INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL
Seventy-ninth regular session
Moscow, 2-5 June 2009

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF THE COUNCIL AT ITS
SEVENTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION
(2-5 June 2009)

ON REVIEW OF THE OUTCOME OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR A SUSTAINABLE COCOA ECONOMY
(RSCE2) AND CONSIDERATION OF THE WAY FORWARD
REVIEW OF THE OUTCOME OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR A SUSTAINABLE COCOA ECONOMY (RSCE2) AND CONSIDERATION OF THE WAY FORWARD

The Council expressed its sincere gratitude to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the excellent hosting of the Second Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy, which had taken place in Port of Spain from 24-26 March 2009 through the generous sponsorship provided by the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The Roundtable had culminated in “The Declaration of Trinidad and Tobago” which contained key recommendations on issues such as guidelines on best known practices in the cocoa value chain, the Modus Operandi of the RSCE and the feasibility of establishing a Cocoa Sustainability Fund. The Government of the Netherlands had kindly offered to host the next Roundtable meeting at a date to be determined.

Following the meetings of the Roundtable Working Group and consultations on a Cocoa Sustainability Fund in May 2009, the representatives of Côte d’Ivoire and Brazil expressed the view that the Council should take stock of the recommendations of the first and second Roundtable meetings before proceeding to the organization of a third Roundtable meeting, noting that the Organization should avoid adopting a paternalistic approach in relation to the national sovereign policies of producing countries, through the imposition of certification. They observed that the creation of a Cocoa Sustainability Fund could place an additional financial burden on producers and added that the preparations for any future Roundtable meeting should be undertaken by the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy.

The spokesman for Consumers noted that the Second Roundtable (RSCE2) had been very positive in bringing together a wide representation of stakeholders from across the cocoa chain, noting that the Council had agreed to the creation of an independent Working Group to prepare for the RSCE2, which had functioned well. It was important to maintain the momentum in preparing for the Third Roundtable. He added that consultations on the creation of a Cocoa Sustainability Fund were at a very early stage, and that the Council had yet to agree upon the establishment of a Working Group for the Fund. The collection of a levy was a matter to be closely considered, so as to avoid that producers would be burdened with extra costs.

The spokesman for Producers tabled the following position of producer member countries, for further consideration by the Council at its next session in September 2009:

TRANSLATION OF FRENCH ORIGINAL:

“DECLARATION BY THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES

THE COCOA PRODUCING COUNTRIES FORMING THE PRODUCERS’ GROUP WITHIN THE ICCO

Recalling the “Accra Agenda”;

Recalling the “Declaration of Trinidad and Tobago”;
Recalling the expiry of the mandate of the Working Group to organize the second Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy;

Recalling the remit of the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy;

Recalling the debate between ICCO Members during the 79th meeting of the International Cocoa Council, held in Moscow from 1-5 June 2009;

THANK the organizers and sponsors of the second Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago;

THANK the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their generous offer to host a third Roundtable for a Sustainable Cocoa Economy;

ASSERT their desire to work towards a more sustainable cocoa economy, with particular emphasis on economic aspects;

RECOMMEND that the scope and applicability of the decisions and recommendations made in the first two Roundtables be assessed;

RECOMMEND that the next Roundtable should not be organized until that assessment has been completed and duly approved by the relevant ICCO bodies;

REQUEST that the RSCE2 Working Group should not be reconvened;

REQUEST that the organization of any future Roundtable should be undertaken by the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy, which should in due course submit specific proposals to the Council regarding the effective implementation of this remit;

REITERATE that any initiative in this area should respect the national legislation in each country with regard to social issues and matters of labour law and environmental protection;

REQUEST that the Roundtable be considered as a forum for debate, answerable to the ICCO and organized as required.”

The Council agreed to conduct an evaluation of the recommendations of the first and second Roundtable meetings at its next session in September 2009. (Note: The September 2009 International Cocoa Council meeting postponed the discussion of the document to the next Council meeting scheduled for March 2010 in Yaounde, Cameroon.)