



International Coffee Council
109th Session
24 – 28 September 2012
London, United Kingdom

Request for observer status in March 2013

Background

1. Rule 5 of the Rules of the Organization (see the Annex) provides that any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session.

2. The Executive Director has received a request to observe the 110th Council Session from 4 to 8 March 2013 from Dr Gavin Fridell, Canada Research Chair in International Development Studies and Associate Professor at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Canada, as well as Research Associate at the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC) in Canada. Dr Fridell is the author of *Fair Trade Coffee: The Prospects and Pitfalls of Market-Driven Social Justice* and has published widely on issues concerning the global coffee industry, international trade and development, fair trade and free trade. He is currently working on two new books, one on the global coffee trade and the other on international trade and global governance more broadly. He has studied the ICO and the global coffee industry and is an expert on the political economy of coffee, and fair trade certification. The emphasis of the 2007 Agreement on creating a sustainable world coffee sector is of particular interest to him.

3. Based on the agenda for the 109th Session (see document ICC-109-0 Rev. 1), Dr Fridell would be interested in items of a similar nature to Items 1 to 12 on the Agenda of the 110th Session as well as the meeting of the Projects Committee. His Curriculum Vitae can be consulted at the following link: <http://smu-ca.academia.edu/GavinFridell/CurriculumVitae>

4. As provided for in Rule 5, comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session (i.e. 16 February 2013). At least 10 days prior to the session (i.e. 21 February 2013), the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this.

5. It is suggested that as this application has been received well in advance of the 110th Session, the Council could consider this matter in September 2012 at the time of considering observers who may be admitted to meetings in 2012/13.

Action

The Council is requested to consider this request.

RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION**RULE 5
Observers**

1. Any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session.
2. The written request shall indicate the Agenda items of interest. If necessary, the Executive Director will request any additional information needed by the Council in considering such requests. At least 30 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall circulate to all Members the names of organizations requesting observer status, along with additional information and a proposal for Council action on each request.
3. Comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session. At least 10 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this. At the start of each Session, the Council shall decide on acceptance of observers and designate the items on the Agenda of the Council open to accepted observers.
4. The Council may also invite organizations and individuals to attend Council Sessions to make presentations or to make a contribution on a specific topic to be considered by the Council. Observers shall have no voice in the proceedings of the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies, except by invitation of the respective Chairmen.