



The centre of the 'coffee diplomacy'

United to make the coffee sector stronger, more sustainable and resilient

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MISSION

The International Coffee Organization (ICO) was set up in London in 1963 under the auspices of the United Nations. It administers the International Coffee Agreement (ICA), an important instrument for development cooperation which provides the legal framework for core activities undertaken by the Organization. This is the only intergovernmental organization for coffee which brings together exporting and importing governments to strengthen the global coffee sector and promote its economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development in a market-based environment for the betterment of all participants in the sector.

OBJECTIVE

The ICO is an intergovernmental organization promoting effective dialogue and actions by the public and the private sectors and civil society to address the multiple environmental, economic and social challenges faced by the global coffee sector and benefit from the growing market opportunities to generate income and employment.

It aims at advancing sector-wide cooperation in crucial areas, including standards, regulations, incentives, technologies and practices for sustainable production and responsible consumption, capacity for adaptation to climate change, living and prosperous income for farmers and diversification to reduce livelihood vulnerability, while empowering women and youth.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The ICO's interventions foster the sustainable development of the coffee sector worldwide, which relies on two key challenges: 1. The prosperity of the coffee growers and their communities through the increase of the living income and living wage; 2. The upgrade of the coffee sector by decommodification and adding value at origin. The ICO's core activities have included: market transparency; knowledge sharing and capacity building; public-private partnership and engagement of donors; development of projects; promotion of domestic and international consumption; coffee quality improvement programmes and market development.

THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT

The new agreement, ICA 2022, approved in June 2022 and currently undergoing the process for adoption and entry into force is an innovative and effective instrument for paving the way towards a more unified front, establishing consensus and a shared vision on how governments and the private sector can best implement and promote a more sustainable and resilient sector, while also engaging all key coffee-related institutions, NGOs, international and financial institutions plus other development partners, research bodies and academia. The new agreement is also a huge step in the development of a sustainable, resilient and circular global coffee economy with fairer value distribution, transparency and quality that benefits farmers, the industry and billions of consumers in line with the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals.

Key Pillars

Public-private partnerships

Facilitating exchange and coordinated policies between governments and the private sector.

Coffee quality & market access

Enhancing transfer of technology, coffee quality improvement programmes and tools to promote consumption.

Market transparency & development

Providing a wide range of statistics, economic, technical and scientific information on the world coffee sector.

Capacity of smallholder farmers

Developing training and information programme, financial tools and services.

MEMBERS

Under the current International Coffee Agreement 2007, ICO Member Governments represent 93% of world coffee production and 63% of world consumption.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

