INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION

WP **Council 240/13**

21 August 2013
Original: English

E

International Coffee Council
111th Session
9 – 12 September 2013
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Draft Belo Horizonte Declaration

12 September 2013

Background

The Secretariat has prepared a draft Declaration for consideration by the Council during its 111th Session in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Organization. Members are invited to send the Executive Director their comments on the draft text by **2 September 2013** to enable it to be considered by the Council and adopted as the Belo Horizonte Declaration during the Council Session.

Action

The Council is requested to consider this document.

DRAFT BELO HORIZONTE DECLARATION

12 SEPTEMBER 2013

We, the Member Governments of the International Coffee Organization (ICO), met in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on the occasion of the commemorative Council celebrating its 50th anniversary. Our discussions were led in the best spirit of cooperation and friendship and by the strong desire to strengthen the coffee economy and the role of the ICO in the world market.

We recall that coffee is the world's most widely traded tropical commodity. Produced in over 50 countries, and accounting for up to 50% of export earnings of some of these, it sustains one hundred and twenty million people worldwide, the vast majority of whom are smallholders in developing countries. The economic relevance of the product is underlined by the fact that it generates both significant foreign exchange income for producers (exports reached US$23 billion in 2011) and cash flows throughout the processing and supply chains.

For 50 years, the ICO has fostered international cooperation in the sector, contributing to developing a sustainable world coffee economy and reducing poverty. It has promoted synergies within the commodity market, initiated a programme to improve coffee quality, and provided accurate and reliable data on the coffee economy. It has launched promotion campaigns that were instrumental in encouraging dynamic growth in consumption in emerging markets, and was the birthplace of the specialty coffee movement. It has channelled over US$100 million in development projects for the benefit of small coffee farmers throughout the world.

In keeping with the objectives of the International Coffee Agreement 2007, we recognize that there is a continuing need for the ICO to support measures aimed at ensuring the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of the sector. Moreover, it must help with tackling present and future challenges such as scarce environmental resources, pests and diseases, the adverse impact of price volatility, and changing global weather patterns.

We reiterate our commitment to provide objective and comprehensive statistical and economic information on the global coffee market as a means for enabling economic decisions to be taken on the basis of accurate and timely data. We will continue to enhance market transparency in international trade through further developing data on production and stocks of different types of coffee.

We further agree on the importance of safeguarding the environment and the livelihoods of future generations of coffee farmers, implementing measures to reduce the effects of climate change on coffee production such as the Coffee and Climate Change Toolbox for the use of environmentally-friendly technology throughout the production and processing chain.

We aim to intensify efforts to increase coffee consumption at the international level through the ICO Plan for Promotion and Market Development, in particular to develop markets in producing countries with a high potential for increasing consumption, as well as emerging and non-traditional markets.

We recognize the importance of providing support and technical assistance to countries adversely affected by pests and diseases. In the present context, we express grave concern with the outbreak of coffee leaf rust in Central America, one of the most severe phytosanitary crises ever. In support of the region, we are committed to cooperate among Member States and with relevant international organizations and institutions – such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – to share technical expertise and best practices in this field, thereby enabling Central America's producers to fight the epidemic.

We take note of the constructive recommendations and proposals on risk management and finance put forward at the 3rd Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance and undertake to bring them to practical use. We understand that aggregation can significantly contribute to improve access to risk management tools, especially by small farm holders. With less volatility in the market and better working conditions in the field, we expect to enhance the participation of women and young farmers in the coffee supply chain.

In this most cheerful moment, we welcome the outcomes of the 111th Session of the International Coffee Council and rejoice at the celebrations of the ICO jubilee. It gives us pleasure to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of former representatives to the ICO, when it is time to renew our pledges to honour this legacy.