I. ICO updates – October 2021

International Coffee Day

On International Coffee Day - 1 October, the ICO spearheaded the celebration of coffee worldwide through ‘Coffee Next Generation’, a programme to support the next generation of youth in coffee. Innovative ideas were shared to benefit the whole coffee community and to support the recovery from the covid-19 pandemic, in order to build a more prosperous future for the sector.

To reach the widest audience, the ICO was a speaker at the World Food Forum (WFF), organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Youth Committee and many young leaders with the objective of building better food systems. On opening day of the WFF, the ICO in collaboration with the Slow Food Coffee Coalition Youth Network explored the socio-economic challenges of the farmers up to the coffee reaching the final consumer in ‘Tracing the Coffee Value Chain’.

In addition to this key event ICO was a keynote speaker at the Specialty Coffee Contest in Indonesia and at the launch event of the 4th Edition of the Coffee Guide, the key UN-WTO International Trade Center (ITC) publication on international coffee trade.

World Food Day

Following the United Nations Food Systems Summit held in September which is part of the Decade of Action for delivery on the SDGs by 2030 the ICO had an engaging October. To promote and advocate for the coffee sector globally, the ICO joined the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the opening of the World Food Day by holding a “Dialogue on Tea and Coffee”. The Executive Director of the ICO, José Sette, joined the FAO Director General, Qu Dongyu, and world leaders to explore the cultural significance and economic importance of coffee. Watch the dialogue here.

International Coffee Agreement

Constructive dialogue and engagement have supported the reforming of the International Coffee Agreement 2007. Overall, the Working Group on the Future of the Agreement (WGFA) and the Drafting Group met three times in October to review the new text of the Preamble, Objectives and Pillar B.
New diplomats to the UK
The ICO also made a presentation to new diplomats accredited to the Government of the United Kingdom at their orientation with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (UK FCDO).

Official Visits
The ICO resumed, under strict COVID-19 protocol, official visits to the headquarters, where representatives of Mexico and the Russian Federation were welcomed.

Technology
With ICO’s continuous efforts to incorporate the latest in technology to better mobilize resources and have greater impact with our global workforce ICO has started using the latest in Microsoft Office 365 and the cloud.

II. Press releases and media coverage

- Response to the fraudster in Kenya who impersonated an ICO official

- ED’s interview with “The Inquiry – A BBC Service” on coffee shortage and impact on the market (minutes from 12:00 to 15:20).

III. Knowledge hub - Statistics
The recently made publicly available Monthly Trade Statistics tables for September can be found here.

IV. Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF)

CPPTF poll 2021 – Current status and way forward
Following last year’s CPPTF poll about the status of the sector dialogue and the Task Force, we have created a new poll to learn if and how your views have changed in the intervening period. Task Force Members and Observers are therefore requested to take the poll here to help us understand how we are progressing in terms of appreciation and assessment.

CPPTF Updates

Conceptual Framework and Metrics
The Task Force Framework for the Roadmap “Theory of Change” has been signed off by the Sector Coordination group and by Task Force Sherpas during their respective meetings in October. The associated metrics are still under discussion for fine tuning.
Technical Workstreams coordination

Coordination about the Roadmap operationalisation has been carried out between Technical workstreams #1 Living & Prosperous Income, #2 Market Transparency and #4 Resilient Coffee Landscapes. Further discussions about how to include the proposal from TW #3 Market Policies and Institutions are ongoing with the aim of developing a combined implementation plan.

Check the updates about the technical workstreams here.

Voices from Task Force Members

- Virtual event on Gender Transformative Business Models: Opportunity to Action

On Monday, 15 November 2021 from 13:00 to 14.30 BST, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) and partners will bring together private sector actors in the global agricultural sector to reflect – and act – on opportunities to build more gender transformative approaches into business models. Learn more and register here.

- Oxfam publication - Living Income: From Right to Reality

This publication is the first in a new series of briefings on inequality in food value chains and presents eight essential issues companies confront on living income. Learn more and read the briefing paper here.

- Newly revised GCP Coffee Sustainability Reference Code

The Global Coffee Platform (GCP) has published the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code, which provides a foundation to support the primary principles of sustainable coffee production. Learn more about the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code here.

- IISD New Publication - Standards, Trade Policy, and Forest Conservation

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has published a policy brief on Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Forest Conservation and Environmental Provisions in International Trade Policy. Learn more and download the Policy Brief here.

V. ICO Communications

ICO has embarked on a new communication strategy, which includes a redesigned website that will be launched next year and better email communication. This will help ICO members and all stakeholders to engage better with ICO and have easier access to information.
VI. Upcoming meetings

Statistical Roundtable (by invitation only)
- Week of the 15 November 2021

7th CPPTF (open session)
- 17 November 2021 13:30 -15:30 BST

TW1 Living-Prosperous Income meeting (by invitation only)
- 17 November 2021

19th Working Group on the Future of the Agreement (WGFA) (ICO Members only)
- 24 November 2021 11:00-14:00 BST

TW3 Market Policies and Institutions – Subgroup Sector Transformation Exporting Countries meeting (by invitation only)
- 30 November 2021 14:00 –15:30 BST

TW5 Sector Coordination meeting (by invitation only)
- 16 December 2021 14:30-16:00 BST

Please contact the Secretariat and respective facilitators of technical workstreams for further information and connection details for the meetings.