

## **SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE WORSENING WORLD COFFEE CRISIS**

We, the Presidents of coffee producing countries – Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Dominican Republic – meeting in Lima on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Latin American Summit Conference, wish to express our very grave concern at the worsening of the coffee crisis currently affecting large sections of the population in our countries. We undertake to strengthen channels of coordination and harmonization and to carry out immediate measures to resolve this crisis. For this purpose we hereby agree:

To instruct our Ministers to analyze this complex situation and seek means of coordinated action by our Governments.

We agree on the need for all producing countries which are Members of the World Trade Organization or have expressed an interest in joining that Organization to eliminate any practices that distort the coffee trade.

We reiterate our support for efforts by all coffee producing countries to carry out a coffee quality-improvement programme as the most adequate medium-term measure both for improving the quality of coffee and for reducing world coffee stocks to avoid further falls in international coffee prices. We also deem it important that at the next meeting of the Quality Committee of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) progress be made in furthering the objective of drafting minimum coffee quality standards, a measure which will doubtless help to achieve the purposes indicated above.

We request the cooperation of major consuming countries, such as the United States of America, in the adoption of minimum quality standards for imports of green coffee as soon as possible.

We urge international organizations and multilateral credit agencies to carry out studies on the world coffee crisis and possible solutions to this problem, focussing on concrete proposals on matters such as production policies, organised crop management, research and agricultural extension, diversification, development of human capital in coffee areas, the physical infrastructure, environmental programmes and specialty coffees.

Lima, 24 November 2001