



**Report of the 11th meeting of the
Core Group for the Consultative Forum on
Coffee Sector Finance held on 11 April 2018**

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1. The Core Group held its 11th meeting on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The draft Agenda contained in document [CG-31/18 Rev. 1](#) was adopted.

Item 2: Ratification of the appointment of the Chair and appointment of the Vice-Chair

3. The Group appointed Mr Kirill Matrenichev of the Russian Federation as Chair and H.E. Mr Aly Touré of Côte d'Ivoire as Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair thanked the Members of the Group for his election for this coffee year and took over as Chair of the meeting.

Item 3: Report of the 10th meeting of the Core Group held in March 2017

4. Members of the Group approved the report contained in document [CG-30/17](#).

Item 4: 7th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance

5. The Group approved document [CF-15/17](#) containing the report of the 7th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance held on 27 September 2017 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

Item 5: 8th Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance

6. The Senior Economist presented document [CG-32/18](#) which contained proposals for the 8th Consultative Forum to be held on 19 September 2018 in London during the 122nd Session of the International Coffee Council. The suggested theme of the 8th edition of the Forum was 'Harnessing technology and innovation for investments in the coffee sector'. The proposed theme was intended to enable participants of the Forum to explore how digital technologies and new financing instruments could improve growers' access to finance.

7. The Senior Economist explained that the Forum would be divided into two sessions. The first session would focus on technological innovations, including the use of big data and the application of block chain, in order to break information asymmetries between actors in the value chain and financial institutions.

8. The second session would evolve around innovative financial instruments such as impact investment, green and social bonds that aim at channelling additional funds into the coffee sector enabling farmers to undertake investments required to meet challenges to production such as climate change.

9. The Senior Economist explained that in order to encourage knowledge sharing and learning from other sectors it was suggested to invite a wide array of speakers from technology firms, the financial sector and coffee institutions. To support the organization of an ambitious event, the Secretariat proposed to explore potential sources of sponsorship for the event and to charge a registration fee with three free places allocated to each Member.

10. In the discussion, Members expressed their broad support for the proposal. Some Members suggested to focus on technologies that resulted in direct benefits to coffee farmers. Other Members encouraged the Secretariat to ensure a strong involvement of international financial institutions and development banks in the Forum.

11. The Group considered the proposal and recommended its approval by the Council.

Item 6: Other business

12. The Senior Economist presented a proposal by the Secretariat for the nomination of a fourth advisor to the Core Group in line with the Terms of Reference of the Core Group. He explained that three advisors were appointed during the previous meeting while the appointment of the fourth advisor was still outstanding. The incumbents were Ms Nancy Cheruyiot (FAST), Mr Silas Brasileiro (National Coffee Council of Brazil) and Mr Nicolas Tamari (Sucafina S.A.).

13. The fourth advisor proposed by the Secretariat was Dr Ralph De Haas, Director of Research at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Senior Economist explained that Dr De Haas was an expert in development economics, small-business and micro-finance as well as gender aspects of finance, and would be an excellent fit for the role of advisor.

14. Members of the Core Group approved the proposal.

Item 7: Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting of the Core Group would take place during the 123rd Session of the International Coffee Council from 8 to 12 April 2019.