against the interests of producers and that any principles enshrined in the Code should be applied equally to both producing and consuming countries;

Deplore the lack of transparency in the development of the 4Cs project and the absence of real dialogue between all interested parties;

Consider that the 4Cs project may have disastrous consequences for coffee producers and particularly for the long-term survival of small producers, thus undermining the sustainability of the coffee economy;

Consider that, despite the fact that the Common Code for the Coffee Community has been presented at meetings of the International Coffee Organization, it is not appropriate to presently examine this initiative within the ICO framework;

And Invite

Consuming countries to show greater solidarity and support to producers by consulting more thoroughly with producing country Governments on all initiatives aimed at improving the sustainability of the coffee industry, so that the genuine interests of all participants in the coffee chain are addressed.