

50  
years



INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION

ICC 111-25

30 September 2013  
Original: Portuguese

E

International Coffee Council  
111<sup>th</sup> Session  
9 – 12 September 2013  
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

**Statement by the Delegate of Timor-Leste  
at the 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the International  
Coffee Council, on 9 September 2013**

Mr Chairman,  
Executive Director,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for this opportunity.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, I would like to express our warmest thanks for the invitation sent to our Government by the Secretariat of the International Coffee Organization. This invitation enabled Timor-Leste to be represented at this important Session of the International Coffee Council.

I would also like to congratulate the Governments of the State of Minas Gerais and of Brazil for all the support they have given to ensure the success of this event.

Timor-Leste is a very small country in Southeast Asia, situated to the north of Australia, which became independent 11 years ago. The country has a small population of around 1.1 million inhabitants and a relatively small coffee population. Nevertheless, coffee has long provided a livelihood for 30% of our population and for this reason we consider that commercial coffee production has an important role in the economic lives of our people.

We hope that the international market can continue to absorb our coffee and thereby continue to contribute to our country's development by generating income for our coffee farming population as well as contributing to poverty reduction in our country, which is still included in the list of the world's least developed countries.

In this context, we have some problems to face, mainly regarding the quality of our coffee production and processing, in order to compete in the international market. The problems to be overcome are technological and financial and must be solved to enable us to continue improving our coffee production and processing to meet with the quality requirements of the international market.

In these circumstances, it would seem appropriate to appeal to the International Coffee Organization to provide technical and financial support to improve coffee production in Timor-Leste and so enable our coffee to continue to be absorbed in the international market.

Thank you for your attention.