



**Report of the 53rd meeting of
the Private Sector Consultative
Board held on 4 October 2022**

The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB), chaired by Mr Anil Kumar Bhandari of the India Coffee Trust (ICT), held its 53rd meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, on Tuesday 4 October 2022.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Board adopted the draft Agenda contained in document [PSCB-175/22](#).

Item 2: Report on the 52nd meeting held on 29 March 2022

2. The Board approved the report of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 contained in document [PSCB-174/22](#).

Item 3: Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF)

3. The Chair of the PSCB invited the CPPTF Coordinator to provide an update on the activities of the Task Force over the period April–September 2022. He outlined the progress made across the various technical workstreams, the outreach work carried out and the achievements in terms of funding mobilization and membership drive. A full slide deck was provided.

4. The Chair enquired as to whether the CPPTF had carried out any assessments on the success of existing legislation on gender transformation/equality. The Coordinator explained that work on mapping regulations on this topic had started in

the importing countries, but resource constraints prevented it from going beyond this scope at the present time.

5. The Board took note of the report.

Item 4: Integration of the private sector in the new ICA

6. The Head of Operations outlined the key elements of the new ICA:

- Creation of a formal role for civil societies and the private sector within the framework of the new ICA and the Organization.
- Streamlining of the work of the Organization, terms and objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and update of the concept of prosperous living income.
- Reconsideration of the methodology for budget calculation and the role of Importing and Exporting Members.

7. The Head of Operations explained that the key work of the Board for the future is to define the following:

- What constitutes an Affiliate Member and how to be an Affiliate Member.
- Transformation of the CPPTF to a Coffee Public-Private Working Party (CPPWP).
- Terms of Reference of the Board of Affiliate Members.

8. A delegate from Colombia expressed hope that the new mandate of the Organization, through the new ICA, would represent the interests of coffee farmers.

9. Many Members raised concerns about the possibility of erosion of the inter-governmental status of the Organization with the introduction of civil society and the private sector within the new ICA. Members stressed the importance of maintaining this inter-governmental status, with the Council as the ultimate source of authority of the Organization. Safeguarding the inter-governmental status when defining the terms of reference of the Board of Affiliate Members was emphasized.

10. A delegate from Papua New Guinea assured Members that the new ICA has many safeguards built into it that would ensure the maintenance of the inter-governmental status of the Organization. This assurance was also made by a delegate

from Brazil, while highlighting the fact that the PSCB's access to the Council is limited to its Chair and Spokesperson. Moreover, the delegate from Brazil stated the benefits of dynamism and market realism brought to the Organization and the Council by the private sector.

11. A delegate from Brazil re-emphasized the dynamic role played by the private sector within an organization like the ICO, stating that it is the private sector that first feels the impact of recommendations from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the fact that they bring this market reality to the Council through the Board, at which point concerns are addressed politically through the Organization. The delegate reiterated to the Board that this marriage of technical and political abilities is the ICO's core strength, which makes it very strong going forward.

12. A delegate from Côte d'Ivoire also re-emphasized the importance of the public-private sector body with its respective roles, and that the Council is the ultimate source of all authority within the ICO. This was re-affirmed by a delegate from Colombia.

13. The comments and assurances from the delegate from Papua New Guinea raised in Agenda item 4 were fully confirmed and endorsed by a delegate from the European Union. It was further stated that the voices to be heard with respect to the new ICA and the ICO are not only limited to the private sector, but also extend to civil societies, including associations of small farmers.

14. A delegate from Brazil suggested forming an informal body comprising the PSCB and the Secretariat to address concerns in regard to the inclusion of the private sector within the new ICA and that it report to the Council. The Chair endorsed this proposal for recommendation by the Council, with the suggestion that the Council should form the required committee/body to report at the next meeting of the Council and the Board.

15. The Board took note of the report and encouraged the body that is to be formed to work on the Terms of Reference of the Board of Affiliate Members to take into account the above comments.

Item 5: EU proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products

16. The Chair opened this Agenda item with the observation that non-tariff barriers are being raised in coffee importing countries influenced by NGOs from the respective countries. The Chair expressed the opinion that recommendations from NGOs are now being fully transformed into legislation, which may have disastrous consequences for producing countries, and that serious conversations must be had on this relationship in the coming months.

17. The Head of Operations reported on the actions taken by the Secretariat on the EU proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products, as follows:

- A webinar was held on 29th April 2022
- At the 133rd Council session, held in June 2022, the European Union and the Commission for the Environment accepted an invitation for a discussion, to be held on 28th September. However, it did not take place at the time for health-related reasons, but it will now do so in the coming months.
- A policy paper was commissioned with the University of Wageningen, and a report on the preliminary findings was to be made to the Council on 7th October 2022.

18. At the request of a delegate from Côte d'Ivoire, a delegate from the EU described its legislative procedure, and stated, in reference to the legislation under discussion at this meeting, that it was currently in the triilogue mode: a discussion between the EU Commission and the core legislators – the European Parliament and European Council. The purpose of the triilogue is to find a balance between the three participants. This discussion is expected, tentatively, to conclude by the end of December 2022.

19. The Chair encouraged all countries that have already passed their own legislation on deforestation to share it with the European Union for their consideration.

20. The efforts of the Secretariat to address the legislation were acknowledged by delegates from Brazil and Côte d'Ivoire, but the former also stated that the steps taken were slow and insufficient. The delegate hoped that the new Executive Director and the Secretariat would react faster and with greater force to new challenges in the future and to requests from Members.

21. A delegate from Kenya expressed their surprise that such a discussion was taking place at this meeting, instead of the Board recommending to the Council the findings of the report already circulated.

22. The Chair encouraged all Members to make available to the Secretariat any papers officially submitted to the EU by their governments in this regard, so that the Secretariat may present a summary report at the next Council/PSCB meeting on these actions. Delegates from Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil and India expressed their support of the Chair's proposal.

23. A delegate from India outlined the actions taken so far in India, and stated that India would shortly publish its position on the EU's legislation and share it with all Members. The delegate strongly expressed the position that no country or Member is in opposition to sustainable agriculture or in favour of deforestation, and that the Council should not oppose the EU's legislation, instead proposing that implementation and guidelines should be left to individual countries. A delegate from Brazil supported the proposal.

24. A delegate from El Salvador stated the utmost importance of defining deforestation in such a way that leaves no room for interpretation. This sentiment was fully endorsed by the Chair.

Item 6: Other business

25. There was no other business. The Chair thanked all members of the PSCB for their commitment and the Secretariat for its continued support of the work of the PSCB before concluding the meeting.

Item 7: Date of next meetings

26. The Board noted that next meeting would take place at the time of the next session of the Council.