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**Statement by the Ambassador
of the Republic of Yemen to the 106th Session
of the International Coffee Council
on 28 March 2011**

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

Allow me at the outset, to express my pleasure as a representative of the Republic of Yemen to the first meeting of the International Coffee Council and the International Coffee Organization, following the entry into force of the 2007 Agreement on 2 February 2011.

As you are fully aware, Yemen has a long history in coffee production and trade and is the source of the well-known Arabica coffee known as Mocha.

The coffee crop has played a significant role in Yemenis' life for centuries.

In spite of many difficulties facing coffee growing mostly technical and natural factors we, in the Republic of Yemen look forward to get the support of the International Coffee Organization and its Members so we can develop further this important cash crop. Yemen is looking forward to enjoy the privileges offered by the ICO to its Member countries. This will provide Yemen with new channels and opportunities for trade and cooperation with other Member countries as well as improve domestic production, and increase exports.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all Member countries and observers of the Organization and wish to see an enhanced partnership between Yemen and Member countries in the near future.

Thank you very much.