



IACO AND THE AFRICAN COFFEE SUMMIT

The Heads of State of 11 African coffee producing countries, namely Angola, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo (RDC), Côte d'Ivoire, Dahomey (Benin), Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda, Tanganyika (Tanzania), met on 7 December 1960 in Antananarivo, Madagascar, and resolved to create the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO).

Shortly after its creation, all the African coffee producing countries become members of IACO, realizing the significance of united actions against the challenges facing the African coffee industry, including processing and marketing.

Currently, IACO is an intergovernmental organization comprising the twenty five African coffee producing countries, namely: Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

IACO holds annual meetings to deliberate on policies and strategies to develop the coffee sector in Africa. During the 61st Inter African Coffee Organization (IACO) Annual General Assembly held between 16th and 19th November, 2021, in Kigali, Rwanda, Kenya was accorded the privilege to host the 1st Africa Coffee Summit in Nairobi between the 25th and 27th May, 2022.

The objective of the summit is to re-evaluate the overall performance of the coffee sector in the Africa Continent with expected outcome of marshalling a consensus declaration of inclusion of coffee as an anchor commodity in Africa Union (AU). The inclusion of coffee as an anchor in AU facilitates unlocking the much needed financial and political support for growth and revitalization of the coffee sector in Africa.

The Heads of States for Member States, Ministers, Ambassadors, high profile dignitaries and Delegates from the 25 member states have been invited to attend the Summit. Key speakers on relevant topical issues have been identified to share their experiences in coffee with an objective of informing the IACO members on the policy directions we ought to be taken to grow the coffee sector in Africa to the next level.

The overall and key outcome is the Nairobi Declaration which seeks to marshal a consensus declaration of inclusion of coffee as an anchor commodity in Africa Union (AU). We look forward to greater contribution of coffee to the global economy.

LONG LIFE IACO FAMILY

11TH MAY, 2022