



Organización Internacional del Café  
Organização Internacional do Café  
Organisation Internationale du Café

WP Board No. 1021/06

29 September 2006  
Original: Spanish

E

Executive Board/  
International Coffee Council  
25 – 29 September 2006  
London, England

**Future of the International  
Coffee Agreement (ICA) 2001**

**Communication from Ecuador**

## **Background**

The following proposals for amendments to the ICA 2001 have been received from Ecuador.

## **Action**

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

**EMBASSY OF ECUADOR  
LONDON**

London, 28 September 2006

Mr. Néstor Osorio Londoño  
Executive Director  
International Coffee Organization  
22 Berners Street  
London W1T 3DD

Dear Sir,

In response to your request that Members of the International Coffee Organization submit suggestions for the negotiation of a new International Coffee Agreement, I wish to inform you of the key points which the Government of Ecuador wishes to be taken into account for inclusion in a new Agreement. It should be emphasized that although Ecuador considers the current Agreement to be a good one, a number of changes are required in order to adapt it to current circumstances. These points are indicated below, following the framework of the existing Agreement.

1. Objectives: Objective (2) should be clarified to indicate that the aim of assuring “markets for coffee at remunerative prices to producers” is not achieved in practice by adding the following words after the word “remunerative”: “which will be at least sufficient to cover the average costs of production in the various producing countries”. Objective (6) states that Members should be “encouraged to develop a sustainable coffee economy” but the term “sustainable” is not defined. It is proposed, therefore, to add the following qualification of this term: “in economic, social and environmental terms”. This definition should also be included in Article 2.
2. Article 2, Definitions, should include current terms such as sustainability (economic, social and environmental), speciality coffees (organic, fair trade, bird-friendly, etc.) *inter alia*.
3. The ICO should not depend solely on the Common Fund for Commodities for the financing of development projects, but should take steps to find other sources of project financing.
4. The ICO should strengthen activities designed to increase coffee consumption both in consuming and producing countries.
5. The benefits of coffee for health should be highlighted in the Agreement. Support should be provided for programmes aimed at disseminating the results of research on this subject in producing and consuming countries. Consideration should be given to including this matter among the Objectives.
6. A mechanism should be found to prevent duplication of efforts for matters considered by both the Executive Board and the Council.

7. Participation in the Executive Board is limited to “big” countries with a larger number of votes, while “small” countries with fewer votes have less opportunity to be part of the Executive Board and consequently have no decision-making power. In order to avoid this, it is proposed to establish an alphabetical rotation system among members of the various groups, so that all Member countries, whether “big” or “small” can have an active role in the Executive Board.

It should be noted that although the points indicated above cover Ecuador’s hopes for the new Agreement, this does not imply that there are no other points on which we would wish to object or to agree once we have seen the complete draft text of the Agreement.

For this reason, we reserve the right to express an opinion on the draft Agreement when it is presented to ICO Members for consideration at the appropriate meetings.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration,

(signed)      Teodoro Maldonado Riera  
                    Ambassador