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Black coffee twig borer

**Statement by the Delegate of Uganda to
the 111th Session of the International Coffee
Council on 12 September 2013**

Mr Chairman,
Executive Director,
Distinguished Delegates,

We, the Ugandan delegation, express concern regarding the outbreak of the black coffee twig borer (BCTB) which has reached epidemic levels in Uganda with the potential to spread within East and Central Africa, which could have a grave impact on the livelihoods of the coffee growers. We hereby appeal to the Council to note this and take measures to support national and regional strategies to combat this infestation.

The current outbreak of black twig borer in coffee is affecting the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In Uganda, the incidence has been registered at 8.6%, causing a loss of 40% of the affected crop. It is the worst seen since this pest appeared in Africa in 1993, and has led Uganda to declare a phytosanitary emergency so as to trigger the necessary national measures to combat the black coffee twig borer.

It is estimated that US\$42 million worth of Uganda's coffee (about 0.27 million bags of exportable coffee in Uganda) have already been lost as a result of the black coffee twig borer in coffee year 2012/13, and this will bring about a systematic reduction in the region's production as from coffee year 2013/14; Governments and the private coffee sector in the region, together are making joint efforts to address this.

Given the importance of coffee growing in the region, which has more than 2 million coffee growers and directly provides a livelihood for more than 8 million people in East and Central Africa, this epidemic is expected to have a profound impact on the societies and economies of the region.

We call upon Members of the international community, through the relevant cooperation mechanisms, to offer assistance to the affected countries.