

**REPORT AND DECISIONS OF THE INTER-AFRICAN  
COFFEE ORGANISATION'S (IACO) 2017 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

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**GRAND-BASSAM, 06 February 2018**

The 2017 Annual Meetings of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation comprising IACO's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, ACRN's 12<sup>th</sup> Biannual General Assembly and the 5<sup>th</sup> African Coffee Symposium took place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, at AFRIKLAND Hotel, Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency **Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister for Trade, Crafts and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.**

The following Member States were represented: **Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.**

Several Ivorian personalities and representatives of the following Regional and International Institutions took part in these meetings as Observers: **Afreximbank, African Development Bank (AfDB), Agency for Robusta Coffees in Africa and Madagascar (ACRAM), Café Africa, Café Bondin-CI, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), International Coffee Organisation (ICO), Nestlé Côte d'Ivoire, Neuman Foundation, Olam International, Royal 1750 of the Republic of South Africa and UNECA.** In attendance as observers, were representatives from the Republics of Mauritania and Sudan.

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister of Trade, Crafts and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,** and Chairman of IACO for 2016 – 2017.

After the welcome address was delivered by the Mayor of Grand-Bassam, statements were delivered by the following personalities: **Mr. Enselme GOUTHON,** President of ACRAM, **Dr. Denis SEUDIEU,** representing the ICO Executive Director, **Mr. Frederick KAWUMA,** Secretary General of IACO and **H.E. Mr. Jonathan COKER,** Special Representative of **H.E. Mr. Olusegun OBASANJO,** former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Guest Speaker; and the official opening by **H.E. Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister for Commerce, Crafts and Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.**

The meetings proceeded as follows:

- African Coffee Research Network (ACRN) 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual General Assembly;
- IACO Technical Committee Meetings;
- IACO Board of Directors Meeting;
- 5<sup>th</sup> African Coffee Symposium.
- IACO 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly

## **A. AFRICAN COFFEE RESEARCH NETWORK'S (ACRN) 12<sup>TH</sup> BI-ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The African Coffee Research Network (ACRN) held its 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual General Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, alongside IACO'S 2017 Annual Meetings, at Afrikland Hôtel, Grand Bassam, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The following member states participated in this Bi-Annual General Assembly: **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Tanzania and Togo.**

### **1. Coordinating Committee**

Under the chairmanship of **Dr. Salomon NYASSE** from Cameroon, the agenda was adopted as presented. The Director of Research and Development (DRD) presented the report of the Luanda meeting, his Activity Report from October 2015 to September 2017, Work Programme and ACRN Financial Report. From discussions held after the presentations, the following recommendations were made:

- Enhance the participation of Researchers in ACRN activities;
- Create a framework for sharing experiences and research findings among Researchers of ACRN member states;
- Request Governments of member states to nominate at least two Researchers by Research Institute to participate in ACRN meetings;
- Designate two contact persons (a representative and an alternate) and a resource person in each member country to liaise between ACRN and member states for participation in scientific and technical events;
- Schedule working visits to Research Centres;
- Participate in the drafting and monitoring of research projects and reference documents;
- Prepare the 2018 African Coffee Scientific Conference;
- Disseminate documents and scientific information.

Regarding to the organisation of the 2018 African Coffee Scientific Conference, the estimated budget largely exceeds the expected annual net inflows. ACRN Coordinating Committee and IACO were advised to take concrete actions to raise additional funds.

Member states were therefore urged to regularly pay their contributions and outstanding arrears to the Network.

### **2. ACRN Bi-Annual General Assembly**

The Bi-Annual General Assembly of ACRN was chaired by **Mr. Michael OWUSU MANU from Ghana**. The agenda was amended and adopted.

The Director of Research and Development presented the report of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACRN Bi-Annual General Assembly held in Luanda, Angola, in November 2015; and **Mr. AMETEFE Komivi Exonam** from Togo presented the oral report of the decisions of the Coordinating Committee held in December 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. At the end of the presentations, the following recommendations were made:

- Update the List/Directory of Research Centres, ACRN Coffee Researchers and Experts by inserting missing names of Researchers and Experts of Research Centres in the current list; and
- Draw up a list of coffee research projects executed under the supervision of ACRN and IACO.

