



**INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION**

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**Communication from the
Government of Brazil**

1. The Executive Director attaches a communication from the Government of Brazil regarding the composition and format of the Board of Affiliate Members.

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The Permanent Representation of Brazil to International Organisations in London presents its compliments to the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and has the honour to refer to documents WGEF 22/24 from 12 July 2024; WGEF 23/24 from 3 July 2024, and WGEF 24/24 from 19 June 2024, on the ongoing discussions within the Working Group for the Entry into Force of the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (WGEF).

2. In this regard, the Representation of Brazil recalls that, during the 8th meeting of said working group, held on 15 July 2024, it expressed disappointment at the fact that the questionnaire circulated in document WGEF 23/24 did not take into account the only specific proposal regarding the number of participants suggested for the BAM, presented by the Brazilian delegation at the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on 3 June 2024. We would like to recall that Brazil had initially proposed that the same composition format of the current "Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB)" be maintained for the configuration of the future "Board of Affiliate Members (BAM)". The PSCB, as per the provisions in the current International Coffee Agreement 2007 (ICA 2007), has the same powers to represent the private sector as those foreseen in the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (ICA 2022) for the future BAM. The current agreement defines the composition of the PSCB as follows:

- eight representatives of exporting countries, and
- eight of importing nations.

In this way, the balance of representation between the two groups of countries brought together within the ICO would be guaranteed. The new BAM, as indicated, would thus have the opportunity, right after its implementation, to consolidate the mechanisms of its operation before possibly expanding or reducing the number of its participants. In addition, it had been pointed out that with a reduced and representative composition the future board provided for in the International Coffee Agreement 2022 would be able to act in an agile and cohesive manner in order to present objective results that could possibly attract the interest of new candidates. However, this option was not included in the circulated questionnaire.

3. The Representation of Brazil to the ICO, in order to collaborate and contribute to the debates underway within the Working Group, has the honour of presenting the following detailed points regarding the composition and format of the future "Board of Affiliate Members".

4. The suggestions and positions described below reflect the joint vision and understanding of the Brazilian coffee chain and the Brazilian government on how the definitions of the new forum foreseen in the ICA 2022 should be dealt with. They are the result of a wide-ranging and participatory debate between the various institutions representing Brazilian coffee farming and bodies of the Brazilian government.

[i] number of participants:

[a] the number of participants in the new "Board of Affiliate Members" should be maintained at the current number of the "Private Sector Consultative Board", i.e. eight (8) representatives from exporting countries and eight (8) representatives from importing countries;

[b] a different number of participants may be considered if, once the new structure of the BAM has been fully implemented following the entry into force of the ICA 2022, and the results of its future work have been evaluated, the member countries then think it appropriate to increase – or reduce – the number of its members and modify the criteria for representation;

[ii] composition criteria:

[a] the composition of the future "Board of Affiliate Members" should follow the currently existing parameters and definitions for the PSCB foreseen in article 29, paragraph 3, of the International Coffee Agreement 2007. This rule stipulates that the forum shall be composed of representatives of associations or bodies appointed by the International Coffee Council every two coffee years, with the possibility of reappointment;

[b] that paragraph also foresees the participation of two private sector coffee associations or organizations from exporting countries or exporting regions representing each of the four coffee groups, preferably representing both coffee farmers and exporters, together with one or more alternates for each representative;

[c] similarly, that paragraph provides that eight private sector coffee associations or organizations from importing countries – whether they are Members or non-members – preferably representing both importers and roasters, together with one or more alternates for each representative, participate in the PSCB;

[d] the above format will allow the global coffee chain to be properly represented in the future consultative forum foreseen in the ICA 2022;

- [iii] balanced participation:
the principles of isonomy and equilibrium between the representation of importing countries and that of exporting nations are cornerstones that will enable the structure of the proposed "Board of Affiliate Members" to be sustained.
- [iv] characteristic of the ICO:
 - [a] the understanding that the main and singular characteristic of the International Coffee Organization – among the many forums for dialogue in the global coffee chain – is that it is an intergovernmental body that brings together producing and importing countries must be preserved;
 - [b] there are several bodies and forums whose main characteristic is to bring together, congregate and allow numerous non-state actors to get involved.
- [v] role played by the BAM:
 - [a] the future "Board of Affiliate Members" is understood to be a consultative and advisory body, with functions identical to those of the current "Private Sector Consultative Board", as defined in both the ICA 2007 and the ICA 2022;
 - [b] since it is a consultative and advisory forum, it must have an agile and cohesive composition in order to operate and fulfil its functions properly, allowing for fluid, rapid and direct dialogue between its members when making decisions and recommendations to the International Coffee Council;
- [vi] participation free of charge:
 - [a] the new "Board of Affiliate Members" should not be understood as a means of increasing the International Coffee Organization's fund collection;
 - [b] private sector or civil society organizations that join the BAM, as nominated and approved by the member countries, should not be charged for their participation;
 - [c] as the ICO is an intergovernmental institution, the nominations or endorsements made by member countries to private sector or civil society entities to participate in the future "Board of Affiliate Members" should be considered as part of the activities guaranteed by the payment of the member states' annual contributions to the organization;
- [vii] negotiations with ample time:
 - [a] the processes of signing and ratifying the new International Coffee Agreement are still underway in several countries, including Brazil;

[b] given the complex issues to be addressed by the Working Group, many of which could have a significant impact on the proper functioning and representativeness of the organization, delegations should be given the necessary time for detailed consideration, exhaustive debate and a thorough search, with no time constraints, to define consensual positions that provide security and support the objectives that bring the member countries together in the organization;

[c] in this way, the exercise carried out within the Working Group to prepare suggestions on the configuration of the future "Board of Affiliate Members", to be submitted to the International Coffee Council, should be given enough time for mature and confluent positions on the various issues raised to be reached, without any urgency or deadlines.

5. The Representation of Brazil appreciates the good offices of the ICO Secretariat in circulating this note verbale among the member countries participating in the Working Group for the Entry into Force of the International Coffee Agreement 2022.

The Permanent Representation of Brazil to International Organisations based in London takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Coffee Organization the assurance of its highest consideration.

London, 26 July 2024

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