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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the seventy-ninth session

Observer status for the International Coffee Organization in the General Assembly

Letter dated 12 June 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to decision 49/426 of the Assembly, of 9 December 1994, the Government of Brazil has decided to submit a request for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the International Coffee Organization, an intergovernmental organization founded in 1963 and currently based in London.

As the only intergovernmental organization dedicated to coffee, the International Coffee Organization brings together the Governments of exporting and importing countries responsible for 93 per cent of world coffee production and 63 per cent of world consumption. We are confident that the International Coffee Organization meets the legal and substantive criteria for the granting of observer status in the Assembly, given its composition and regular participation in multilateral activities related to agriculture, commodities and sustainable development at large.

In the light of the foregoing, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled “Observer status for the International Coffee Organization in the General Assembly”.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, enclosed herewith are an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Sérgio França Danese**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil



Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

1. Background

The International Coffee Organization was established in 1963 under the auspices of the United Nations to address the challenges faced by the global coffee sector and following the approval of the first International Coffee Agreement in 1962. As the principal intergovernmental organization dedicated to coffee, the organization unites exporting and importing Governments to tackle coffee-related issues. With a mission to enhance the global coffee sector and promote its sustainable development, the organization has played a crucial role in facilitating international cooperation and ensuring the economic stability of coffee-producing nations.

2. Composition and founding documents

The International Coffee Organization comprises member Governments from both coffee-exporting and coffee-importing countries. Currently, the organization's membership includes 49 members of all regions of the globe, including the European Union, and 75 countries, including the 27 members of the European Union, representing 93 per cent of global coffee production and 63 per cent of world consumption:

The International Coffee Agreement, a legally binding document outlining the objectives, principles and operational guidelines of the International Coffee Organization, governs the organization's operations. The Agreement has undergone periodic revisions to address the evolving dynamics of the global coffee market, with the most recent agreement being the International Coffee Agreement 2022, not yet in force, which emphasizes sustainable development, poverty reduction and fair trade practices within the coffee sector.

3. Objectives

The primary objectives of the International Coffee Organization are to promote international cooperation on coffee matters, provide a forum for consultations on coffee-related issues and facilitate the expansion and transparency of the international coffee market. Furthermore, the organization aims to promote sustainable coffee economy practices that improve the standards of living and working conditions in coffee-producing areas, develop strategies to enhance the resilience of coffee farmers to market fluctuations and climate change and encourage the consumption of coffee through market development activities.

4. Institutional structure

The institutional structure of the International Coffee Organization is designed to support its mission and objectives through a collaborative approach. The main bodies within the organization include: the International Coffee Council, which is the highest authority responsible for policy decisions and strategic direction; the Executive Board, which oversees the implementation of Council decisions and manages administrative affairs; and various committees and working groups that focus on specific areas such as promotion, market development and sustainability. The secretariat serves as the operational arm, executing day-to-day activities and providing support to the Council and Committees.

5. International engagement

The International Coffee Organization has a long-standing tradition of engaging with various international organizations, Governments and non-governmental entities to further its objectives. Notable collaborations include those with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on agricultural practices and sustainability, the International Labour Organization (ILO) to improve labour conditions in the coffee sector and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to address trade-related challenges and opportunities. In addition, the organization works closely with the Global Coffee Platform to promote sustainable coffee practices and certifications and with numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on initiatives aimed at poverty reduction and social development in coffee-producing regions.

6. Relations with the United Nations

The International Coffee Organization has historically maintained a close relationship with various United Nations agencies and programmes. With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the organization has signed a joint declaration, in 2018, to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial agribusiness development for cooperation in order to enhance the effectiveness of their respective efforts within the coffee value chain in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

The International Coffee Organization has celebrated a memorandum of understanding with FAO, in 2004 : to promote synergies and improve coordination in order to use their resources dedicated to development projects relating to the coffee sector more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of their respective members, in particular the coffee-producing countries; to cooperate in organizing meetings dedicated to identifying needs and deficiencies to develop effective project proposals relating to the coffee sector compatible with their priorities and criteria; to explore ways in which FAO could collaborate with the organization, to assist in project monitoring and evaluation procedures; and to provide assistance to the organization in formulating, implementing and evaluating development projects in the sector.

The goals of the International Coffee Organization align with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including: no poverty; zero hunger; decent work and economic growth; responsible consumption and production; and climate action. Through participation in global dialogues and initiatives spearheaded by the United Nations, the organization has contributed to discussions on trade, development and sustainability, thereby supporting broader United Nations objectives.

7. Reasons for requesting observer status in the General Assembly

The request of the International Coffee Organization for observer status in the General Assembly is driven by several key reasons. Enhanced cooperation with States Members of the United Nations would be facilitated, enabling more effective joint efforts to address the challenges facing the global coffee sector. The organization represents a significant number of countries and stakeholders within the coffee industry, and observer status would provide a platform to voice the concerns and interests of both coffee-producing and coffee-consuming nations. Furthermore, the organization's active contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture and fair trade, would be bolstered. Participation in Assembly sessions would allow the organization to influence policy discussions and decisions impacting the global coffee sector and its sustainability. Lastly, observer status would enable the organization to

share its expertise, data and best practices with a wider audience, fostering a more informed and cohesive approach to addressing coffee-related issues globally.

8. Satisfaction of the legal criteria

The legal nature of the International Coffee Organization is that of an intergovernmental body composed primarily of States Members of the United Nations, as clearly determined in article 43, *inter alia*, contained in the International Coffee Agreement 2007 and its previous versions.

It therefore satisfies the legal criteria set out in General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, in which the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, decided that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly.

9. Conclusion

In the light of the above, Brazil respectfully requests observer status in the General Assembly to be granted to the International Coffee Organization. This status would not only strengthen the organization's ability to support and advance the interests of its member countries but also enhance the collaborative efforts between the organization and the United Nations towards achieving common goals. The International Coffee Organization is committed to contributing its expertise and resources to the global community, and observer status would significantly bolster these efforts.

We look forward to a positive consideration of our request and to the opportunity to further our collaborative engagement with the General Assembly and Member States.

Annex II**Draft resolution****Observer status for the International Coffee Organization in the General Assembly**

The General Assembly,

Desiring to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Coffee Organization,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Coffee Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.
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