



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
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Organisation Internationale du Café

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PRESS RELEASE

**United States to rejoin the
International Coffee Organization**

The United States Government has formally announced its intent to rejoin the International Coffee Organization (ICO). At a special event on 15 September 2004 convened by the State Department, the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the Department, Mr. E. Anthony Wayne, addressed a gathering in Washington which included the Assistant United States Trade Representative for Agriculture, Mr. James Murphy; representatives of the U.S. Agency for International Development and other Government officials; Members of the U.S. Congress; Mr. Robert Nelson, President of the National Coffee Association of the USA and Mr. Ted Lingle, Executive Director of the Specialty Coffee Association of the USA, representing the private sector; Ambassadors of coffee producing and consuming countries; and members of the press.

The Executive Director, Mr. Néstor Osorio, who was invited to participate in the event, welcomed this decision by the U.S. Government on behalf of the ICO and its Member states. He emphasized in particular its political significance as a demonstration of the commitment of the U.S. Government to support multilateral cooperation in the field of coffee, which is so important to producing countries and to the lifestyle of millions of consumers.

He added that the presence of the United States will reinforce the new objectives of the ICO such as promoting sustainability in coffee, sponsorship of coffee development projects, promotion of coffee consumption and ensuring the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, in efforts to assist the world coffee economy.

He noted that the United States was the world's largest coffee consuming country, representing around a quarter of world coffee consumption, and was a founding Member of the ICO in 1963. He expressed his satisfaction that the U.S. will once again play an active role in the Organization.

About the ICO: *The International Coffee Organization is an intergovernmental organization created under the auspices of the United Nations to serve the international coffee community. Established in 1963, the ICO is unique in bringing 73 producing and consuming countries together to exchange views and address policy issues. Average world coffee exports amount to some US\$9.5 billion worth of coffee, and average world imports amount to some US\$10 billion worth of coffee each year. The work of ICO includes: a Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme, up-to-date information and statistics; innovative projects to benefit the world coffee economy; economic studies; and promotion of coffee consumption in traditional and emerging markets.*

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