



**Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the  
Projects Committee held on  
27 March 2019**

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1. The Projects Committee, chaired by Mr Mitsuhiro Takayanagi, held its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on Wednesday 27 March 2019.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The Committee approved the draft Agenda contained in document [PJ-130/19 Rev. 1](#).

**Item 2: Report of the meeting held on 18 September 2018**

3. The Committee approved the report of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 contained in document [PJ-129/18](#).

**Item 3: Monitoring and evaluation of projects**

4. The Chief Economist presented the background of the project 'Promoting a sustainable coffee sector in Burundi'. The project, endorsed by the ICO Council in March 2013 in the framework of the partnership with the private sector, aimed to improve productivity and the production of quality coffee as well as improving the livelihoods of coffee producers in Burundi. A representative of the Kahawatu Foundation, the Project Executing Agency (PEA), provided a progress report on the project that highlighted the main achievements and lessons learnt. The project had contributed in empowering a number of women in the coffee sector through facilitating their land ownership and improving their farming skills. The Committee took note of the report.

**Item 3.1: Implementation of Resolution 465**

5. The Head of Operations presented three project briefs prepared to mobilize resources to implement the decisions contained in [Resolution 465](#) on Coffee Price Levels and ongoing negotiations with public and private sector potential donors. The three project briefs included the following:

**Item 3.1.1: Project Brief: Structured sector-wide dialogue to address the coffee price crisis (document [PJ-131/19](#))**

6. The objective was to invite partners to join the International Coffee Organization and support its effort aiming to identify and implement innovative proposals to minimize the negative impact of low coffee prices on smallholder farmers and foster long-term sustainability of the sector. A worldwide series of consultation events had been planned, including the following:

- (a) A seminar on '*Coffee: how sustainable is our future?*', organized jointly with the Global Coffee Platform during the 124<sup>th</sup> session of the International Coffee Council, on 25 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- (b) '*Financing sustainable and inclusive investment in agricultural value chains: The case of the coffee sector*', a Café Conversation at the Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair 2019, on 16 April 2019 from 13:30 to 15:00 at the UN Headquarters Express Bar, New York. This side event is jointly organized by the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN) led by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the International Coffee Organization, in partnership with the National Coffee Association of the USA (NCA).
- (c) '*Addressing risk and mobilizing investment in the coffee sector: Policy, coordination, and financing solutions*'. This event would take place on 16 April 2019 from 18:30 to 20:00 at the UN Headquarters in New York City and had been conjointly organized by the ICO in partnership with the SAFIN led by IFAD.
- (d) An interactive workshop on '*Price volatility and sustainability: Development challenges and solutions for smallholder farmers in the coffee value chain*'. This event, jointly organized with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNIDO will be a side event of the international Cooperation Expo (Exco 2019) on 16 May 2019 in Rome, Italy.
- (e) '*Coffee price levels and volatility symposium: Towards a sustainable path for the future of coffee*', an event in partnership with the European Coffee Federation (ECF), hosted by the European Commission. The event will take place on 6 June 2019, in Brussels, Belgium.
- (f) A CEO Forum of the coffee industry would take place in London, during the week of the 125<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

7. Members were invited to attend these events and also to invite their diplomatic missions, in the respective countries, to participate.

**Item 3.1.2: Project brief: Global benchmarking of coffee production  
(document [PJ-132/19](#))**

8. The Organization is calling on partners to join and to support gathering and processing independent, objective and internationally comparable data on coffee production cost and production systems. This initiative will help to better understand the main drivers of the economic sustainability of coffee farming. In this regard, the ICO secretariat has carried out

important ground work to implement this initiative, including a study with the UC Davis Coffee Center that provides new empirical evidence on cost of production in three countries, and addresses methodological questions related to the collection and analysis of production costs.

**Item 3.1.3: Project brief: Global communication plan**

9. The secretariat presented a proposal to develop and implement a global communication plan to raise the awareness of consumers on the economic reality of the coffee sector and to promote a decent living income for coffee growers. This proposal would include three phases, including the design of the plan, the pilot phase to select a coffee-producing region and country, and the third phase consisting in rolling out the implementation.

10. The Committee took note of these reports.

**Item 3.2: Project proposal by Vietnam**

11. The Chief Economist introduced a new project proposal on *'Improvement of small-scale farmers' access to finance for building a sustainable coffee sector in Vietnam'*. The aim of the project was to improve small-scale farmers' access to credit to better manage their farms and achieve a profitable and sustainable coffee production. This would include reviewing international experience of credit systems to smallholder farmers, learning from appropriate and effective financial mechanisms and identifying options for value addition opportunities. The representative of Vietnam provided further clarification and the current support policy of the Government of Vietnam to improve the living conditions of marginal coffee farmers.

12. The Committee endorsed the concept note and encouraged the Secretariat to continue working with the Vietnamese authorities to develop a full project proposal including costs and potential sources of financing.

**Item 3.3: Interafrican Coffee Organisation – Promoting coffee consumption in Africa**

13. The Secretary-General of the Interafrican Coffee Organisation provided an outline of the project designed to increase domestic consumption in Africa, already endorsed by the

Council in September 2018 and to be financed by the Special Fund. An inception workshop would be held in the coming weeks provided that the ICO Secretariat made the funds available. The Committee took note of the report.

**Item 4: Cooperation activities**

**Item 4.1: Delta Project: Bridging the Gap in Measuring Real-Time Sustainability Performance:**

14. The Representative of the Global Coffee Platform made a verbal report of the implementation of the Delta project, a collaborative initiative between the ICO, the Global Coffee Platform, the Better Cotton Initiative and the International Cotton Advisory Committee. The aim of the project was to develop a common sustainability performance measurement and reporting framework. The framework would include a set of outcomes and output indicators that would help measure sustainability and track the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals commitments by the public and private sectors. The project would be implemented in pilot countries, including Vietnam (coffee) and South Africa (cotton). The inception phase was completed in November 2018. A project consultant had been appointed and the contract is in the process for signature. The Committee noted the report.

**Item 5: Other business**

15. There was no other business.

**Item 6: Date of next meeting**

16. The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Projects Committee would take place in London, United Kingdom, during the week of the 125<sup>th</sup> Council Session In September 2019.

17. The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee and presenters for their fruitful contributions as well as the Secretariat and the interpreters.