



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

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**Memorandum of Understanding between  
the International Coffee Organization and  
the International Women’s Coffee Alliance**

## **Background**

1. This document contains a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the International Women’s Coffee Alliance (IWCA) to enhance the quality, strength and sustainability of the international coffee sector. This collaboration will take place under the ‘Cooperation for Vision 2030’ initiative.
2. Further information on the background to this collaboration is attached in the Annex.
3. The Memorandum of Understanding was originally circulated as document [WP-Council 292/18](#) and approved by the Council during its 122<sup>nd</sup> Session from 17 to 21 September 2018.



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COFFEE ALLIANCE**

The International Coffee Organization,

and

the International Women's Coffee Alliance, (hereinafter 'the Parties')

Recognizing the International Coffee Organization (ICO) as the main intergovernmental body responsible for addressing the challenges facing the world coffee sector through fostering close cooperation at an international level between ICO Members, international organizations, the private sector and all other stakeholders;

Taking into account the ICO's Five-Year Action Plan 2017-2021 with the following Strategic objectives: I. Delivering world-class data, analysis and information to the industry and policy-makers; II. Using the Organization's convening power to provide a forum for dialogue between and within the public and private sectors; and III. Facilitating the development of projects and promotion programmes through public-private partnerships;

Recognizing the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) as a non-profit, public benefit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, USA, the mission of which is to empower women in the international coffee community to achieve meaningful and sustainable lives; and to encourage and recognize the participation of women in all aspects of the coffee industry;

Taking into account the role of the IWCA as a global and inclusive platform, connecting, empowering and advancing coffee communities across the global coffee sector, and its potential to contribute to the Vision 2030 goals through its networks of local organizations in 22 countries ('IWCA Chapters') and with growing interest among several other countries, strategic partners and supporters of the IWCA global organization among the private, public, and NGO sectors;

Confirming the commitment of the Parties to promote women empowerment and inclusion as a means of achieving sustainable development through social and economic progress in coffee-producing countries while protecting natural resources;

Recognizing that inclusion, data-driven decision-making, and cooperation have enormous potential to promote economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in coffee-producing countries;

Further acknowledging the need to globally address systemic sustainability issues, such as climate change, access to finance, productivity and profitability, effective market flow, access, and development, labour supply and conditions, and accurate and appropriate information collection and dissemination;

Appreciating the opportunity and significant role that the Parties can play in facilitating said approach to engagement and decision-making, co-responsibility and active contributions to increase resilience, economic, social and environmental sustainability in the coffee value chain to assure the long-term viability of the coffee industry;

Taking into account the respective mandates, objectives and programmes of the Parties;

HEREBY agree:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **PURPOSE**

1. To confirm the Parties' agreement in principle regarding the proposed collaboration, thus allowing the Parties to advocate and catalyze resources and investments by governments, industry and civil society in order to collectively strengthen sustainability across the global coffee sector.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes an expression of the Parties' mutual intent only and does not constitute a legally binding obligation or contract to enter into the collaboration, transactions or arrangements identified or described herein, except that the provisions of this paragraph 2 of Article 1 and Article 4, shall constitute binding obligations of the Parties. No other obligation shall arise prior to the execution and delivery of separate agreements between the Parties.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The Parties shall, within their available capabilities and respective capacities, focus their partnership on the following areas of work:

- (i) Identify opportunities to incorporate gender distinctions in data collection, including labour statistics, land ownership, coffee production and consumption, investments and investing, representation in leadership roles and decision-making bodies, etc.
- (ii) Foster inclusion of, engagement with, and ongoing collaboration among diverse results-driven leaders, including women, with experience in enhancing the quality, strength and sustainability of the international coffee sector.

2. Where appropriate, the ICO will welcome and actively encourage the extension of these collaborative areas of work to include other initiatives that complement the aims and objectives of this Memorandum.

3. In order to further develop Vision 2030, the Parties, in close cooperation with key stakeholders and other initiatives, shall take into account the progress made to date and shall seek advice, input and commitment from key coffee stakeholders from the public and private sectors, both on a national and international level.

4. All activities covered by this Memorandum of Understanding shall be aligned with and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. When enabling public-private dialogue on coffee sector sustainability at a global level, the Parties shall include funding agencies in order to foster understanding and financial support for the implementation of the agreed priority agendas and strategies at international, national and local levels. The identification of priority needs and action plans should include a focus on the following interventions in coffee communities:

- i. Leadership and capacity-building.
- ii. Systemic community improvement.
- iii. Training and education.
- iv. Physical infrastructure investments and renovations.
- v. Policy and project development and implementation.

6. The specific objectives, commitments and contributions of the Parties under this Memorandum of Understanding, including monitoring and evaluation arrangements, shall be further elaborated and agreed upon between the Parties.

7. Within their capabilities and in accordance with their regulations, the Parties agree to explore possibilities to dedicate in kind and/or other resources and related actions. Further details will be worked out and agreed between the Parties in writing.

8. Within their capabilities and in accordance with their regulations, the Parties shall endeavour to establish mechanisms to support stakeholders in the world coffee sector. This shall take the form of establishing relationships and collaboration for effective agenda-setting, offering services to members, including gathering of and facilitating access to knowledge and information, mobilizing resources from public and private organizations to finance locally agreed and prioritized activities for the benefit of coffee farming communities.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **COORDINATION**

1. To track progress of the cooperation over time and to discuss matters of mutual interest, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding commit to implement the following coordination measures:

- (a) Organize at least two coordination meetings between the respective secretariats every year.
- (b) Provide regular updates to the International Coffee Council about the partnership when appropriate.

### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. This Memorandum of Understanding does not imply any commitment to the transfer of financial resources between the Parties.

2. Intellectual property rights, in particular copyright, of material such as information, software and design, made available by the Parties to be used to carry out the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain unaffected.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on 20 September 2018 and shall remain in force for a period of three years. It may be renewed for equal periods of three years upon written request of both Parties six months before its expiration.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated, in full or in part, by written notification from either of the Parties. Termination shall be effective ninety days after the date of notification.

5. This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual consent agreed to in writing by duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

6. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved exclusively through consultations and negotiations. In the event that a dispute cannot be solved amicably through consultations and negotiations, the Memorandum of Understanding shall terminate on a date agreed to between the Parties. The Parties hereby specifically agree not to engage in legal proceedings in court.

Signed in London, United Kingdom, on 20 September 2018 in English.

For the International Coffee Organization

For the International Women's Coffee Alliance

José Sette,  
Executive Director  
International Coffee Organization

Kellem Emanuele,  
President  
IWCA Global Board of Directors

**BACKGROUND PAPER ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE  
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COFFEE ALLIANCE**

## **Background**

Founded in 2003, the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) is a globally operating non-profit organization that is actively working to empower women in the international coffee community to improve their lives, communities, and sustainability of the coffee industry. As of June 2018, the IWCA is a global organization with a network of connected, independently-run local organizations ('IWCA Chapters') in 22 countries. The IWCA provides a protocol which must be followed for an organization to become a formally recognized chapter.

The IWCA is volunteer-driven at the global and local levels, and has not yet become a fully-staffed organization. The growth and maintenance of the IWCA has been achieved through the drive and vision of both volunteers and investments, in kind and financial, from strategic partners such as the National Coffee Association USA, Specialty Coffee Association, International Trade Centre, private sector partners, NGOs, and numerous others. In recognition of its unique role in the global coffee industry, the IWCA was approved as a member of the Private Sector Consultative Board of the ICO during the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coffee Council in March 2014.

Recognizing the critical role of data to inform and enable effective policy, programmatic, and investment decisions, the IWCA Research Alliance was formed to address the absence of credible gender data in the coffee sector. The IWCA Research Alliance is a network of researchers and partners focused on collecting credible data on topics of critical importance to advance the IWCA's mission and the sustainability of the global coffee industry that are not otherwise pursued, supported, or funded. Members of the Research Alliance Committee include the IWCA Chapter leaders, university faculty, and other key partners.

In its work, the IWCA focuses on leadership and capacity-building to empower local leaders to achieve the goals that they set out for themselves, their companies, and communities. Given this diversity, across the IWCA global network programmes and partnerships focus on a range of topics including market development and access, coffee quality and productivity improvements, family health, financial literacy, and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. The IWCA Chapter leaders and strategic partners have unique, on-the-ground insights about challenges in the coffee industry, and the strategies most likely to overcome them.

IWCA leaders across the international coffee industry drive, working together through the IWCA Chapter model and collaboratively across the IWCA global network, are driving advancements and innovations in coffee markets, including improvements in coffee quality, productivity, and sustainability. However, much remains to be achieved.

Further information about the IWCA, including IWCA Chapters and the IWCA Research Alliance can be found at: <https://www.womenincoffee.org>.

### **Next steps**

In order to implement Vision 2030 and to enable the coffee sector to work towards the shared vision, goals and targets, including the need to grow the quality, strength, and sustainability of the international coffee sector and with different roles and contributions, the following steps are proposed:

#### Work Area 1

- i. To identify and execute any and all opportunities to incorporate gender distinctions in data collection, including labour statistics, coffee production and consumption, investments and investing, inclusion in decision-making bodies, etc.

#### *Activities*

- The ICO Secretariat and ICO Members are invited to join the IWCA Research Alliance as a Committee member.
- ICO staff and IWCA Research Alliance Committee members will convene to explore shared gender-related data collection needs and identify strategies to address them.

#### *Anticipated Outcomes*

- Data disaggregated by gender has been shown to make intervention investments more effective.
- Gender data collection is increasingly important to investors such as public-private partnerships, international donors, financial agencies, and others. The availability of this data at international and national levels can make projects and programmes more attractive investments for these groups.

#### Work Area 2

- ii. To improve inclusion of, engagement with, and ongoing collaboration among diverse results-driven leaders with a track record growing the quality, strength, and sustainability of the international coffee sector.



*Activities*

- The IWCA and ICO will work proactively to identify, connect, and include IWCA Chapter leaders with relevant ICO Member country- or region-specific events, engagement activities, programmes, policy-making bodies, leadership groups and others.
- The IWCA and ICO will work proactively to identify, connect, and include ICO Members in relevant IWCA Chapter, region-specific events, engagement activities, etc.

*Anticipated Outcomes*

- The inclusion and engagement of diverse perspectives, particularly among leadership and policy-setting groups, has been demonstrated to produce more innovative strategies and directions for long-term success.
- Active inclusion and collaborative engagement is a concrete and tangible action that delivers progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to the advantage of developing solutions that more effectively and directly resonate and, as a result, more efficiently address the challenge/s targeted.