



International Coffee Organization
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Report

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**Kenya's position on topical issues
to be discussed at the 95th Session
of the International Coffee Council**

Background

This document contains a communication from the Republic of Kenya setting out Kenya's position on topical issues to be discussed at the 95th Session of the International Coffee Council from 22 to 25 May 2006. The issues in the paper relate to the following Agenda items of the International Coffee Council:

Issues

1. Sustainability
2. International Coffee Agreement 2001
3. Ochratoxin A (OTA) monitoring

International Coffee Council

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| Item 11: | Sustainability |
| Item 7: | Future of the Agreement |
| Item 13: | Phytosanitary matters |

Action

The Council is requested to note this document.

**KENYA'S POSITION ON TOPICAL ISSUES PRESENTED
TO THE 95TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL**

1. Sustainability

Kenya views sustainability as comprising the following areas:

- (i) Social and ethical issues that address the living conditions of farmers and workers,
- (ii) Environmental concerns in production, processing and marketing,
- (iii) Health and safety concerns of both the consumer and producer,
- (iv) Economic issues that address the livelihoods of farmers and free market access including farmer equity.

Kenya therefore views sustainability as a good strategy in enhancing its traditional nature of producing high quality coffee. In as much as Kenya has been consistent in ensuring that good quality coffee is produced for the market, the current demand by consumers for an elaborate certification process is adding to an already high production cost, thereby squeezing the farmers' profit margins further downwards. In this regard, over-emphasis on social, environmental and health concerns and consequent certification requirements without a concomitant regard for price increases, does not justify a process of sustainability. The imbalanced position will not be tenable in the long run if the whole marketing chain does not share in these additional investment costs.

Kenya therefore recommends that such initiatives be subjected to cost-benefit analysis before being recommended to producing countries and that accruing additional investment costs should be distributed equally in the marketing chain.

2. International Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2001

Kenya recognizes the importance of the current debate on the ICA. After careful consideration of the current activities and achievements so far, Kenya appreciates the success so far made and is consequently satisfied that the current ICA has served us well.

Kenya also recognizes that the original objective of the ICA may require modifications to reflect the current realities of the dynamic coffee economy. However, such modifications should be done under the auspices of the current agreement.

Kenya therefore, advocates for extension of the current agreement with relevant modifications and amendments in accordance with Article 52 paragraph (2) and Article 53 paragraph (1) for the next 6 years.

3. Ochratoxin A (OTA) Monitoring

Kenya recognizes the importance of the monitoring of OTA in coffee. For that reason, it has been collaborating in the study of OTA through its premier national Coffee Research Foundation (CRF). Research carried out in Kenya has found that OTA levels in Kenya's coffee are below those set by consumers.

In addition Kenya has also established a national OTA monitoring committee comprising key institutions. It is important to note that OTA can still be produced on freight and in storage in consuming countries. Producing countries should therefore not be wholly penalized for OTA contamination. Both the consuming countries and producing countries should work together to address this problem.

Consequently Kenya supports the producers' views and wishes to advocate dialogue on OTA resolution during the current session.