



**Report of the 10th Meeting of the Working
Group on the Future of the International
Coffee Agreement
11 February 2021**

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1. The Working Group on the Future of the International Coffee Agreement (WGFA) met for the tenth time on 11 February 2020. The Chair, Ms Stefanie Küng, of Switzerland, welcomed all participants and thanked the delegates for their presence.

2. Representatives of the following Members were present online using the Zoom software: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, European Union (European Commission, Germany, Sweden, Romania), Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Togo.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda contained in [WGFA 48/21 Rev. 1](#) was adopted.

Item 2: Report of the 9th meeting of the Working Group held on 15 December 2020

4. The Chair presented a summary of the work of the WGFA to date, in particular the report of the previous meeting contained in the document [WGFA-47/21](#).

5. The Working Group took note of the report.

Item 3: Actions from the previous meeting

6. The Chair noted that Members had requested the Secretariat to prepare the details of several action points and invited the Executive Director to report on the outcome.

Item 3.1: Options for the revision of the role and functions of Committees in the revised International Coffee Agreement (ICA)

7. Two alternative proposals contained in the document [WGFA-49/21](#) had been circulated to Members in preparation for the meeting. The first arrangement consisted of the merger of the Statistics, Projects and Promotion and Market Development Committees. The second consists of the merger of the first two committees, leaving the Promotion and Market Development Committee separate.

8. The Executive Director remarked that the red font in the document highlighted text Members agreed to in the 6th Meeting of the WGFA held on 30 April 2020 (reported in document [WGFA-37/20](#)). Proposals made by the Secretariat were highlighted in green. He noted that footnotes indicated where no decision had been taken by Members in previous negotiations.

9. The Chair invited Members to present their comments on the document [WGFA-49/21](#).

10. The Executive Director highlighted the existence of consensus to streamlining the committees.

11. The delegate for the European Union suggested that, when merging the committees, the merged committee could have specific configurations, this would help cater to the different audiences and objectives of the committees. This arrangement worked well in other international commodity bodies. The Executive Director agreed to further explore this option and invited him to share details of this proposal.

12. The Chair invited Members to reflect on their preferred option for structuring the committees and proposed to come back to this discussion at a later stage.

Item 3.2: Report on the Survey on the ICA – ICO Members, including all written responses

13. The Chair invited the Executive Director to present the Report on the Survey on the ICA – Written Responses (document [WGFA 50/21](#)). The Executive Director reviewed the highlights of the report.

14. The delegate for Japan stated that the report, which provided a more accurate understanding of each Member's opinion, should be taken into account in the amendment of the ICA.

15. The Working Group took note of the report ([WGFA 50/21](#)).

Item 3.3: Report on the Survey on the ICA – Role of the Private Sector

16. The Head of Operations explained that the Survey on the views of the private sector on the reform of the ICA had been forwarded to the entities engaged in the Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) and those associated with the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB). ICO Members were also invited to provide additional contact points of private sector organizations interested in completing the questionnaire. He provided an overview of the survey and highlighted the following results.

- The questionnaire was filled in by 31 respondents from leading national, regional and international coffee associations, private companies and other IGOs and NGOs.

- ICO Members should consider how to better integrate the private sector into the new ICA (100% of private sector companies agreed, 87% of organizations agreed).
- There was a strong interest or openness to discuss a closer relation with the ICO (94%).
- 55% of respondents ranked 'Facilitating collective actions in addition to individual actions' as the major advantage.
- Top areas of concern were the inability to influence decisions (private sector companies), and power balances (organizations).
- Private sector companies were interested in integrating the CPPTF into the new ICA (75%).
- Private sector companies should participate in the work of the ICO as individual entities as well as through their trade associations (63%).
- Private sector companies were still interested in participating in the work of the ICO formally or through the PSCB (66%).
- There was a willingness from private sector companies to provide financial resources to the work of ICO through membership, subscription fee or ad-hoc project funding (75%).
- Private sector companies were willing to extend membership to other organizations/entities such as academia, IGOs and NGOs.
- Overall, both private sector companies and organizations see the expansion of their cooperation with the ICO as a great opportunity.

17. The Chair invited the delegate for Colombia, who chaired the WGFA sub-group on private sector engagement, to moderate the discussion on the results of the Survey. He remarked that, although the survey was not binding, it was indicative of how to approach the private sector more efficiently. The floor was then opened for comments.

18. The Chair of the Private Sector Consultative Board suggested inviting private sector companies, organizations, and ICO Member countries to put forward specific models and frameworks on how to integrate the private sector in the ICO.

19. The Executive Director supported the option proposed by the Chair of the PSCB and invited him to coordinate these activities. He also suggested that the Chair of the WGFA, the delegate for Colombia, the Chair of the PSCB and the Executive Director could work together with the Coffee Public-Private Task Force to shape a proposal. The suggestion was accepted with no further comments.

20. The delegate for the European Union repeated his suggestion on having specific configurations for the committees and suggested that the EU would have further commentary on this point.

21. The delegate for Papua New Guinea proposed to first decide on the specifics of how to integrate the private sector into the ICO and then decide about the committees' structure. The Chair agreed to decide about matters related to structural governance during upcoming WGFA meetings.

22. The Chair invited the Executive Director to report on the developments of the work of the Secretariat regarding the basis for the calculation of Members' contributions. The Executive Director reported that the Secretariat was finalizing tables with different scenarios for the calculation of contributions.

23. The Executive Director informed that the Secretariat had received a communication from Vietnam expressing its interest in reviewing the method of calculation of contributions.

Item 4: Next Steps

24. The Chair summarised the agreed next steps.

25. The Secretariat would continue to engage with the private sector and would be assisted by the Chair of the PSCB, in order to gather more information and practical suggestions on how to integrate the private sector into the new ICA.

26. The Executive Director communicated that the Secretariat would contact the participants designated as responsible for presenting new wording for the sections of the document [WGFA-49/21](#), containing the options for the revision of the role and functions of Committees in the revised ICA. In addition, the Secretariat would comb through all the reports of previous WGFA meetings on the text of specific items that remained unresolved and contact the delegations that had offered to submit revised wording.

27. The Chair invited comments, then moved to Agenda Item 5.

Item 5: Other business

28. No requests for Other Business were made.

Item 6: Date of next meeting

29. The Executive Director noted that the next WGFA Meetings would be held on Tuesday 9th of March 2021 and on Tuesday 6th of April 2021.