

Statement

We executive heads and representatives of international commodity organizations are gathered in Beijing for our 16th Annual Meeting from 30 to 31 March 2009.

We express our concern about the long-term neglect of investment in commodity industries and value chains. This underinvestment has a negative effect on the livelihoods of as many as two and a half billion people who make their living through the production and trade of commodities, including agricultural goods, fisheries, forestry products and minerals.

The current global economic and financial crisis is worsening poverty in particular in commodity-dependent economies.

We therefore call upon the G20 to treat commodities as a critical development issue during their forthcoming meeting due to take place in April 2009 in London.

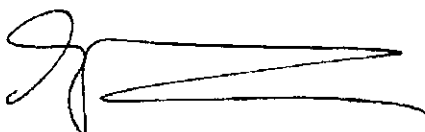
We call on the G20 to develop a global action plan to assist the commodity dependent countries, and urge all countries to honor their pledges to fund investments in commodity value chains, including those pledges made during the World Food Summit in June 2008, and to complete the Doha Development Agenda, which envisions commodity specific solutions.



Amb. Alf Mchumo

Managing Director

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)



Dr. J. Coosje Hoogendoorn

on behalf of:

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
(INBAR)

International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)

International Coffee Organization (ICO)

International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)

International Jute Study Group (IJSG)

International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG)

International Nickel Study Group (INSG)

International Olive Council (IOC)

International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)

International Sugar Organization (ISO)

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)