

## Mission report

<b>Subject</b>	<b>39th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 39) and related events</b>
<b>Place and dates</b>	Brasília and São Paulo, Brazil – 2-10 March 2026
<b>ICO staff member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanusia Nogueira, Executive Director</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose of travel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate as keynote speaker in the panel “Bridging investments and increasing the resilience of family farmers in the coffee sector”</li> <li>• Attend the inauguration of new Executive Board of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (<i>Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária – EMBRAPA</i>)</li> <li>• Attend the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the Brazilian Agribusiness Association’s (<i>Associação Brasileira do Agronegócio - ABAG</i>) High-Level Strategic Council as a special guest</li> <li>• Give interviews to local media: Café com TV (SBT) and Record News Rural.</li> </ul>
<b>Plan/Programme of Activities relevance</b>	<p><b>Five-Year Action Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic Goal II:</b> Using the Organization’s convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors</li> <li>• <b>Strategic Goal III:</b> Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships</li> </ul> <p><b>Results and Deliverables from the PoA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• II.A.3 Consultations and advocacy to increase the engagement of ICO Members, private sector/other stakeholders in CPPTF and the realization of the Roadmap</li> <li>• II.A.6 Engaging IGOs, IFIs and NGOs in ICO events and participation in external events</li> <li>• II.A.7 Implementation of signed MoUs, and development, negotiation, signature of new MoUs and cooperation agreements</li> <li>• III.A.3 Advocacy for the promotion of cooperation with bilateral, regional &amp; multilateral development agencies and donors with a focus on regulatory framework and sustainability and resilience of the coffee sector</li> <li>• III.A.5 Providing advisory services and cooperation with IGOs, private sector, civil society/academia</li> <li>• III.B.6 Outreach programmes, special events and information/promotional materials</li> </ul>

## OVERVIEW

### 1. 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 39)

Convened under the provisions of Article IV-6 of the FAO Constitution, LARC 39 was hosted by the Federative Republic of Brazil at the Palácio Itamaraty, Brasília, from 2 to 6 March 2026. The Conference provided a forum for Latin American and Caribbean Member States to address key food and agriculture challenges, strengthen regional coherence, align with global policy frameworks governing the sector, and engage in high-level discussions on progress and challenges in combating hunger and malnutrition, and on key themes shaping the future of coffee, including family farming, youth engagement and climate resilience.

The Conference also welcomed United Nations representatives and specialized agencies, observers, private sector organizations, scientific and academic stakeholders, civil society and the Parliamentary Front against Hunger.

### 2. Panel “Bridging investments and increasing the resilience of family farmers in the coffee sector”

This high-level panel aimed to showcase the key contribution family farmers make to the sector. Panellists exchanged practical strategies and policy innovations to strengthen capacity-building, market diversification, and sustainable practices, with an emphasis on translating local partnerships and technical tools into concrete capital flows for smallholder coffee producers, improved rural livelihoods, higher incomes, infrastructure innovation, reduced post-harvest losses, expanded market access, and increased value addition across the coffee value chain.

In her intervention, the Executive Director highlighted the coffee value chain as a model for fairness, sustainability and innovation practices in agribusiness. She shared the stage with Maximo Torrero, Chief Economist at FAO; María Fernanda Rivera Dávila, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala; and Aroud Hameleers, IFAD Country Director in Brazil, and reinforced the International Coffee Organization’s role as an advocate for best practices, the implementation of sustainable methods for tackling global challenges affecting agriculture, and the promotion of global economic development, resilience and fairness for coffee growers across the entire sector.

### 3. Inauguration of EMBRAPA’s new Executive Board

The Executive Director attended the inauguration of EMBRAPA’s new Executive Board, held on 10 March 2026, at EMBRAPA’s headquarters in Brasília. Founded in 1973 to advance the technological foundations of tropical agriculture and livestock production, EMBRAPA is one of the world’s leading agricultural research organizations, driving scientific and technological progress, delivering products, services and education across the agricultural sector through national and international initiatives.

The inauguration brought together stakeholders, territories, and community stories that shape the culture and richness of Brazilian coffee farming, and was attended by authorities, producer representatives, employees, and coffee farmers from different regions of the country, representing the diversity of Arabica coffees.

4. 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting of ABAG's High-Level Strategic Council

The Brazilian Agribusiness Association (ABAG) represents agribusiness interests with public authorities, promoting a competitive and sustainable agro-industrial system. Invited as special guest, the Executive Director attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting of its High-Level Strategic Council on 9 March in São Paulo, Brazil. The meeting agenda focused on building synergies, aligning strategic visions, and identifying opportunities for the Brazilian agribusiness sector in the international context.

5. Interviews with local media:

The Executive Director spoke to Café com TV about the ICO's latest communication campaign: "Coffee is part of the solution". The interview can be viewed [here](#) (in Portuguese, with the option of autogenerated subtitles).

She also gave an interview to Record News Rural to mark the occasion of International Women's Day, where she highlighted the role of women in the coffee value chain, both in Brazil and worldwide. The feature can be viewed [here](#) (in Portuguese, with the option of autogenerated subtitles).

## **CONCLUSIONS/MAIN OUTCOMES**

1. The Executive Director's participation in LARC 39 promoted multi-stakeholder dialogue on investment, sustainability, and resilience in the coffee sector, with a focus on smallholders and family farming. Engagement with FAO, financial institutions, and development partners was strengthened through participation and cooperation with FAO and other partners on sustainable coffee development and investment initiatives was reinforced.
2. The Executive Director advocated for increased investment and cooperation to support sustainability, traceability, deforestation-free supply chains, and climate resilience in the coffee sector. She also showcased the ICO's expertise and highlighted best practices on sustainable coffee sector transformation and support for smallholder farmers.
3. The Executive Director's participation in the events and interviews also increased the visibility of the ICO's work and strategic priorities.

## **AOB**

N/A





