



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

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International Coffee Council
113th Session
22 – 26 September 2014
London, United Kingdom

**Request for observer status in
September 2014 and future years**

**African and Malagasy Robusta
Coffee Agency (ACRAM)**

Background

1. Rule 5 of the Rules of the Organization (see Annex I) provides that any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session (i.e. by 7 August 2014).
2. The Executive Director has received a request to observe the 113th Council Session from 22 to 26 September 2014 and Council Sessions in future years from the African and Malagasy Robusta Coffee Agency (ACRAM) (see Annex II).
3. As provided for in Rule 5, comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session (i.e. 5 September 2014). At least 10 days prior to the session (i.e. 12 September 2014), the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this.

Action

The Council is requested to consider this request.

RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION**RULE 5
Observers**

1. Any organization referred to in Article 16 of the Agreement, including private sector coffee associations and bodies, may request observer status at a session of the Council, by submitting such a request in writing to the Executive Director at least 45 days prior to the session.
2. The written request shall indicate the Agenda items of interest. If necessary, the Executive Director will request any additional information needed by the Council in considering such requests. At least 30 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall circulate to all Members the names of organizations requesting observer status, along with additional information and a proposal for Council action on each request.
3. Comments and/or possible objections by Members to the above requests shall be communicated in writing to the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the session. At least 10 days prior to the session, the Executive Director shall distribute to all Members any comments on such requests and provide information to the interested applicants on this. At the start of each Session, the Council shall decide on acceptance of observers and designate the items on the Agenda of the Council open to accepted observers.
4. The Council may also invite organizations and individuals to attend Council Sessions to make presentations or to make a contribution on a specific topic to be considered by the Council. Observers shall have no voice in the proceedings of the Council, its committees and subsidiary bodies, except by invitation of the respective Chairmen.

AFRICAN AND MALAGASY ROBUSTA COFFEE AGENCY (ACRAM)

Libreville, 22 July 2014

Mr Robério Oliveira Silva
Executive Director
International Coffee Organization
22 Berners Street
London W1T 3DD

Dear Mr Silva,

Application for admission as an observer at Sessions of the Council of the International Coffee Organization (ICO)

Following our previous discussions, the African and Malagasy Robusta Coffee Agency (ACRAM) request its admission as an observer at Sessions of the Council of the ICO, as from the next meetings to be held in London from 22 to 26 September 2014.

The ACRAM is an international association which seeks to unite the actors in the coffee industry in order to promote the Robusta coffees of Africa and Madagascar.

Founded in Yaoundé on 20 November 2007, the ACRAM assembles actors of both public and private sectors which are active in countries such as Cameroon, Gabon, Liberia, the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Angola, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, France and Switzerland. These members include producers, producer organizations, exporters, roasters, service providers, cooperatives and non-governmental organizations.

The ACRAM is a technical and professional organization whose aim is to promote the image of Robusta Coffee, thus hoping to unite different players of the sector, aspiring to become a force in the coffee economy of Africa and Madagascar, alongside other organizations such as the InterAfrican Coffee Organisation (IACO) and the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA), with which it is developing a mutually beneficial cooperation for all parties.

The objective of the ACRAM is to be a multiparty platform which encourages the traditional sector to progress towards more sustainable production in a competitive environment, in which all actors concerned will be able to participate and pool their efforts in order to make the Robusta coffee of Africa and Madagascar more competitive.

Moreover, its missions include:

- To promote Robusta coffee from Africa and Madagascar.
- To carry out research on improving the revenues and living conditions of producers.
- To research and devise models of endogenous development.
- To provide concrete support to African and Malagasy organizations of coffee.
- To create an exchange network.
- To mobilize and develop synergies within the market.
- To encourage the transformation and local consumption of Robusta coffee in Africa and Madagascar.

Thus, we consider it essential for our objectives, which include your own, to strengthen the formal link between our two organizations through observer status at Council Sessions of the ICO.

Best wishes,

(signed) Léon – Paul N’Goulakia