



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

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Executive Board/  
International Coffee Council  
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**Future of the International  
Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2001**

**Communication from Cameroon**

## **Background**

The following communication on the future of the ICA 2001 has been received from Cameroon, in response to the decision taken by the International Coffee Council at its 95<sup>th</sup> Session that Members should submit proposals on the future of the ICA 2001 by 15 August 2006.

## **Action**

The Executive Board and the International Coffee Council are requested to consider this document.

## **FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT 2001**

### **POSITION OF CAMEROON**

- Considering the required evaluation of the International Coffee Agreement 2001, which is due to expire in September 2007;
- Considering the crisis that has been affecting the world coffee economy since the last decade and has had the greatest impact on small producers;
- Considering increasingly insistent consumer demands for better quality coffee, implying additional efforts and higher costs for producers;
- Considering the changes and growing specialization in the world coffee trade and industry;
- Considering the necessary balance between the demands of consumers and the legitimate concern of producers for fair remuneration;
- Considering the current and future negotiations on the future of the International Coffee Agreement 2001,

Cameroon is in favour of extending the 2001 Agreement with amendments that take into account the following elements:

1. a reasonable accommodation of small producers, at present powerless in the face of powerful and well-structured private interests;
2. the setting up of solidarity mechanisms designed to assure a better income for producers than is offered by the market, provided this is justified by good quality;
3. a better control of the coffee supply/demand variables, in order to prevent pronounced fluctuations in prices;
4. the provision of adequate assistance to producers which will enable them to take better advantage of specialized market developments;
5. a concern to ensure a proper balance in face of consumer demands in relation to quality, so as to acknowledge that better quality leads to better prices;
6. complete transparency of the market, devoid of any concentration.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. **Preamble:** The preamble should include a new paragraph making it clear that producers should receive fair remuneration for their work. The present text only indicates the need to foster the development of productive resources.
2. **Chapter I, Article 1:** With regard to Objective (2), the ways to achieve a reasonable balance between supply and demand should be defined and clarified. Objectives (6) and (7) should also be made more specific.
3. **Chapter XII, Article 39:** The concept of sustainable management of coffee resources should be made more appealing. The proposal of the National Coffee Association of the USA could be adopted in part. But it should be completed by taking into account the needs of present generations.  
**Article 40:** Improvement of the standard of living of populations engaged in the coffee sector should be given more detailed consideration. The following wording is proposed: “Members recognize that the improvement of the standard of living and working conditions of coffee producers is a legitimate aspiration, which should be translated into better remuneration for their work.”

(signed) Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana  
Minister of Trade