

## **The Abidjan declaration on the coffee crisis**

The 43rd General Assembly of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) met for its Annual session in Abidjan on 19-20 November 2003, under the chairmanship of Mr. Moampea Mbio, Secretary of State for Commercial and Industrial Development for the Republic of Cameroon.

Given the continued fall in world coffee prices with adverse consequences for African coffee producing countries,

Considering that excess supply is one of the causes of the coffee crisis,

Considering that international cooperation contributes to solutions to this crisis,

Given the necessity of supporting technological and scientific research to strengthen the African coffee industry's competitiveness,

Invite the United States of America and Canada to rejoin the International Coffee Organization in order to strengthen international cooperation,

Require the IACO Member countries' governments and donors to bring consistent financial support to technological and scientific research in order to increase the competitiveness of the African coffee industry,

Call for the European Union to reduce the debt of the African countries affected by the coffee crisis,

Congratulate the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on having taken the opportunity for the 43rd General Assembly to install its national and technical committees for the promotion of domestic consumption of coffee,

Invite other members of the Organization to act similarly as soon as possible in order to contribute to the reduction of excess supply,

Invite donors, namely the ADB, CFC, AFREXIMBANK and the European Union to bring their financial support to the development of this promotional activity in the framework of poverty alleviation.