

**ISCR 2017**  
**CLOSING REMARKS**  
**Lima, Peru 16 November 2017**

Your Excellencies,

Señor Jose Manuel Hernandez, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Señor Jaime Salomon Salomon, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Señor Juan Jose Marcelo Risi Carbone, Secretary General, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Eng. Jorge Amaya Castillo, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, and Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the ISCR 2017

Dr. Brigitte Laliberté, Chairperson of the ISCR 2017 Scientific Committee.

Distinguished participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past four days, I have keenly observed the animated presentations and interactive and very constructive discussions in the plenary and track sessions on various topics of interest and importance to the cocoa scientific community and by extension to all of us in the cocoa sector.

Our expectations for the symposium were very high. I can assure you that we were not disappointed by the level of organization, the contents of the presentations and discussions and the final recommendations.

In this respect, I would like to thank all participants who have come from very far and near for your active involvement. I hope the symposium has enriched your knowledge of the various aspects of cocoa science. I also hope you have taken the opportunity of this

symposium to renew contacts and establish new ones. Thank you very much for coming.

I would like to recognize the effort of the ISCR 2017 Scientific Committee for all the work done to make this symposium a success. Ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to pay tribute to these brilliant people and join me to show our appreciation to them:

1. Ms Brigitte Laliberté of Bioversity International – Chairperson
2. Dr Martin Gilmour of Mars Global Chocolates
3. Dr Franklin Manu Amoah of CRIG, Ghana
4. Professor Paul Hadley of University of Reading, UK
5. Assistant Professor Verina Ingram of Wageningen University
6. Dr Soetanto Abdeollah of ICCRI, Indonesia
7. Dr Wilbert Phillips-Mora of CATIE, Costa Rica
8. Dr Christian Cilas of CIRAD, France
9. Dr Elizabeth Johnson of IICA, Jamaica
10. Dr Michelle End of Cocoa Research Association, (no country?)
11. Dr Siela Maximova of Penn State University, USA
12. Professor David Guest of the University of Sidney, Australia
13. Professor Path Umaharan of University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
14. Dr Nanga Coulibaly of CCC, Côte d'Ivoire

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all witness to the meticulous organization and hosting of this symposium. From the warm reception that started at the airport to this magnificent venue, not forgetting the hospitality and the quality of refreshments provided to all participants – all these are evidence of the work of the Local Organizing Committee for ISCR 2017 under the chairmanship of Eng. Jorge Amaya Castillo, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. On behalf of all of us here present, thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, Peru has brought a lot of dynamism to the International Cocoa Organization since joining it. This was particularly demonstrated by the willingness to host this event and other future events of the ICCO. On behalf of the International Cocoa Council and the Secretariat of the International Cocoa Organization, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Senor Jose Manuel Hernandez, Minister of Agriculture

and Irrigation and the entire people of Peru for hosting the first edition of the International Symposium on Cocoa Research (ISCR 2017). We look forward to working with the Government of Peru to advance the development of its cocoa sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, we came, we saw, and we are now leaving. I believe we are leaving with fond memories of Peru, but more importantly, we are leaving with a set of recommendations that we have all agreed will advance cocoa research to enhance the development of the global cocoa economy. I want to promise you that I will present these recommendations to the World Cocoa Conference in April 2018 in Berlin, Germany for adoption. But we do not need to wait until then to start the implementation of the recommendations. I would like to enjoin all the major stakeholders in the cocoa sector to work together to help in the implementation of the recommendations of this symposium.

Ladies and gentlemen, the question on everybody's mind is "When and where is the next symposium going to be organized?". I would like to assure all of you that there will be a next International Symposium on Cocoa Research. What I have seen over the past four days has only strengthened our resolve to continue to provide this type of platform for the global cocoa research community. We are in consultations with all relevant stakeholders to establish the venue and dates of the Second International Symposium on Cocoa Research. We have already agreed on the need to organize the symposium every three years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by presenting a token of our appreciation to the following people:

1. His Excellency Senor Jose Manuel Hernandez, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
2. Eng. Jorge Amaya Castillo, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
3. Ms Brigitte Laliberté, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy