



International Coffee Council

110th Session

4 – 8 March 2013

London, United Kingdom

Resolution number 451

APPROVED AT THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING,
8 MARCH 2013

**CRITICAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA
CAUSED BY COFFEE LEAF RUST OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS:

The representatives of the Central American Members of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) meeting in London have expressed their concern regarding the coffee leaf rust epidemic affecting Central America and its impact there, and have reiterated the appeal by Heads of State in the region to join forces with international bodies in order to support national and regional strategies to combat this infestation;

The current epidemic of coffee leaf rust affecting all countries of the region with a 53% incidence is the worst seen since this pest appeared in Central America in 1976, and has led some of the countries affected to declare a phytosanitary emergency and thus trigger the necessary national measures to combat coffee leaf rust;

Given the importance of coffee growing in the region, which has more than 351,000 coffee growers and directly provides a livelihood for more than two million Central Americans, this epidemic is expected to have a profound impact on Central American societies and economies. It has been estimated that there will be a loss of approximately 437,000 jobs in rural areas for the 2012/13 crop and even more for the 2013/14 crop;

According to preliminary figures, it is estimated that 2.5 million bags of the region's coffee production have already been lost as a result of coffee leaf rust in coffee year 2012/13, and this will bring about a systematic reduction in the region's production as from coffee year 2013/14; and

Governments and the private coffee sector in the region, together with Mexico and the Caribbean, are making joint efforts to address this crisis and the Ministers of Agriculture are currently working on a regional plan of action to be approved in Panama on 19 March 2013,

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL

RESOLVES:

1. That ICO Members show leadership in addressing this important issue and support for national and regional actions which Central American Members are undertaking in order to combat coffee leaf rust.
2. To call on Members of the international community, through the relevant cooperation mechanisms, to offer assistance to the affected countries by, among other things, technical knowledge, exchange of information and best practices and the provision of varieties of coffee resistant to coffee leaf rust.
3. To ask the ICO Secretariat to support countries affected to address the crisis caused by the coffee leaf rust.