Background

This document contains comments made by Brazil during the 104th Session of the Council on the draft strategic action plan for the Organization contained in document WP-Council 173/08 Rev. 4.
DRAFT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

COMMENTS BY BRAZIL

In Section I, paragraph 15 (a): The text refers to the use of land for the production of biofuels as one of the factors responsible for the decreasing availability of land for coffee farming, which is, in turn, included among factors that represent challenges to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the world coffee economy. Considering that there is insufficient technical evidence for establishing this link in the case of various countries, Brazil proposes the deletion of the words ‘and use in the production of biofuels’.

In Section I paragraph 15 (c): The text suggests that ‘certification and verification schemes [can be] [seek to be] powerful tools for value addition (...)’. Brazil supports the use of the words ‘seek to be’ since certification schemes do not always achieve better remuneration for producers.

With regard to Goal 1 (‘Forum for the development of policies and solutions to strengthen the global coffee sector’), Priority action 3: Brazil suggests the adoption of the following text: ‘To promote means for achieving equilibrium between supply and demand (...).’

With regard to Goal 3 (‘Development and dissemination of knowledge’), Priority action 12: Brazil proposes the following text: ‘To enhance the viability and execution of projects that benefit (...), monitoring project proposals submitted to relevant donors (...).’

With regard to Goal 4 (‘Sustainable coffee sector’), Priority action 21: Brazil supports the addition of the words ‘economic, environmental and social’. With regard to Priority action 24: Brazil proposes the following text: ‘To improve market structures, including financing of stocks in producing countries, wider access to credit (...).’

In relation to sustainability, paragraph (3) of Article 1 of the 2007 Agreement provides that one of the objectives of the Agreement is ‘encouraging Members to develop a sustainable coffee sector in economic, social and environmental terms’. Brazil considers that social and environmental pillars are dependent on the economic sustainability of the sector.