



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Burundi and ICO discuss market and partnerships opportunities for Burundi coffee**

**London, 12 June 2018** – The Executive Director, Mr José Sette, was honoured to welcome the visit of His Excellency Mr Ernest Ndabashinze, Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr Kenny Washington, responsible for Programme Innovation and Funding at Christian Aid, a United Kingdom-based relief and development agency working on an inclusive coffee market development programme in Burundi. Ambassador Ndabashinze requested the support of the ICO to promote Burundi coffee and to cooperate with Christian Aid on the work of promoting a sustainable production and empowering women in the coffee sector in Burundi. In their exchange, the Executive Director recommended concentrating on the specialty market, since Burundi produces high-quality coffee in relatively small amounts. Markets in Asia and the United Kingdom were highlighted as the potential targets for developing their market promotion activity. Mr Gerardo Pataconi, Head of Operations of the ICO, provided insights on linkages with buyers and donors, as well as on the importance of the forthcoming 122<sup>nd</sup> Council Session of the ICO to be held in London from 17 to 21 September 2018. The central theme of the meeting will be ‘Gender Equality’, which highlights the contribution of women to the coffee sector and will be an important opportunity to network and share experiences with other countries, as well as to access innovations on financial tools and donors’ funding for the coffee sector. Dr Denis Seudieu, Chief Economist of the ICO, reported on an ongoing ICO project in Burundi and on possible cooperation with the Christian Aid project.

## Notes to Editors

### About the International Coffee Organization

The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the main intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing Governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation. Our Members represent the Governments of 98% of the world's coffee producing countries and 83% of consuming countries.

We endeavour to make a positive and practical contribution to the development of a sustainable world coffee sector and to reducing poverty through the following three Strategic Objectives:

- Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policy-makers
- Providing a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors
- Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships.

More information is available at: [www.ico.org](http://www.ico.org)

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