With regards to the election of ACRN Chairman, it was decided that Chana should take the chair. Thus, after consultation with the Management of Ghana Cocoa Board, **Dr. Gilbert ANIM-KWAPONG** was proposed. This proposal was unanimously adopted by participants.

The Chairman of the session brought the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> ACRN Bi-Annual General Assembly to an end.

## **B. 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IACO – MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

IACO's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister for Trade, Crafts and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**. Deliberations started with the Technical Committees meetings.

### **1. Finance Committee**

**Mr. Aly TOURE, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to International Commodity Organisations** chaired this session. On behalf of the Ivorian Government, he apologised for the delay in the start of the meetings. The agenda was adopted as presented. The following statutory member countries took part: **Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Cameroon and Ethiopia** participated as Observers.

The Secretary General (SG) and the Head of Finance and Administration (FAM) presented reports of the Finance Committee of the 56<sup>th</sup> AGA held in Yaoundé, Cameroun, the Activity Report for 2016/2017, the Work Programme for 2017/2018 as well as the Financial Report of 2016/2017 and the draft Budget 2017/2018. The 2017/2018 Auditor's Report was presented by the Auditor.

The Financial and Auditor's Reports were respectively adopted, the former subject to a better presentation; and the latter, subject to the provision of additional elements for validation.

It was proposed that the draft budget be revised, taking into consideration the Organisation's actual income and staff remuneration.

After the presentations, the following recommendations were made from ensuing discussions:

- As the outstanding arrears amounting to Euros 3 335 299 was deemed excessive, member countries were requested to settle their arrears to avoid losing their voting rights;
- Establish a committee to reflect on ways and means to recover arrears;
- Member states should endeavour to settle their ongoing contributions and arrears to enable the General Secretariat function effectively and deliver the services expected from it;
- Member states should provide contact persons for the recovery of arrears and contributions,
- The Secretariat should visit member states to familiarise itself with realities of the African coffee industry and encourage them to pay their contributions;
- Provide statutory members and observers with the various documents well in advance of the Committee meetings;
- Use the approved budget to implement activities for which it was assigned and adopted,
- The Financial Report should be presented in a more comprehensible format;

- The draft budget should be presented separately from the Financial Report as recommended by the Board;
- The Budget be revised according to the real needs of the General Secretariat before its resubmission for adoption; and
- The status of contributions of member states should be made available during the meetings for their information.

## **2. Production Committee**

The Production Committee met on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, under the Chairmanship of **Mr. Michael OWUSU MANU from Ghana**. The following member states participated: **Cameroon, Central African Republic, D.R. Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Tanzania and Togo**.

The agenda was amended before being adopted. The Director of Research and Development presented two reports namely; the Report of the Production Committee meeting held in Yaoundé during the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, in November 2016 and the 2016/2017 Activity Report of the Research and Development Department. He also presented the 2017/2018 Work Programme.

The following recommendations were made after the deliberations:

- ACRN should coordinate research activities in member states and have a directory of developed technologies for dissemination in all member states;
- IACO should endeavour to find funding to support some ACRN activities;
- ACRN budget should be incorporated in IACO's general budget and contributions from IACO and ACRN member countries should be merged and managed together;
- Consider ACRN's concerns in the preparation of IACO Budget.

Two proposals were made under Any Other Business (AOB):

- Election of ACRN Chairman: Ghana was requested to propose a Chairperson and after consultation, **Dr. Gilbert ANIM-KWAPONG from Ghana Cocoa Board** was elected; and
- IACO Secretariat should consider the possibility of organising ACRN assemblies separately from that of IACO to enable the duration of discussions among Researchers extend over two (2) days.

## **3. Promotion and Market Development Committee**

Chaired by **Madam Isabelle NKONGE from Kenya**, the agenda was adopted as presented. The Director of Economic Studies presented the Report on the Promotion and Market Development Committee during the 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Yaoundé, as well as the Coffee Market Review.

The following recommendations were made after the presentations:

- i) **Coffee processing**
  - Promote local processing of coffee;
  - Supervise the informal sector to ensure coffee quality; and
  - Put in place infrastructure to support coffee production.

**ii) Coffee Consumption**

- Promote local coffee consumption;
- Create a regulatory framework for local coffee consumption; and
- Establish an incentive policy to boost local coffee consumption in Africa.

**iii) Coffee Marketing**

- Involve the African Union in the promotion of local processing and consumption of coffee;
- Invite coffee specialists to communicate relevant information on the nutritional benefits of coffee;
- Set up a processing and marketing strategy to enhance producer price;
- Create a Free Trade zone;
- Set up a group of experts to reflect on the quality, certification and price of coffee;
- Create a local market as well as venture into new export markets for processed coffee;
- Establish operating guidelines among African countries; and
- Prioritize the exportation of processed coffee in order to increase added value.

**iv) Coffee Data Collection/Statistics**

- Establish a reliable statistics system along the coffee value chain;
- Invite the 14 countries which have not yet designated their focal points to do so;
- Train people in charge of statistics with the aim of harmonising their skills; and
- Collect data from producers.

**4. Consultative Group**

Under the chairmanship of **Mr. Jean Jacques ENGO from Gabon**, the agenda was adopted as presented. The Secretary General presented a Concept Note on The African Coffee Corps Initiative (TACCI); and the Director Economics Studies presented the Draft Grand-Bassam Declaration.

After discussions, the following recommendations were made:

- Recruit a Consultant to prepare a draft of the Revised IACO Agreement that includes African coffee consuming countries;
- Engage members in consultation on the Revision of the texts of IACO;
- Set up a committee to reflect on the accession of non-producing coffee consumer countries to IACO;
- Promote local value addition and domestic consumption;
- Build capacity and improve the financial well-being of producers;
- Train and empower the youth in the collection of information;
- Set up The African Coffee Corps Initiative;
- Involve national institutions in intensive sensitisation of the youth to better understand the realities of the coffee sector, and thereby adapt existing teaching materials for training;
- Share success stories of some African countries,
- Support from Governments and donors in project implementation;
- Encourage member states to pay their contributions for a strong and effective Organisation and for the implementation of pilot projects; and
- Revise and finalise the Grand-Bassam Declaration.

## 5. Board of Directors

This session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Aly TOURE, the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to International Commodity Organisations. The agenda was adopted as presented. After presentation of the different reports, the Chairs of each Technical Committee presented an oral report of their deliberations. From discussions held thereafter, the following recommendations were submitted to the General Assembly for adoption:

- Encourage member states to pay their contributions for a dynamic Organisation;
- Propose a plan to undertake missions to capitals of member states to motivate Governments to settle outstanding contributions;
- Make a request to H.E. President Obasanjo to serve as a patron for the Organisation and a champion for African coffee;
- Continue making the necessary efforts to finalise the mobilisation of funds for construction of IACO Headquarters which will be an additional source of revenue for the Organisation;
- Redefine method and deadline for payment of contributions;
- Involve the private sector in the development of coffee growing in Africa;
- Closely examine arrears of contributions;
- Promote the processing, domestic consumption and quality of African coffee for value addition;
- Create a domestic market within African states; and
- Define membership conditions for African coffee consuming countries.

After a thorough examination of the Financial and Audit Reports, the Board of Directors was alarmed by the financial situation of the Organisation and concerned about its future because of the lack of funds and the quasi non-existence of the Reserve Fund. Consequently, it decided to:

- Set up a committee to reorganize the treasury,
- Develop specific regulations for the use of the Reserve Fund and proscribe any transaction on this Fund without prior authorisation from the Board;
- Audit the Reserve Fund;
- Prepare the 2018 administrative budget based on revenues collected in 2017;
- Adopt the Auditor's Report subject to the provision of further clarifications;
- Contributions to IACO for 2017/18 remain at same level as previous year, i.e. ....EUR (see Aka) .... (FCFA). The Secretariat to advise individual member states to pay their respective contributions for this year; and
- Reduce IACO Staff members by eliminating certain positions, if arrears of contributions are not paid by April 2018.

