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**2017 Annual Meetings of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO)
Grand Bassam (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire)**

Grand Bassam Declaration

The 2017 Annual Meetings of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation comprising the 5th African Coffee Symposium and the 57th Annual General Assembly, took place from the **1st to 6th February 2018**, at Afrikland Hotel, Grand Bassam, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, under the chairmanship of **H.E. Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister of Trade, Crafts and Promotion of SMEs, current Chairman of IACO**. The theme of the 5th Symposium was *“Sustainable Coffee Development for the Emergence of the African Economy”*.

Representatives of IACO Member States, international, regional and sub-regional institutions responsible for coffee as well as many Ivorian authorities took part in the events. Following the various reports and documents presented at the Symposium, the General Assembly issued the following Declaration:

- Given the potential of the coffee industry to generate foreign exchange for IACO Member States to provide direct employment and livelihood for more than 33 million coffee producing families with low income;
- Given the capacity of the coffee sector to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Given the diversity of agro-ecological zones and the area of arable lands that offer tremendous opportunities for the coffee sector, geographical differentiation and promotion of specialty coffees;
- Taking into consideration Africa's historical position in the global coffee market as well as the current and potential supply and demand situation in the global coffee markets;
- Taking into consideration the current situation of the African coffee sector and the need to address constraints in terms of productivity improvement, quality and increasing the volume of processing and domestic consumption;
- Considering that Africa has the potential to revive its coffee industry through the development and the implementation of appropriate strategies for a greater contribution of the coffee sector in Africa's economic development;
- Given the need for African coffee-producing countries to develop strategies to reduce poverty, especially among vulnerable groups and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Given the need for African coffee-producing countries to work in partnership with the private sector to reverse the situation and revitalise the industry, to become competitive in the global market for the benefit of small-scale low-income coffee producers.

Therefore, the following actions should be taken by the Governments of Member States to increase the contribution of the coffee sector for the emergence of the African economy. The Governments of Member States are invited to present the status of implementation of these actions during the next meetings of the Organisation. These include:

- 1. Mobilise resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan to revive the African coffee sector;**
- 2. Create a conducive environment for Public-Private Partnership and for the financing of the African coffee industry;**
- 3. Promote a processing industry within Member States that promotes high quality coffee;**
- 4. Build producers' capacity for the adoption of good agricultural practices towards a sustainable coffee sector in Africa;**
- 5. Encourage programmes that promote coffee consumption within Member States;**
- 6. Operationalise the Concept Note of the IACO General Secretariat entitled: “African Coffee Corps Initiative;” and**
- 7. Implement status indicators of the Symposium recommendations.**