



**Establishment of the
Coffee Public-Private Task Force –
Update and extended deadline for the
nomination of sherpas**

1. The Executive Director presents his compliments and wishes to (i) update ICO Members and observers as well as members of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) on progress in the establishment of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and related technical working groups including next steps, and (ii) extend the deadline for the nomination of sherpas until **7 February 2020**.

Background

2. Following the International Coffee Council (ICC) Decision 125-10 of 27 September 2019 to set up a Task Force composed of ICO Members and representatives of the private sector, the Secretariat has been reviewing best practices for public-private collaboration in other commodities, sectors and industries, in addition to conducting a series of informal consultations with stakeholders. As a result of this process, the ICO has defined a proposal presented in the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Coffee Public-Private Task Force that was distributed on 2 December 2019 ([ED-2327/19](#)) for consideration by all stakeholders, and secured a commitment by a number of ICO Member countries and private sector companies to provide financial and technical support.

3. In order to promptly and effectively engage ICO Members and observers as well signatories of the London Declaration on the establishment of the Task Force and related working groups, the ICO held a series of five interactive webinars between 12 December 2019 and 15 January 2020 with 66 registered participants from both the public and private sectors¹.

¹ Please refer to the attached Annex for the webinar presentation. The recording of the webinar is available on the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2458648041928584971>.

In addition, the Secretariat held bilateral consultation with Members, members of the PSCB as well as signatories and supporting organizations of the London Declaration in order to solicit feedback on the draft ToR and proposed actions.

4. As a result of this inclusive process that marks the continuation of the Structured Sector-wide Dialogue, the ICO has received the following feedback:

Proposed scheme

- a) The proposed scheme for the Public-Private Task Force, based on the G-7/G-20 Leaders' Summit model, was welcomed by all stakeholders. It was clarified that the sherpa function is "to facilitate negotiation on behalf of organizations/regional groupings they represent so as to reach consensus on concrete actions and resource allocation between coffee public and private sectors". The ultimate decision will remain with the 'summit' (the CEO and Global Leaders Forum and the International Coffee Council).
- b) ICO exporting Member countries are requested to nominate the following number of sherpas within their regional groupings: Africa (4), Asia and the Pacific (3), Central America, Mexico and Caribbean (3), South America (3). Importing Members are also requested to nominate sherpas within their group (3).

Nomination of sherpas and registration of interest for technical working groups

- c) The ICO Secretariat has already have received nominations from signatories of the London Declaration with representatives confirmed as sherpas for the Task Force, experts for technical working groups and top executives that will participate in the second CEO & Global Leaders Forum. Likewise, several ICO Members have signalled strong interest in taking up the role of sherpa in their respective regional grouping. However, as the process of nomination is complex and involves selection at a regional level, the ICO has been requested to extend the nomination of sherpas to the Task Force beyond the initial deadline of 23 January 2020.
- d) The work of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force will benefit from inputs by a number of technical working groups. Participation and contribution to the working groups is open to all coffee stakeholders, international and regional organizations, NGOs, private sector representatives, and academia and is on a voluntary basis. Participation is expected to be both physical or online. The number of working groups to be newly established will be minimized by capitalizing on the work of existing sector initiatives.

Voluntary contributions to support the work of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and working groups

- e) Bilateral donors, development agencies, NGOs and private companies have earmarked funds to provide technical expertise as well as communication and logistic support so as to facilitate the work of the working groups and of the Task Force.
- f) Specifically, as part of its bilateral support to the ICO, Germany will support the implementation of the Sector-wide Dialogue, including the coordination of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and related technical working groups, through the provision of a full-time coordinator attached to the ICO. Additional support to the strategic development of the initiative will be provided through an expert consultancy funded by both the Governments of Switzerland (through SECO) and Germany (BMZ through GIZ).

Meetings of the Task Force

- g) Public and private sector stakeholders expressed the preference to hold Task Force Meetings in London rather than in conjunction with regional industry events as initially proposed.
- h) It was underlined that additional contributions to facilitate participation of sherpas from ICO exporting Members to Task Force meetings were required to assure their presence and active participation.

Next steps and key dates

- 5. In light of the above and in order to ensure that the Task Force can start its work as soon as possible, please kindly:
 - i. Nominate the ICO Members' sherpas representing each respective grouping to the Task Force by **7 February 2020** (extended deadline).
 - ii. Note the date/register for the first meeting of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force, which is scheduled for 16 March 2020 at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London.
 - iii. Register interest/nominate experts for participation in technical working groups in the following thematic areas:
 - a) Market transparency and responsible sourcing.
 - b) Strengthening the coffee policy and institutional environment.

- c) Conceptualization, allocation & global coordination of funding to the coffee sector.
- d) Coffee sector coordination and vision.
- e) Sustainable production and consumption.

6. To confirm nominations of sherpas, participation in the Task Force meeting and in working groups please send an email to info@ico.org **by 7 February 2020**. We are of course also available for bilateral discussions by contacting Gerardo Patacconi, Head of Operations (patacconi@ico.org, +44 (0) 7917 044127), or Christoph Sänger, Senior Economist (saenger@ico.org, +44 (0) 20 7612 0610).

7. We look forward to advance swiftly the ICO-led Sector-wide Dialogue through the establishment and operation of the Coffee Public-Private Task Force and its working groups to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the International Coffee Council as well as of the London Declaration, as well as to identify new concrete solutions and ensure substantial allocation of funds, in a true spirit of shared values and responsibility to ensure a sustainable future for the coffee sector, in particular smallholder farmers.