



International Coffee Organization
Organización Internacional del Café
Organização Internacional do Café
Organisation Internationale du Café

ICC 93-8

20 May 2005
Original: English

E

International Coffee Council
Ninety-third Session
18 – 20 May 2005
London, England

**Remarks of the Delegation of
the United States on the
Accession of the United States to the
International Coffee Organization**

The United States is pleased to be a Member of the ICO and is committed to the broad goals of the ICA 2001. We plan to be an active Member, joining others in seeking to efficiently and effectively conduct the work of the Organization.

As we noted earlier this year, the ICO has undertaken impressive reforms in recent years to strengthen its market orientation, build programs to help coffee farmers improve quality, efficiency and access to markets and streamline the global coffee trade.

The United States rejoined the ICO because we see the Organization as a valuable forum in which we can work closely with our trading partners, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to address the full range of issues affecting coffee production, trade and consumption.

The United States saw the removal of ICO provisions for market intervention as an essential step prior to U.S. membership; as a Member we will be vigilant regarding any efforts to reinstate economic clauses in an effort to manipulate markets.

The ICO has a key role in addressing the many dimensions of sustainable production: economic, environmental and social. In this context we see opportunities to enhance the ICO's well-established role in providing market information, identifying coffee development projects with broad and enduring relevance and as a forum for exchanging views on market conditions and policy concerns. We also see opportunities to pay increasing attention to the needs of small producers and the role of specialty coffees.

In addition to joining in the immediate work of the Organization, we also look forward to the upcoming re-negotiation of the ICA as a means for taking further steps to enhance the relevance and contributions of the ICO.

We look forward to consulting with others here in order to establish an early and effective process for the re-negotiation.