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**Statement by Dr Juma Ngasongwa,
Head of the Tanzanian Delegation
to the 111th Session of the
International Coffee Council
on 9 September 2013**

Mr Chairman and Your Excellencies,
Ministers and Delegates,

On behalf of my Government and the Tanzanian Delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in thanking the Government of Brazil for hosting this 50th anniversary celebrations in one of its big coffee producing regions of the country, Minas Gerais.

We appreciate this opportunity to exchange views with our producer counterparts from whom we can learn how best to manage the crop.

We ask all delegates in this event to note that we are celebrating the anniversary of the ICO in painful conditions when coffee prices are very low. Let us use this opportunity to dialogue on this matter and probably propose an answer, since what we see is fluctuations which if left to continue will result in a price crash. Are we heading for another coffee crisis? Let ICO play this role to tell us what happens and how we can do away with price volatility in order to make the crop sustainable and a valuable global business for producers and consumers. Thus, I appeal to all stakeholders of this important crop to support the sector's sustainability, especially in terms of pricing and marketing policies that will eliminate price volatilities, as well as agronomic measures which address pests and diseases and thus improve the quality of coffee.

We also support the idea floated here by our brothers from Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Ethiopia that the next World Coffee Conference be held in Africa where coffee originated and is produced overwhelmingly by smallholder farmers.

The crop is determinant for poverty eradication which is one of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you for your attention.