

During his visit to Côte d'Ivoire, the Executive Director was invited to address a special meeting of the National Assembly of Deputies. In his speech, he analysed current market conditions and the development of the coffee sector in recent years in Africa, with particular reference to Côte d'Ivoire. While in Abidjan, he met high-level government officials including Mr Gon Coulibaly, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and also had private audiences with the Ministers for Trade and Scientific Research and the Director of the Prime Minister's Cabinet.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire awarded the Order of Agricultural Merit to the Executive Director, Ambassador Mchumo, Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Secretary-General of the InterAfrican Coffee Organization, Mr Saint-Cyr Djikalou, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to International Commodity Bodies in London and Mr Jean de Dieu Mutubazi, Director General of the Office du Cafe du Burundi (OCIBU).

Finally, Mrs Sylvia Robert-Sargeant, Programme Coordinator for the Positively Coffee and Health Care Professions – Coffee Education Programmes, gave a presentation on coffee and health matters to representatives of the medical profession in Côte d'Ivoire.