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**Statement by the Deputy Minister
for Agriculture of the Republic of Yemen
to the International Coffee Council
on 21 September 2010**

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me at the outset to express my pleasure as a representative of the Republic of Yemen to the first meeting of the International Coffee Council and the International Coffee Organization, following the ratification by H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh of the International Coffee Agreement 2007 and the acceptance of the Republic of Yemen as a Member in the International Coffee Organization.

Yemen's seeking to join this Organization reflects its genuine desire to be an effective partner in the coffee trade system based on international rules of fair coffee trade. We, in the Republic of Yemen, look forward to getting the support of the International Coffee Organization and its Members.

As you are fully aware, Yemen has a long history in coffee production and trade and is the source of the well-known coffee Arabica. Yemen is also considered one of the most important commercial centres from which coffee has spread out all over the world, with its special flavour known as mocha coffee after the name of the Al-Makha seaport city on the Red Sea west of Yemen. From that city Yemeni Mocha coffee was exported to the European and American continents.

Coffee has played a significant role in Yemeni life for centuries. Yemeni farmers pay a great deal of attention and care to coffee trees more than anyone can imagine. Based on this great importance of the coffee tree to Yemenis, the Yemeni Government has included the coffee tree in the official State emblem. I think we are the only country that has included the coffee tree in its official emblem.

In spite of many difficulties facing coffee growing, mostly technical and natural factors that affect the quality and quantity of production, the Yemeni farmer has always devoted his time, effort and care for the coffee tree, so he won't see it lose its lustre or the gorgeousness of its product.

Nevertheless, Yemen has succeeded to preserve the distinct flavour of coffee by traditional and organic farming. Through its membership of the ICO, Yemen is looking forward to enjoying the privileges offered by the ICO to its Member States. This will provide Yemen with new channels and opportunities for trade and cooperation with other Member States as well as improving domestic production, increasing exports, attracting more investment and enhancing its integration into the global coffee economy.

Mr Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to seize this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation and those of the Government of Yemen to H.E. Mr Nestor Osorio, the Executive Director of the ICO, for the support he showed to Yemen's gaining the membership of the ICO.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all Member States and observer members of the Organization and wish to see an enhanced partnership between Yemen and the Member States in the near future.

Thank you very much.