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**Statement by Mr Aloys Ntakirutimana,
General Director of the Burundi Regulatory
Authority of the Coffee Sector
to the 111th Session of the International
Coffee Council on 9 September 2013**

Mr Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity in joining others to offer many thanks on behalf of the Republic of Burundi and His Excellency the President of Burundi, The Honourable Pierre Nkurunziza, to the Brazilian Government for hosting the 50th anniversary of the ICO.

Mr Chairman, we thank particularly the State of Minas Gerais for its warm welcome.

Mr Chairman, our appreciation goes also to the ICO, through its Executive Director, for the support it has provided to Burundi for different projects that have made a positive impact on the livelihood of our small farmers.

Mr Chairman, Burundi obviously cannot produce the same quantity of coffee as Brazil, given its size, but it is indeed a force to reckon with when it comes to producing specialty coffee. For this reason, it has been chosen by AFCA (African Fine Coffees Association) to host the 11th AFCA Conference from 12 to 15 February 2014.

Mr Chairman, let me take this wonderful opportunity to ask that this show of unity be replicated in 2014 in Bujumbura, Burundi, when it will be hosting the 11th Conference of AFCA. The African Fine Coffees Association is a very important Organization because 90% of coffee produced in Africa comes from AFCA.

Mr Chairman, let me finish by saying that in view of what people may read on the Internet, it will be very difficult for some of them to come to Burundi. It is obvious that Burundi is a post-conflict country, but a stable democratic country, having organized two successful democratic elections, one in 2005 and the second in 2010. It is a country that can organize peaceful elections, and it can also host an international Conference of the size of AFCA. So please let us meet in Bujumbura in 2014.

Mr Chairman, I would like to finish my remarks by once again thanking the Brazilian people for their warm welcome.