

50
years



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

ICC 111-12

10 September 2013
Original: Portuguese

E

International Coffee Council
111th Session
9 – 12 September 2013
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Statement by His Excellency,
Mr Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister of
Agriculture of the Republic of Angola
to the 111th Session of the International
Coffee Council on 9 September 2013**

Your Excellency, Don José Ángel López Camposeco, Chairman of the International Coffee Council,
Mr Robério Oliveira Silva, Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization,
Your Excellency, the Governor of the State of Minas Gerais,
Distinguished Representatives of the Governments of ICO Member countries,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola I wish to thank you for the invitation to participate in this magnificent celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Coffee Organization.

The International Coffee Organization (ICO), as the main intergovernmental body on coffee matters, bringing together exporting and importing countries for the promotion of international cooperation in addressing the challenges facing the coffee world, has, since its establishment, safeguarded the interests of the global coffee sector. In the 50th year we are now commemorating, ICO Member countries account for 97% of world coffee production and over 80% of world consumption.

Many difficulties had to be overcome during these 50 years of existence, but adjustment programmes based on policies approved under the various International Coffee Agreements which operated with considerable success, have enabled us to overcome all these difficulties.

We are now living in a globalized world which increasingly requires greater synergies between the various governments and international organizations. For this reason, we welcome the efforts being made to strengthen our activities with other international organizations. The internal balance of a healthy dialogue between producers and consumers has also been reinforced. This trend should continue in the future to promote a greater and better balance between producing countries on the one hand and consuming countries on the other. We need to ensure that producers, particularly small producers, can see the results of their work, which can also enable them to guarantee a livelihood to satisfy the basic needs of their families.

It is with great satisfaction that we can affirm that the work of over half a century has crystallized and the relation between exporting and importing countries has been regulated with the adoption of joint measures that aim for coffee market unity.

Your Excellencies, Angola, which was a founding Member State of this important Organization, was once the world's third largest coffee producer. The setbacks that the war caused in the country affected agriculture as a whole and coffee growing in particular; indeed, these were the two areas most affected. Large and medium farms were abandoned and most of them remained inactive for many years. Populations moved to safer areas. This situation led to a decline in the country's coffee production.

Nevertheless, coffee farming is deeply rooted in the tradition of rural families. Coffee was part of the diversification process in the social structure, it promoted the growth and development of urban life and made history as one of the country's sources of wealth.

With a view to rescuing these values and in the context of diversification policies for the national economy, the Government of the Republic of Angola has been establishing its coffee policy on the following basis:

- Promotion of coffee growing by rural families and its inclusion in strategic targets of policies;
- Rehabilitation and renovation of farms with expanded programmes for production of seedlings;
- Promotion of technical assistance programmes for family producers and coffee entrepreneurs;
- Rehabilitation of the coffee industry, including processing equipment;
- Development of the roasting and grinding industry, aiming to add value to the local product before export;
- Revitalization of coffee research and experimentation.

A valuable contribution to these activities was made by the Common Fund for Commodities, which, under the supervision of the ICO, co-financed with the Government of Angola the implementation of the project to rehabilitate coffee in one of the country's traditional coffee producing regions. Our strategies include dissemination of the experience gained from the process to other regions in the country.

I take the opportunity offered by this occasion to express my sincere thanks to the Common Fund for Commodities and the ICO.

I also wish to take advantage of this opportunity to indicate the availability of the Government of Angola in maintaining technical-institutional relations with the ICO in the implementation of projects for the recovery of the country's coffee growing.

On behalf of the Government of Angola I wish to thank you again for the invitation of the International Coffee Organization to participate in this great event. To the Brazilian Government and especially to the Government of the State of Minas Gerais and of this beautiful city of Belo Horizonte as well as to the fraternal people of Brazil we express our heartfelt thanks for this warm hospitality.

Long live the International Coffee Organization!

Thank you.