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National coffee policy of Gabon

**Statement by the Head of the Delegation
of Gabon Mr Léon Paul N'goulakia to the
112th Session of the International Coffee Council
on 7 March 2014**

Mr Executive Director,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address this illustrious assembly on behalf of the Gabonese Government to outline the changes in our national coffee policy to be introduced in the very near future.

The Gabonese Government fully intends to implement the recommendations of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in relation to actively encouraging producing Member countries to establish national plans or policies for developing the coffee sector.

For this purpose the Gabonese Government, which is fully committed to the fight against poverty through implementation of the Strategic Plan for Developing Gabon, 2011 – 2016, is aiming to promote the recovery of coffee with public/private partnerships and a complete reorganisation of the sector in order to achieve coffee production of 2000 tonnes by 2018. This framework document provides for:

- Supporting local populations in the rehabilitation of coffee farms using high-yield plant material;
- Reorganising the regulatory framework;
- Promoting partnerships aimed at facilitating marketing and access to markets;

- Reorganising the coffee chain marketing system by restructuring the CAISTAB and by enabling producer organisations to participate in the governance of this body.

It should be noted that the efforts made by the Gabonese Government both in structural and policy terms have not yet produced the results envisaged for the development of the coffee sector in view of the lack of a cooperation framework.

Three months ago the Gabonese Government, through the CAISTAB, established the groundwork for the formulation of a national strategy for the revival of coffee, with the cooperation of experts and all actors involved in the coffee sector in Gabon.

We are convinced that the reorganisation of the coffee sector in Gabon can only be achieved with the combined efforts and coordinated action of public and private sector actors at both national and international level.

The first steps have made it possible to:

- Carry out a critical analysis of the background of the coffee sector in Gabon;
- Identify opportunities and constraints;
- Identify participating local parties.

As a result, we were able to identify the medium and long-term activities to be carried out in order to achieve increased production as well as improvements in quality and marketing.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We believe that this national strategy for the recovery of the coffee sector has brought hope to our producers by taking into account their real problems as well as those of the sector as a whole.

We look forward to presenting the national strategy for the rehabilitation of the coffee sector in Gabon to this Council in the near future.

Thank you.