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**Statement by H.E. Mr Berhanu Kebede
Ambassador Plenipotentiary and
Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia to the 112th Session of
the International Coffee Council
on 7 March 2014**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Executive Director,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, the ICO has reached a consensus decision on the venue of the 4th World Coffee Conference. The 4th World Coffee Conference is going to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – and the continent of Africa which prides itself as the origin of the Arabica coffee.

Today, ICO Member countries have a reason to celebrate the wisdom of its Member countries for continuing the tradition of consensus. In the same tradition the decision to host the 4th World Coffee Conference in Addis Ababa is reached in the spirit of solidarity between a producing and consuming country.

In this regard, I would like to thank the African Group and the InterAfrican Coffee Organisation (IACO) for speaking with one voice to support Ethiopia's candidature, despite the fact that Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya were among those interested to host the Conference.

I also would like to deeply appreciate Colombia for taking the lead in the 112th Council Session to withdraw its candidature in the spirit of giving the chance for those that have not had a chance.

I thank the producing countries group lead by Ambassador Marcos Pinta Gama of Brazil for showing an unwavering support for the spirit of consensus and the case of Ethiopia, and for those that have clearly shown their support to us.

We have witnessed a qualitative type of consensus brought about between a producing country and an importing country – in this particular case Ethiopia and Italy. Mr Chairman, allow me to thank the Italian delegation, for the decision it has reached to give the turn to

Africa and Ethiopia to host the 4th World Coffee Conference. The consensus reached is a true reflection of the long standing cordial relations which our respective countries happily continue to enjoy.

Mr Robério Silva, I would like to express my deep appreciation to you and your entire secretariat for the professional and transparent manner you treated the agenda and the crucial role you played in building consensus.

Last but not least, I thank Mr Jawaid Akhtar for his able leadership in steering us through this decision.

On this occasion, I would like to also ask the Council to include the issue of World Coffee Conference on its agenda during the regular sessions that take place between now and the time the conference takes place in 2016.

Ethiopia welcomes the ICO Coffee family to their original home of coffee.

I assure you that the 4th World Coffee Conference will be a memorable and a successful one.

I thank you!