### C. 5<sup>th</sup> AFRICAN COFFEE SYMPOSIUM

The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> African Coffee Symposium of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) was "*Development of a Sustainable Coffee for the Emergence of the African Economy.*" It was composed of four (4) Panels.

#### Panel 1: Public-Private Partnerships and Financing the African Coffee Industry

With **Mr. Ben KANU** as Moderator, **Dr. Denis SEUDIEU** made an introduction on *Financing the industry is a real challenge. Are Public/Private Partnerships a solution? If so, how?* Several Speakers made presentations, the highlights of which are:

- Facilitate the development of industrialisation by providing actors with efficient infrastructure and consulting services;
- Explore effective ways to provide working capital to stakeholders in the coffee sector;
- Improve access to finance for cooperatives for quality and profitable coffee production;
- Create partnerships with the private sector; and
- Develop national strategies for coffee revitalisation to improve the standard of living of farmers, similar to the Uganda model.

### **Panel 2: Agribusiness and Sustainability in the African Coffee Industry**

Moderated by **Dr. Denis SEUDIEU**, **Mr. John SCHLUTER** presented *how the industry can be organised to make it sustainable and profitable for the stakeholders*. After the contributions of other speakers, the following recommendations were made:

- Improve the working and living conditions of producers;
- Fix a remunerative price for farmers to ensure profitable production;
- Accelerate land reforms for the viability of African coffee;
- Identify productivity challenges and develop a policy accordingly;
- Put in place mechanisms for monitoring recommendations;
- Motivate young people to take interest in coffee growing;
- Ensure traceability of products;
- Raise awareness in Africa on the importance of coffee; and
- Adopt mitigation measures against climate change.

### **Panel 3: Strategies for Market Development and Promotion of Coffee Consumption**

Under the moderation of **Dr. Denis SEUDIEU**, the interventions focused on *Concrete actions to take for Market Development and Coffee Consumption*. The following recommendations were made:

- Encourage local coffee processing and consumption whilst raising awareness of related benefits;
- Develop a local coffee development and valorisation strategy for value addition;
- Create promotional events to boost local coffee consumption;
- Encourage experience-sharing among producing countries;
- Educate the consumer on the virtues of coffee and its by-products based on the model of Cameroon: FESTICOFFEE;
- Invite public authorities to support initiatives to promote local coffee; and
- Introduce an African coffee label.

### **Panel 4: Which Extension Services to assist farmers for a sustainable coffee in Africa?**

**Dr. Coulibaly NANGA** introduced the Panel by inviting other presenters to consider *Strategies and close assistance to farmers for better agricultural practices and improvement of their incomes*. From the presentations and discussions that ensued, the following observations were made:

- Involve gender and youth in responding to the age challenge of the African coffee industry work force;
- Create a platform to identify sound agricultural practices; and
- Develop a self-leadership program by training and equipping farmers to empower them to take charge, improve their decision-making process and thereby improve their farm level performance.

#### **D. 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IACO**

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting approved and adopted the recommendations made by the Board of Directors. Among these key elements were: approval of the 2017/18 Budget and adoption of The Grand-Bassam Declaration 2018.

**The Chairman**, on behalf of the members, thanked, in particular, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for the success of the meetings.

#### **Elections:**

The election of IACO Chairman and Vice-Chairman: the Board of Directors proposed the following nominations to the General Assembly:

- Chairman of IACO: Minister for Economic Affairs of the Republic of Gabon;
- Vice-Chairman of IACO: Consultations are underway, and the outcome will be communicated in due course.

The General Assembly adopted the proposals as presented.

Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Technical Committees: A change was made at the Production Committee which will now be chaired by **Dr. Michel OWUSU MANU** who replaces Dr. Francis OPPONG on retirement, both of whom are from Ghana.

#### **Vote of Thanks:**

A vote of thanks was addressed to the Government and People of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm welcome extended to Delegates and for the commendable efforts made towards the success of the 2017 Annual Meetings.

Date and venue of next annual meetings: The dates for the Annual Meetings will be announced later.

In the absence of further discussions, the IACO Chairman thanked Delegates for their active participation in the discussions and closed the IACO 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings.

Done at Grand-Bassam, on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018.