



**INTERNATIONAL  
COFFEE  
ORGANIZATION**

**ED** 2455/24

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**E**

**Communication from the  
Government of Italy**

1. The Executive Director attaches a communication from the Government of Italy, containing an expression of interest in hosting the headquarters of the International Coffee Organization.



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Direzione Generale per la  
Cooperazione allo Sviluppo  
Il Direttore Generale

Date: 13/03/2024  
Prot. 33460 - P

Dear Executive Director,

**Subject:** Expression of Interest – Hosting the Headquarters of the International Coffee Organization (ICO)

I would like to refer to the discussions held during the 136th Session of the International Coffee Council concerning the process to determine suitable and cost-effective premises for the Organization's Headquarters.

Italy has been an active member of the ICO since its inception when the 1st International Coffee Agreement (ICA 1962) was approved at the United Nations in New York. Italy reaffirms its historical commitment to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector through international cooperation and the reinforcement of the multilateral system.

The coffee sector holds strategic importance in Italy, not only in terms of industry, trade, and consumption but also due to its implications for sustainable development. It contributes significantly to generating income and jobs, addressing poverty and root causes of migration in producing countries—many of which are Least Developed Countries in Africa. Additionally, the sector faces vulnerability due to climate change.

Considering the above factors and recognizing Rome as the UN's food and agriculture hub, hosting several prominent intergovernmental organizations, we believe that relocating the ICO Headquarters to the Italian Capital city presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen synergies with other international organizations. It would also foster collaboration with Italian public and private institutions committed to the sustainable development of the coffee sector.

It is our intention to explore this hypothesis in detail, including with our partners within the European Union, before formalizing our offer in due course.

Sincerely,

*Stefano Gatti*  
Director General for Development Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy  
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1 00135 Rome