



Organización Internacional del Café  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Special declaration by Heads of State  
and Government of Ibero-American  
producing and exporting countries  
on the world coffee crisis**

The Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization wishes to communicate the following special declaration on the world coffee crisis, approved at the Ibero-American Summit in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, on 16 November 2002:

“The Heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American coffee producing and exporting countries, gathered at the XII Summit in Bávaro-Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic, on 15 and 16 November 2002, recognise that the coffee sector in Latin America and the Caribbean continues to play a pivotal role in terms of economic growth, job creation, balance of payments, income distribution and regional development, as confirmed by several studies by the World Bank and other bodies. The intensification of the crisis, however, and its economic, social, political and environmental impact are affecting major sectors of our countries’ populations, and its potential repercussions must be addressed as urgently as possible.

In view of this objective, we hereby agree:

1. To instruct the relevant Ministers or the competent authorities to draw up a strategy containing the following possible measures:
  - (a) Strengthening the International Coffee Organization (ICO) so that it can step up its work as an effective world forum for the formulation of coffee policies to boost the value of coffee and eliminate all practices which distort trade in this commodity.
  - (b) Urging the United States, Canada and other States to re-join the ICO, in view of their important role in the international coffee market.
  - (c) Adopting agreed quality standards for exports and imports of coffee, and bringing about effective cooperation among importing

countries by means of implementation of Resolution number 407 on quality improvement at world level, which was adopted by the International Coffee Council at its extraordinary session in February 2002.

- (d) Promoting coffee consumption at international level and by producing countries which have a high potential for boosting consumption through the involvement of the ICO.
  - (e) Incorporating added value so that coffee companies in producing countries can move up the value chain and increase their consumption of high quality coffee.
  - (f) Urging importing countries to eliminate all the duties which currently apply to imports of processed coffee.
  - (g) Setting up, through the ICO, a consultative group of cooperating bodies to determine projects and programmes in support of the coffee sub-sector on, for example: diversification, production reconversion, the promotion of specialty coffees, training of human capital, investment in physical infrastructure and the development of environmental programmes.
2. To instruct the relevant Ministers or competent authorities jointly to take all possible measures to implement those measures which are agreed.

Bávaro, 16 November 2002”

***About the ICO:** Established as an intergovernmental organization in 1963 to serve the international coffee community, the ICO is the focus for international cooperation on coffee matters, coordinating activities with other international agencies and bringing together producing and consuming Governments and private sector representatives to exchange views and address policy issues. In October 2001, the latest International Coffee Agreement entered into force, with new objectives including promoting quality, promoting coffee consumption and encouraging the development of a sustainable coffee economy. The ICO provides the following services: up-to-date information and statistics; innovative projects to benefit the world coffee economy; economic studies; and promotion of coffee consumption in emerging markets.*

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